



Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher discusses the benefits of his department participating in 'Operation Bold Blue Line,' an initiative that focuses on reducing crimes.

Local department joins Operation Bold Blue Line

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

The Martinsville Police Department is partnering with the Virginia State Police on Gov. Glenn Youngkin's "Operation Bold Blue Line," an initiative that focuses on crime reduction, according to Martinsville Police Chief Rob Fincher.

State officials set "aside some of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding that the state has received for the very purpose of addressing law enforcement and crime reduction," he said.

Martinsville was one of 10 cities chosen in the state for the program.

As part of the initiative, the Martinsville Police Department was awarded \$568,906 to purchase equipment it might not have been able to purchase otherwise. The department also will be awarded an additional \$180,000.

Fincher said the equipment phase will focus on three areas.

"One is dealing with crime prevention and it's kind of helping to develop what some places call a 'real time crime center,' but it involves network of camera systems that will be placed around the city at traffic intersections," he said.

The system will allow the department to view the areas in real time for searches, he said. It also will be available for dispatchers' use. They can look up an area and direct officers who are responding to calls.

The second area is equipment to help investigate crimes, Fincher said.

"So, it involves quite a bit of forensic equipment

for processing crime scenes, but also equipment used to investigate crimes involving cell phones," he said, adding the funds also will be used to purchase items, like interview room cameras.

Fincher said the last funding area is equipment to assist officers in the response to crime and officer safety.

"It's helping us get some needed ballistic vests that we didn't have, but also things like E-bikes, so it can assist us in patrolling walking trails that we normally have very limited access to," he said.

There also is an increased presence of Virginia State Police troopers in the city to help with traffic safety.

Fincher said he believes the increased presence has been successful so far. "What they're doing is they're assisting us in adding areas of coverage we normally couldn't do," and "assisting us with our general investigations as well," he said.

Fincher said the partnership has helped to strengthen the relationship between the state and local law enforcement agencies and has brought in some resources "that traditionally would not be used in urban environments."

As the city moves forward under his tenure, Fincher said he will continue exploring other options that can be added to complement service to the community.

"Anything that we can do to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our jurisdiction just makes us really happy," Fincher said.

CCBC among industrial sites to receive funds, more than \$22 million heads to county site

Staff Reports

The Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre in Henry County will receive \$22,237,705 from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP), Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced Monday.

"The leading priority of the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program is to increase our project-ready sites portfolio across the Commonwealth, and this unprecedented site development funding is an important step forward in strengthening Virginia's infrastructure," Youngkin said.

"This grant is spectacular news for our community," said Jim Adams, chairman of the Henry County Board of Supervisors. "I'd like to thank the Governor, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, County staff and the team at the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation. We've had tremendous success attracting indus-



tries to Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre and the funds from this grant will help us build on that momentum."

County Administrator Dale Wagoner said the funds "will allow us to grade an additional 93-acres on Lot #2 at Commonwealth Crossing Business Centre, which will give us a 150-acre pad to market to industries. This pad will make Henry County very appealing to economic develop-

ment prospects. It'll be the only site in Virginia more than 100-acres with rail access and all utilities in place."

"This grant funding is fantastic news for Commonwealth Crossing and it opens up great possibilities for industry relocating here. Henry County is making huge strides towards bringing in new investments, manufactur-

See CCBC, page 2

Bragg named Teacher of the Year in Martinsville City Public Schools



From left: MCPS Director of Human Resources Yani Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Dr. Angilee Downing, Barry Nelson of Autos by Nelson, MCPS Teacher of the Year Teresa Bragg, Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley, Albert Harris Elementary Assistant Principal Jill Holder, and Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services Dr. Cynthia Tarpley. (Contributed photos)

Staff Reports

Teresa Bragg, a K-5 special education teacher at Albert Harris Elementary School, was selected as Martinsville City Public Schools' Teacher of the Year. She received the district's top honor after being selected by her colleagues at Albert Harris Elementary School as Teacher of the Year for their school. She was previously named the school's Teacher of the Year for the 2014-2015 school year.

Bragg has been teaching special education for 37-years, with 32 of those spent with the city. She currently teaches a K-5 self-contained special education classroom for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental delays, autism, and multiple disabilities. Bragg traced her decision to become a special education teacher back to her own time in school, when a book report for her English 12 class altered the course of her life.

The book she chose was the story of a nonverbal autistic boy who, through the diligence and determination of his mother, ultimately was able to speak and interact with the world around him. The book,

she said, helped her realize the impact one person could have on the life of a child. Bragg enrolled at Ferrum College as an education major and eventually transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University's special education program.

"They touch my heart," Bragg said of her students. "I love my kids. I love creating activities so that I can see their smiles when they do what I've asked them to do. They're so proud when they accomplish something."

Dr. Cynthia Tarpley, city schools' executive director of special education and student services, commended Bragg for her dedication to ensuring a positive learning experience for her students. She noted the sensory room at Albert Harris, designed and created by Bragg to help students develop their senses and learn through play, as just one example of that dedication.

"I believe that Ms. Bragg has a calling on her life," said Renee Brown, the school's principal. "This is evident in the manner in which she loves and cares for her students. She is a leader in our school, a mentor to new teachers, and an example of excellence in

teaching."

Barry Nelson, of Autos by Nelson, presented Bragg with the keys to a new car for her to drive for part of the year.

Teacher of the Year honors for other Martinsville schools went to:

- Melissa McNeill, an early childhood special education teacher at Clearview Early Learning Center.

- Kim Ramirez, a 3rd through 5th grade special education teacher at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

- Jessica Clervoi, a math teacher at Martinsville Middle School.

- Keona Walton, a special education teacher and English and math co-teacher at Martinsville High School.

Each teacher was chosen by their colleagues within their schools via ballot, while the district winner was selected by an anonymous, impartial review team.

"The MCPS family is very proud of our outstanding teaching professionals," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Zebedee Talley. "We celebrate our educators and their great contributions to our community and nation. Our students are receiving a world-class education."

High transmission rates of COVID seen after the holidays

Taylor Boyd
Staff writer

COVID-19 cases have increased in the West Piedmont Health District (WPHD) since the last part of 2022.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, Martinsville and Patrick County are experiencing high transmission levels. Henry and Franklin counting are experiencing medium transmission levels.

Nancy Bell, population health manager for the district, said this means "that the virus is

spreading at a higher rate than normal."

For the 13 weeks before Jan. 10, there were 868 cases in Henry County, and seven deaths, with Martinsville reporting 221 cases and one death.

Patrick County finished 2022 off with 319 cases and three deaths. There were 35 cases for the week of Jan. 9-13.

Throughout the pandemic, COVID infections have been in waves, with some cases influenced by the weather and people gathering indoors in closer proximity.

"After holidays like Thanksgiving,

Christmas, and New Year, an increase in infections is expected due to people gathering at the holidays," Bell said, and added that "airplane, bus, and train travel also is a way for COVID to spread."

Bell said the influx of cases came as the Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) officially renewed the public health emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic, marking the 12th renewal of the public health emergency that was first declared in Jan.

See COVID Transmission Rates, page 3



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)

Meetings

Monday, January 23

The P&HCC Local Board will meet at noon at the Dalton IDEA Center, located at 26 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Local Board Budget & Finance Committee and the Legislative Committee will meet jointly at 11:30 a.m. at the Dalton IDEA Center, located at 26 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. This is a public meeting, but the Committees will not receive public comment.

The Patrick & Henry Community College Local Board Academic & Student Affairs Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Dalton IDEA Center, located at 26 Fayette Street, Martinsville, VA 24112. This is a public meeting, but the Committee will not receive public comment.

Events

Saturday, January 21

Walk in wellness clinic from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Martinsville Henry County SPCA. Proof of public assistance required to get the low income price. If you do not have proof with you, you will be charged standard price. (We are not spaying and neutering at this time.) Proof of income includes Food stamps/EBT card, WIC or SNAP benefits,

Medicaid, Section 8 housing, Disability, Cat colony management (pre-register with the SPCA).

Sunday, January 22

The Spencer-Penn Centre will host a barn quilting class from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Class will be filled on a first paid first served basis. Once payment is received by Spencer-Penn, design choice should be sent to the instructor, Lauren at misslaurenbyron@gmail.com. Registration deadline in January 13.

Tuesday, Jan. 24- Tuesday, May 9

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) will hold a NC3 Festo Certified Industry 4.0 Certification Program at the P&HCC Patrick County site. The class will meet Tuesday and Wednesday from 6-9:30 p.m. Tuition is \$4,200 or \$1,400 for the FastForward Price. For more information, call (276) 656-0260.

Friday, January 27

Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor of the museum's new exhibits, Freeman Vines' Hanging Tree Guitars, Rupe Dalton Retrospective, The World Beside the Rails, and Works by Rocky Wall. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, January 28

Exhibit Opening Reception, 5:30 p.m. at Piedmont Arts. Join Piedmont Arts for an opening reception in honor

of the museum's new exhibits, Freeman Vines' Hanging Tree Guitars, Rupe Dalton Retrospective, The World Beside the Rails, and Works by Rocky Wall. Free and open to the public. Complimentary wine and light refreshments will be served.

ONGOING

The Briarpatch Amateur Radio Club will hold an in-person at the First Christian Church in Galax. Elections will be held at the BARC meeting, membership dues will be collected, an auction of analog gear is anticipated, and the 2023 events calendar will be discussed. All amateur radio operators and interested non-hams are welcome to attend. Find important test prerequisites and other club activities on our *new* webpage, www.briarpatcharc.com, and our BARC Facebook page. And join us on air each Tuesday, 8 p.m. on 147.090+ with 103.5 Tone."

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.

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 brrl.lib.va.us.

The Fontaine Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Tuesday at their 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 (MHCCHW) continues to offer "no-touch" Medicaid/FAMIS application assistance for Virginia residents from birth to 64 years of age. No sign-up fees, no premiums, no deductibles. 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, 8 a.m. to 5 p.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.

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

County and city experience low unemployment rates

Staff Reports

In a departure from several years ago, Martinsville and Henry County's unemployment rates are at a combined 3.3 percent.

Mark Heath, the Director of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, said in October, the last number on record, the unemployment rate in the county was 2.9 percent. This is down from 3.8 percent in October of 2021. In Martinsville, the unemployment rate in October was 4.9 percent. The national unemployment rate currently sits at 3.7 percent.

Heath said there are a few factors contributing to the low unemployment rate, one of which is automation.

"There's just a lot of factors that go into that, but automation is having something of a role in unemployment, not just here but everywhere," Heath said. "A lot of companies are automating. They're putting more investments into machines, which require less people. That has something to do, that's more of a national and international type situation."

There also have been many different companies that have come to the area, expanded, or are hiring in large numbers, he said.

"We've had some fairly decent success over the past

three or four years, actually, pretty consistent with new companies coming. We've had several existing companies that are hiring. We've had a lot of companies who have had a high number of open positions over the last six to 12 months who have filled those positions," Heath said. "I think that's part of" the low number of those who are unemployed.

He cited Crown Moldings as one example, noting that it is "the most recent plant to start up here, and it's almost a \$200 million investment. There are 125 jobs there so that's the new model also."

However, Heath believes the low unemployment rate mostly can be attributed to "the backfilling of a lot of jobs that have been open for a while."

When it comes to where the jobs are in the area, Heath said the area has "a diversified labor force that's fully staffed right now." There is a lot of variation between the companies that are among the largest employers in the county.

"Eastman would be probably the largest" employer, Heath said. "They've got roughly 850 people and five different plant locations. Monogram Foods is large, they're at about 600."

Other companies also are large, including Drake Extrusion and Georgia Pacific, Heath said. "There's just a number of companies that have fairly high employment rates. Applied Felts is another company

that has a good number of employees."

He also mentioned VF as a company that has added people and equipment over the past year or so.

The low unemployment rate and competitive job market also has had many positive effects on the community, according to Heath.

Besides the obvious impact of more people being employed, it has driven up hourly wages and given employees more money to spend in the community, supporting businesses and other organizations.

"The most positive effect is that it's helping to raise the hourly wage rates," Heath said. "There's more competition for labor. Companies are improving their pay and benefit packages, which helps the community overall."

"That gives people more spendable income and allows people to buy homes and cars and pay for the necessities you have for the family. So, a lot of things like that are taking effect," Heath said.

Wages in some positions have risen more than 60 percent over the past four years, according to Heath.

"Some of the wages we've had over the past four years have really gone up to where there's a number of companies that are paying \$25 an hour or more for particular jobs," he said. "Four or five years ago, those jobs were in the \$15 to \$16 an hour range. So, there's been some positive upward momentum in wage rates."

CCBC

from page 1

ing jobs and economic growth," said Del. Wren Williams, R-Stuart. "This is a big win for Southside Virginia. I will keep working to re-shore our industries and revitalize our home here in Virginia."

The park in Henry County is among 21 sites to receive a total of \$90 million in development grants, Youngkin said.

Administered by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership

(VEDP), the discretionary grant program helps characterize and develop sites to enhance the Commonwealth's infrastructure with more competitive project-ready sites, to attract new business and accelerate expansion in Virginia, according to a release from Youngkin's office. The program's goal is to identify, assess, and improve the readiness of industrial sites with at least 100 contiguous,

developable acres or 50 acres in the western part of the Commonwealth.

"Prepared sites drive economic growth, and we have to move faster to attract new businesses. We are hitting the accelerator to build a best-in-class business environment so the Commonwealth can compete to win, and I have included the necessary additional funding for the VBRSP in my proposed budget," Youngkin said.

The program has two components: site charac-

terization to assess and designate a site's current level of development; and site development to further develop a pool of potential sites across the Commonwealth. Localities can apply for grants to assist with the costs associated with the initial assessment and the development required to increase a site's current designation level.

"Speed to market is an increasingly crucial factor in site selection decisions for economic development projects, and we are making strategic infra-

structure investments to ensure a robust portfolio of sites," said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Caren Merrick. "These Virginia Business Ready Sites Program grant awards will enhance 21 sites around the Commonwealth, helping to ensure that site demands across a wide spectrum of project parameters can be met and that all regions participate in Virginia's economic growth."

"It is critical for Virginia to create a diverse portfolio of sites that are attractive to different industry sectors and meet varying location and infrastructure needs, and these grants are a major step in the right direction to help the Commonwealth catch up on site development," said Jason El Koubi, VEDP President

and CEO. "Additional funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program will allow VEDP to expand the program and invest in more sites, enhancing the Commonwealth's infrastructure and accelerating economic development in Virginia."

The Virginia Business Ready Sites Program was developed by a team of state, regional, and local stakeholders including VEDP, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, railroad representatives, utility representatives, civil engineers, and other government, business, and industry representatives. Grants are considered on a competitive basis and made at the discretion of an investment committee composed of VEDP and Administration leaders.

JOIN US

WEEKLY SUNDAY

MORNING SERVICE
10:30AM

Subscribe to our

You Tube Channel

NEVER MISS A SERVICE



**NEW DAY
CHURCH**
MHC

705 LIBERTY ST MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

NEWS | SPORTS | LOCAL PROGRAMS



The Southside's
#1 Local TV Station

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

COVID Transmission Rates

from page 1

2020. Each public health emergency declaration lasts for 90 days before expiring or getting renewed.

As of Jan. 17, 45.4 percent of the population, or 7,935 people, were fully vaccinated in Patrick County. There were 22,436 vaccines administered, and 52 percent of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

In Henry County, 52 percent of the population, or 26,180 people, are fully vaccinated, with 73,571 vaccines administered to the population and 60.1 percent of the adult population considered fully vaccinated.

In the City of Martinsville, 63.6 percent of the population, or 7,861 people, are fully vaccinated. More than 77 percent of the adult population has been fully vaccinated, and 22,219 vaccines were administered.

As of Jan. 17, information from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) website suggests there have been 895 cases and six deaths in Henry County over the past 13 weeks. In Patrick County, 326 cases and four deaths were reported. In the City of Martinsville, 231 cases and one death were reported in the same time frame.

Information from the VDH website stated there have been 15,122 cases and 298 deaths in Henry County. In Patrick County, 4,604 cases and 87 deaths were reported. In the City of Martinsville, there were 4,242 cases reported and 119 dead.

The CDC website suggested there have been 101,518,229 cases in the United States and 1,095,149 dead from coronavirus.

For more tips on how to stay safe, visit www.vdh.virginia.gov or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.

Local COVID-19 Data.

This data is from the [VDH COVID Data website](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov). The numbers above represent cases and deaths for 13 weeks prior to: January 10, 2023.

| Locality | Cases | Deaths |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Franklin County | 652 | 6 |
| Henry County | 868 | 7 |
| Martinsville | 221 | 1 |
| Patrick County | 319 | 3 |

Per CDC: Martinsville City and Patrick County are in HIGH transmission levels; Franklin and Henry County are medium.

Data from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) website shows the current COVID-19 rates for the state and the West Piedmont Health District.

Warner pressed FCC on Broadband Map Challenges

Ahead of Friday's deadline, U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Alexandria, called attention to a challenge submitted by the Virginia Office of Broadband to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), pointing to more than 350,000 locations in Virginia that are currently incorrectly reported on the most recent FCC broadband coverage map.

In November, after a sustained push from Warner, the FCC released a new map with their best estimates of broadband coverage across the country. Once finalized, the FCC map will help determine how broadband funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the bipartisan infrastructure law negotiated and written by Warner, will be allocated to states. Warner asked Virginians to review the released draft map to ensure it accurately reflected current broadband conditions at their address, and encouraged residents submit a challenge to the FCC if the infor-

mation was incorrect. Virginians must submit their challenges by January 13 to ensure that they are adjudicated prior to the allocation of IIJA funding.

In addition to individual challenges submitted, the Virginia Office of Broadband has submitted a bulk challenge of approximately 358,000 locations currently reported as served but found to be unserved, based on the office's analysis. In a letter to FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, Warner highlighted the need for the map to accurately reflect the current state of broadband coverage in Virginia and asked the FCC to carefully consider Virginia's submitted challenges.

"In partnership with Virginia Tech, the Virginia Office of Broadband found that there are approximately 358,000 locations in Virginia that are reported on the new map as being served when, in fact, they currently lack access to broadband. Given that the funding pro-

vided to states by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is calculated based on the number of unserved locations in each state, it's important that the number of unserved locations is accurately calculated," Warner wrote in the letter. "I hope that you will carefully review the challenges submitted by individual Virginians as well as the bulk challenge submitted by the Virginia Office of Broadband. I appreciate your attention to this important issue and thank you for your efforts to close the digital divide."

Regarding Virginia's submitted challenges, Dr. Tamarah Holmes, Director of the Office of Broadband at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, said Friday, "The number of locations in Virginia the FCC thinks are unserved directly affects the amount of money Virginia will receive under BEAD. We plan to challenge hundreds

of thousands of locations we believe are incorrectly reported as served in the FCC's map, potentially securing additional funding for Virginia and allowing the Commonwealth to achieve universal access in Virginia."

Warner has long fought to expand access to broadband in Virginia. During negotiations for the bipartisan infrastructure law, Sen. Warner secured \$65 billion in funding to help deploy broadband, increase access, and decrease costs associated with connecting to the internet. The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, created and funded through this landmark legislation, provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all states and territories. An accurate map will play a critical role in ensuring that this funding is used efficiently.

Proposed Plan Better Funds VA Mental-Health Programs

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

A recently proposed plan has been devised to better fund Virginia's mental-health programs.

The new Right Help, Right Now plan calls for \$230 million in funding for upgrades to the state's mental-health system.

Some elements of the plan include expanding mental-health programs in schools, growing tele-behavioral health operations in high schools and college campuses, and creating more than 30 mobile crisis centers.

However, some feel the plan is a good start with more to be done.

Bruce Crusier - executive director of Mental Health America in Virginia - said in the past, more money has been put toward hospital care than community care. Although this plan changes that dynamic, he outlined what else needs to be addressed in the state's mental-health landscape.

"What we don't see there is funding for the Community Services Board's employees," said Crusier, "and they're really the front line of care in the community to help prevent people from having to go into the hospital. And so, what we'd really like to see is some additional fund-

ing to make up the ground for the Community Services Board, the direct care staff."

The plan finds 106 of Virginia's 133 counties are classified as having a mental-health professional shortage.

Cruser said the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated existing flaws in Virginia's mental-health system. This resulted in less people being able to get the help they needed.

While he said it's fortunate to see the attention this plan is creating, he noted that it's a shame it took years of crisis to reach this turning point.

Although the plan has great support, Crusier also noted that there will be challenges to implementing this plan. Specifically, he noted that the pay rate from insurance or Medicaid needs to be increased.

But, Crusier said he feels there are two elements of this plan which ensure people won't always end up in hospitals for behavioral-health issues.

"The mobile crisis and the crisis receiving centers would help build up that continuum of care in the community so that people don't have to end up going to the hospital," said Crusier, "They can get the care they need, they can get the crisis resolved, they can find the services that they need in the community with much better outcomes."

He added that this would boost the state's mental-health system a lot.

Over the Virginia General Assembly's next legislative session, Crusier said he is eager to see this proposed plan become a package of legislation that'll advance the state's mental-health system.



Youngkin announces additional Administration, Board Appointments

Gov. Glenn Youngkin recently announced additional key administration and board appointments, including Alexander Marcus of Lovettsville, President and CEO, ESI Total Fuel Management; Abdelkarim Moharram of Cabin John, Business Development Manager, Bechtel Corporation;

Lisa Dante Papini of Virginia Beach, President, Dante Valve; Wesley Reid of Roanoke County, Senior Director of Operations, Marvin Company and Dr. Eileen Van Aken of Blacksburg, Department Head and Professor, Virginia Tech, to the A.L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Board of Trustees

"I am honored to appoint this talented group of individuals who are dedicated to serving Virginians," said Youngkin. "Their work strengthens my administration's efforts as we continue moving the Commonwealth forward."

SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

WE OFFER FLEXIBLE ADVERTISING PACKAGES, IN PRINT, ONLINE, OR BOTH.

SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

CALL US TODAY AT (276) 694-3101

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 13 | | | | | 14 | | | | 15 | | | |
| 16 | | | | 17 | | | | | 18 | | | |
| 19 | | | | 20 | | | | 21 | | | | |
| | | | 22 | | | | 23 | | | 24 | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | 28 | | | 29 | | | 30 | | |
| 31 | | | 32 | | 33 | | 34 | | | | 35 | |
| 36 | | | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | | 40 | |
| | 41 | | | | 42 | | | 43 | | 44 | | |
| | | 45 | | | | | 46 | | 47 | | 48 | |
| 49 | 50 | | 51 | | | 52 | | | 53 | | | |
| 54 | | 55 | | | 56 | | | | | 57 | 58 | 59 |
| 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | | |
| 63 | | | | | 64 | | | | 65 | | | |
| 66 | | | | | 67 | | | | 68 | | | |

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Correct code
 - 6. Foundation
 - 9. A pulpy condition
 - 13. Venezuelan river
 - 14. Orange-red chalcid
 - 15. The shallowest Great
 - 16. Floating ice mountain
 - 17. Japanese cervids
 - 18. Special Interest Groups
 - 19. Divertimentos
 - 21. Indian wet nurses
 - 22. Flatfishes
 - 23. Haitian currency (abbr.)
 - 24. Southeast
 - 25. One point N of due W
 - 28. 10 decibels
 - 29. Wild oxes of SE Asia
 - 31. Ancient Greek City of SW Italy
 - 33. A passing glancing blow
 - 36. Marriage announce-
 - ment
 - 38. Tandoor bread
 - 39. Mag. Time
 - 41. Portended
 - 44. Alicante's 7th city
 - 45. Gulf of, in the Aegean
 - 46. Strike
 - 48. Hill (Celtic)
 - 49. Stuart Little's author
 - White
 - 51. Male sheep
 - 52. Indian dresses
 - 54. Pears
 - 56. Tardy arriver
 - 60. Smudge of ink
 - 61. Youngsters
 - 62. About aviation
 - 63. Small ornamental ladies' bag
 - 64. Unreturnable serves
 - 65. Fante and Twi peoples
 - 66. Round shape
 - 67. Of she
 - 68. Beard lichen genus
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Strikes lightly
 - 2. Fencing sword
 - 3. Hooked pericarp
 - 4. Entreats
 - 5. Edison's Corp.
 - 6. Cooks in an oven
 - 7. Amounts of time
 - 8. Tooth caregiver
 - 9. Spellbind
 - 10. Solo opera piece
 - 11. Audible exhales
 - 12. Siddhartha author
 - 14. Coach's game area
 - 17. Gross revenue
 - 20. Toff
 - 21. 1896 Italian defeat (alt. sp.)
 - 23. Auto fuel
 - 25. A woven structure
 - 26. Reveal a secret
 - 27. Hawaiian geese
 - 29. Brings into being
 - 30. Displaced liquid
 - 32. Frigid Zone
 - 34. Newsman Rather
 - 35. Prefix for inside
 - 37. Short-billed rails
 - 40. Sensory receptor
 - 42. Egyptian temple - Ombo
 - 43. Challenges
 - 47. Photograph (slang)
 - 49. Declined gradually
 - 50. Tilapia nilotica
 - 52. One-edge sword
 - 53. Wets
 - 55. Small coins (French)
 - 56. Twine together
 - 57. The middle point
 - 58. Sea eagle
 - 59. Activist Parks
 - 61. Humbug
 - 65. Atomic #79

OPINION

Things are tough all over

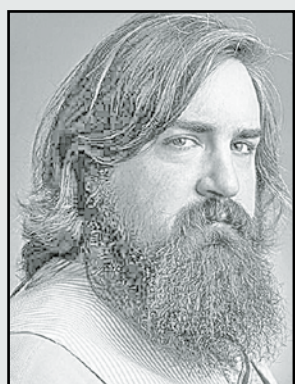
Back in the early 2010s, I had a job in downtown Roanoke. It was a job where I had to deal with multiple people who treated me like an emotional support animal and by the end of each day I felt like the modern day equivalent of the mythological sin-eater, but on the other hand, I also made no money.

One of the things about working in downtown Roanoke at that time was that there were a large number of panhandlers. I have no issue with panhandlers—pretty much all of my issues are with the system that puts them out on the streets—but it could be difficult at times. It's easy to have sympathy for panhandlers when you never encounter them, but when you're accosted multiple times throughout the day—sometimes aggressively—while you're just trying to do your job that pays you in acorns and bits of string, it's easy for that sympathy to dry up.

There was one panhandler named Al who hung around the block where I worked. Al was a solid guy. He would ask you for money, but he was never aggressive about it, and I had a few good conversations with him over the years. I never had much money on me, but I'd usually give him whatever change I had in my pocket. He probably went and spent it on booze, but that's likely what I was going to do with it anyway, so it all came out in the wash.

One day, I was leaving work when I saw Al walking up the street talking to a younger guy. When we crossed paths, I nodded to Al. The younger guy stopped me and asked me if I could give him some money.

"Yeah, I might have a little," I said. I reached into my back pocket and scooped out my key change; it was less than a dollar, but there were at least two quarters in there. That was enough to buy half a dozen eggs once



By Ben R. Williams

upon a time. I dropped the coins in his open palm.

He looked at the change and slipped it in his pocket.

"Man, that's it?" he said. "You haven't got a ten or a twenty?"

I almost laughed. "I don't have that kind of money to give away," I said. "I make peanuts." His face folded into a scowl.

"Oh, I didn't know you were a racist," he said.

I felt like I'd been slapped across the face. I'd never in my life been called a racist before. I didn't even know what to say. Al, meanwhile, seemed to be studying his own shoes.

While I was walking away,

the young man yelled to everyone passing by that I was a huge racist, probably on my way to the next Klan rally. I got in my car and drove home.

The incident stewed in my mind for several days. At first I only felt hurt, but it quickly curdled into anger. That emotion was at the forefront when I bumped into Al less than a week later. He was alone this time.

"Al," I said, "what's up with that young guy you were hanging out with this week?"

Al shook his head. "Man, I'm sorry," he said. "That's my nephew. He's in town for a couple of weeks. He's an angry young man, he's been through some stuff."

"Yeah?" I said. "Well, tell him he ticked me right off." (Note: I did not say ticked.) "I barely have twenty bucks to spend on myself, much less some dude I've never met before."

"I know, I know," Al said. "That was out of line. I'll talk to him."

A couple of days later, I was leaving work when I saw Al and the young man walking up the street. The young man made a beeline for me. I braced myself

for whatever was coming, but it wasn't what I expected.

"Hey man," he said, "I'm really sorry I called you a racist. Al told me you were upset. I didn't mean that, I've just been having a hard time."

"We're cool," I said. "Things are tough all over."

I stuck out my hand; he took it and drew me in. I clapped him on the back and told him to hang in there.

I don't recall ever seeing the young man again, and I haven't seen Al in years. Wherever they are now, I hope they're hanging in.

I tell this story for the following reason:

I'm not perfect; in fact, my inner monologue reminds me of this every few minutes. I have enough personal flaws to fill a warehouse.

However, the above story is the first and, to date, last time I have ever been called a racist, and the dude apologized to me for it.

So whenever I hear somebody claim that "you can't say anything anymore without being labeled a racist," I can't help but wonder what exactly they're saying.

Report from Richmond

Del. Les Adams

In accordance with our state constitution, the Virginia General Assembly convened in regular session last Wednesday, January 11, 2023. In this the second year of the two-year term of the House of Delegates, lawmakers from each district began this "short session" to address amendments to the Commonwealth's budget developed last year. Additionally, hundreds of statutory proposals touching on every sector of government has been introduced, despite the shorter legislative calendar.

As a member of the House of Delegates, I again approach this season of work with great pride in the region I repre-

sent and love for the people I serve. Every bill I review is considered within the context of our shared principles and with an eye for what will render outcomes that best serve our interests. It is a privilege I never take for granted and a task I joyfully embrace.

This is also the second year that I am privileged to help lead a governing majority in the House of Delegates in cooperation with Governor Glenn Youngkin, our state's chief executive, and Jason Miyares, our state's Attorney General. The offices of both leaders have reached out to me for assistance in passing legislation to accomplish our mutual goals of providing for the public safety, punishing fraud, improving government efficiency, increasing oppor-



Del. Les Adams

tunity for economic development, and enhancing our transportation infrastructure.

It was a pleasure to hear directly from the Governor on the afternoon of our first day at the annual State of the Commonwealth address delivered in the House chamber. This, as always, is a remarkable occasion in that the Governor speaks at once to a joint assembly of House

and Senate members, the Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, the Supreme Court of Virginia, and several other invited guests. It was good to listen to a vision for our Commonwealth that focuses priorities on solving problems in this post-pandemic period, including a determination to remediate the educational decline suffered in recent years. And I am entirely in agreement with the Governor's emphasis on the need to reinforce parental rights.

Our majority caucus in the House of Delegates likewise applauds the Governor's focus on providing tax relief to working families and we look forward to building on last year's successful reduction of the grocery tax. This is an especially timely goal as we all grapple with the rampant increase in inflation following the recent period of unprecedented and irrespon-

sible spending by the federal government. Additionally, by way of measures I expect to hear in the Commerce and Energy Committee on which I sit, we will seek to find ways to lower monthly electric bills and disconnect our regulations from California's emission standards (action that is needed due to laws signed by the previous governor during the prior legislative term).

Furthermore, I appreciate Governor Youngkin's commitment to provide the necessary investment in business and manufacturing sites that will allow us to compete for more (and higher paying) jobs. This is an objective directly applicable to Southside Virginia where we stand to benefit in the very near future.

Contact Adams via mail at P.O. Box K, Chatham, Virginia 24531, or call (434) 432-1600 in Chatham or (804) 698-1016 in Richmond.

The Virginia General Assembly's 2023 session

State Sen. Bill Stanley

The Virginia General Assembly's 2023 session opened last week, and the mood of the legislators seems to be both partisan, and guarded. As with every session, the first day includes a lot of formalities, with the House informing the Senate and the Senate informing the House that they are organized and ready to proceed. In this case, "organized" might be in the eye of the

beholder. But having endured for 404 years, Virginia's legislature presumably has a lot more experience than those of our fellow states.

The opening day ends with the General Assembly holding a joint session, with delegates and senators seated together in the same chamber for the State of the Commonwealth Address from the Governor.

In his remarks, Governor Youngkin touched on the accomplishments of his first year in office and outlined an ambitious agenda for this year's session. Building on the reduction of the tax on groceries approved last year, the Governor is proposing reducing the income tax rate as well as raising the standard deduction, which would allow everyone to keep more of their earnings.

The Governor's proposals also include increases in funding for education, an ambitious and comprehensive proposal to address our mental health crisis, an overhaul of our workforce development programs, a renewed commitment to law enforcement to fight crime, and repealing the current law that gives California control of Virginia's energy policies.

The Governor's address made clear he is not satisfied with his previous year's accomplishments. In fact, most of his remarks were about the future and his vision to make Virginia more affordable for its citizens, more attractive to businesses that create jobs, and better prepared for the future.

This year's session is commonly referred to as a "short session." What's the difference between a "long session," which occurs in even-numbered years, and a "short session," which is held in odd-numbered ones? Two weeks, to be exact. The short session is shorter in part because the General Assembly only amends an existing budget, enacted the previous year, instead of crafting an entirely new one. And of course, we are getting ready to have vigorous debates regarding proposed changes to our Virginia Code submitted by legislators in both chambers, which takes up a great deal of time in both committees and on the floor of the Senate.

This session will also most likely consist of an abundance of partisan posturing, as all 140 legislators in both the House and Senate are up for re-election in the new legislative seats created by the every ten-year process of re-districting, with 61 of those seats potentially having sitting incumbents running against each other. That fact alone will make for long nights and contentious political battles on the floors of both the Senate and House of Delegates. While I am hopeful that state legislators can put aside their partisan bickering and desire to be re-elected, and instead focus on accomplishing great things that will benefit all of Virginia, the realist in me unfortunately thinks otherwise.

Ultimately, Governor Youngkin has put forth a bold legislative agenda that strengthens the rights of parents, creates workforce training and career opportunities for people in our region, and fights against the "woke" agenda of the left invading our constitutional rights and our daily lives. We will be working diligently for the next 45 days to ensure that our Governor's vision

for a strong Virginia is made a reality. But let me be clear: this will be a fight against the liberals of Northern Virginia who want to limit our freedoms and believe that the government should dictate how we should live our lives in our region. Their belief is, quite frankly, unacceptable to me.

As you may be aware, I have recently announced that I will be a candidate for re-election in the newly drawn 7th Senate District, which comprises of Franklin County, Henry County, the Cities of Martinsville and Galax, as well as the counties of Wythe, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll and Grayson. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve the hard-working citizens of Southside and Southwest Virginia as your Senator for the past eleven years. I have always worked hard in Richmond to represent your values, make laws that make a difference in our daily lives, and be a strong voice of our region in the Virginia General Assembly. Together, we have created new laws to modernize our crumbling public schools, we have stood up for small businesses against government overreach, we have fought to revitalize our local economy and protect our agricultural community and the family farm, and we have created educational and workforce training initiatives that create opportunities for our citizens to better their lives. While we have accomplished a lot, there is still much more we must do. Southside and Southwest Virginia is the best place to live, work and raise a family, and I promise to continue to be your strong voice in Richmond as we move forward to fight unnecessary and burdensome government regulations, and to stand against any government intrusion upon our sacred freedoms.

And, I want to say to my fellow citizens who live in Halifax and Pittsylvania counties and the City of Danville-- what an honor it has been to serve you as your Senator for the past ten years; and even though you won't be able to vote for me this November, if I am re-elected, I will always continue to vote for you in the halls of the Capitol-- as I promise to continue to do what is best for all of the people of Southside and Southwest Virginia. And to the citizens in the 7th district who I have not yet had the honor of representing - Grayson, Floyd, and Wythe counties - I am excited about the possibility of representing you in our state government, and I will work hard to earn your trust. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the coming months as I travel throughout the district this year once the 2023 Virginia General Assembly concludes.

This year, the General Assembly is scheduled to be in session until February 25. Originally, legislators' offices were supposed to be housed in the new General Assembly Building on Capitol Square. Lingered supply chain problems that delayed the arrival of furnishings and other necessities for the complex delayed that change until next year. Consequently, we're back in the Pocahontas Building for (hopefully) one final year.

If you are visiting the Capitol during this year's session, please stop by our offices on the 5th floor of the Pocahontas Building. Let us know your views on any of the issues before the General Assembly by emailing District20@senate.virginia.gov or calling (804) 698-7520.

Your Community, Your Voice
Serving Henry County, Martinsville, and Surrounding Area

HENRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE
henrycountyenterprise.com

Weekly Publication
Published Each Saturday

Michael Showell, Publisher

Debbie Hall, Editor
dhall@theenterprise.net
(276) 694-3101

Randy Thompson, Advertising Manager
advertise@mainstreetnewspapers.com
(540) 230-1129

Give us your view:
The Henry County Enterprise encourages letters from our readers on topics of general interest to the community and responses to our articles and columns. Letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached to be considered for publication. All letters will be verified before publication. The Henry County Enterprise reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length, content and style.

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

P&HCC Announces Fall 2022 Honors And Dean's Lists

Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC) named the following students to the dean's and honors lists for their academic achievements during the Fall 2022 semester. Students on the dean's list earned a grade point average between 3.2 and 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Students named to the honors list have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, have completed a total of 30 or more credits, and took 12 or more credits during the spring semester.

Students named to the Honors List for the Fall 2022 semester include:

Axton: Amiya Dillard, Sophie Kendall, Oscar Rodriguez, Yulisa Salinas, Alexis Tiznado, Noelia Valderrama, Austin Wells.

Bassett: Nicole Cockram, David Craig, Shawn Foley, Emily Gilley, Savannah Gravely, Sally Hafey, Anne Harris, Kaitlyn Hooper, Olivia Keaton, Alexis Lemons, Logan Manley, Bryan Martell-Rios, Camryn Martin, Parker Martin, Taylor Martin, Evan Parnell, Taylor Reed, Samantha Shough, Jalyssa Wagoner.

Collinsville: Summer Anderson, Maggie Arnold, Gabriel Baird, Aidan Cunningham, Vinicius Da Cruz, Lucas Epiphany, Elizabeth Ferguson, Jacob Gilbert, Trinity Gilbert, Hunter Goad, Harriet Hayford, Emma Jones, Guilherme Lima, Clarence Linkous, Joao Machado, Nathalia Nascimento, Carlos Neto, Kaua Procknow, Timothy Rakes, Guilherme Ravaneda, Lezlie Stein, Sara Wall, Peyton Whitlow.

Danville: Juliana Batchelor, Caitlyn Cousin, Joshua Lovelace, Tallman McBride, Isaiah Moore, Summer Morgan.

Fieldale: Mckenzie Lippencott, Kasandra Shipton, Emily Williams.

Martinsville: Shania Adams, Marco Angles-Ocana, Cailyn Arrington, Alexis

Ashley, Madison Barker, Eyad Bayoumy, Abbygale Bender, Ian Betton, Nicolas Bokman, Melissa Bowles, Emma Bredamus, Anaya Brown, Kaedon Byrd, Jelani Chandler, Claire Coleman, Javarron Cox-Stockton, Zachary Craddock, Gabriel Divers, Ruben Duran, Megan Eanes, Matthew Evans, James Farris, Cesar Garcia, Zane Gardner, Alexis Garten, Matthew Gilbert, Nijel Gravely, Ralene Gray, Brittany Hairston, Rachel Hairston, Madison Harbour, Scott Harmon, Elivia Harper, Kaylee Hughes, Matterson Hunt, Caleb Jenkins, Abigail Jimenez, Mallory Kaczor, Caitlin Kennedy, Sarah Loftin, Blayne Lutz, Kailea Martin, Natalia Martin, Nathan Mason, Catherine Maxwell, Wesley Mills, Abigail Mosley, Faith Munoz, Emma Nester, Joseph Nguyen, RG Olea, Zachary Palumbo, Carlyna Parks, Rachel Perry, Melissa Preston, Nala Preston, Kelsey Reece, Kylan Roberts, Madison Ross, Jennifer Ruiz, Audrey Russell, Alfredo Santacruz, JaLena Spikes, Briana Tatum, Dua Umar.

Ridgeway: Holden Adams, Megan Cockram, Alyson Cuthbertson, Tanner DeShazo, Danielle Edwards, Sarah Finley, Rachel Gehrke, Ivanna Gutierrez, Joanna Gutierrez, Jacob Kerrick, Eric Lane, Matthew Law, Maeve McCulloch, Shane Monk, Kailee Newcomb, Hanh Nguyen, Thomas Powell, Jada Setliff, James Smith, Summer Stone, Clarisa Tye, Megan Vaughn, McKenzie Vaught.

Spencer: Matthew Bowman, Dante Carnes, Christopher Copening, Danielle King, Caleb Murphy, Nash Thompson.

Students named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester include:

Axton: Stephanie Altamirano, Carlee Ashworth, Dasjah Barksdale, Gerardo Becerra-Urbe, Elizabeth Caro Tamayo, Ingrid Carrillo-Juarez, Dakota Carter, Lakyn Cochran, Kolby Davis, Amanda

Doss, Mario Garcia Ramirez, Jade Gravely, Keri Jackson, Olivia Kendall, Jane Lavea, Mallori Lowe, Chandler Norman, Ashlynn Patten, Jovany Ramirez Devora, Kevin Tiznado, Chevon Trotter, Kayla Whitlock, Hannah Young.

Bassett: Brooke Athey, Timber Callahan, Alexis Castillo, Miriam Coleman, Madison Craig, Aleeyah Galloway, Lauren Griffith, Cierra Hagwood, Trinity Hylton, Justin Jacobson, Allison Kitzmiller, Eunela Manzano, Daniel Marshall, Kevin Martell-Rios, Devin Newman, Chasity Nolen, Nolan Poperowitz, Cortay Price, Kayin Spencer, Maria Vasquez-Chavez, Joshua Wright.

Collinsville: Lago Andrade, Lauren Carter, Alexandre Chagalov, Wenceslau Coimbra, Kelly Draper, Joseph Dugan, Cameron Easley, Karen Ferguson, Donna Hairfield, Faith Hale, Abigale Hall, Aaron Legg, Elizabeth Lopez, Luca Mattos Brandro, Gustavo Moreira, Jasiyah Moss, Ashlynn Mullins, Trent Murchison, Bradley Pegrum, Claudia Phillips, Anette Santiago, Flávio Silva, Savannah Staples, Sergio Traitel, Perla Vasconcelos.

Danville: Hailey Astin, Noah Burton, Bradley Godsey, Misty Gregory, Amaliya McNeill, Candy Price, Cameron Satterfield.

Fieldale: Isaiah Callaway, Amanda Curtis, Amber Dillon, Katie Fulcher, Matthew Hendrix, Joshua Martin, Jonathan Nolen, Candice Stump, Jacob Wright, Reagan Wright. Henry: Tyler Carr, Taylor Dake, Hunter Koger, Zavier Winston.

Martinsville: Elijah Adams, Deisy Alvarez, Lesley Alvarez Nolasco, Laiken Barnes, Marcaisa Becker, Yousef Bensadik, Cooper Biggs, Cassidy Blair, Peighton Boone, Nicolas Carter, Katherine Cecil, Leah Chacha, Johnny Clerc, Ajani Cole, Deon Cruickshank, Preston Davis, Lillian

Deathage, Michael Devora-Guerrero, Laura Dillard, Jasmine Draper, Jonathan English, Tracey Fitzgerald, Shenyiah Fuller, Paris Fulp, Heaven Garten, Ariana Gravely, Jakiyah Gravely, Tahlia Gravely, Trinity Gravely, Colby Hairfield, Ashton Hairston, Dakota Hairston, Diondre Hairston, Omarion Hairston, Trenati Hairston, Gabriel Haley, Katherine Hall, Kaylee Hall, Austin Harding, David Hernandez, Audrey Hundley, Taylor Hundley, Arlette Jaramillo-Mata, Caleb Joyce, Sarah Kallam, Tristan Keen, Olivia Keller, Aubrey Lawrence, Faith Lewis, Nicolas Lopez, Revocatus Marwa, Sarai Melendez, America Mendoza, Lauren Mills, Kinya Moore, William Morrison, Adam Mounkaila, Nathaniel Overton, Nayti Patel, Tyrese Perkins, Elijah Pickett, Amirhossein Poat Kisomi, Kamari Preston, Kayla Preston, Alyssa Ramsey, Leia Richardson, Jessica Riggs, Cameron Robertson, Alan Rodriguez-Rosas, David Root, Mason Rorrer, Olivia Ross, Caden Shively, Elizabeth Smith, Kayla Solomon, Skyler Spence, Sydney Stimpert, Ethan Stockton, Journey Sunkins, Christopher Talley, Eva Underwood, Tyra Valentine, Nyasia Wade, Jalyn Waller, Whitney Williams, Ramona Wilson, Destiny Witcher, Chloe Wray, Tyasia Wright, Kinza Yasar.

Ridgeway: Saige Adams, Owen Amos, Sarah Bennett, Avery Brown, Cole Burgess, Adrianna Dillard, Ivory Eanes, Grace Edwards, Joseph Fincher, Austin Gammons, Terrence Hairston, Zachary Jones, Paige Lewis, Kylie Minter, Tanner Mintz, Anh Nguyen, Carlie Pritchett, Cassidy Ragans, Julianna Rhodes, Dayton Royster, Jake Sharpe, Zachary Souther, Michael Thompson, Natalie Tollison.

Spencer: LeAndra Carson, Aundrea Cotant, Alexander Doyle, William Marshall, Sadie Perry.

SNHU releases Fall 2022 President's List

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulated the following students on being named to the Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Michala Brown, of Martinsville;
Wesley Queen, of Ridgeway.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for

the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Partners sought for Summer Meals Program

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking partners to participate in the commonwealth's Summer Food Service Program to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals during months when school is not in session.

The department reimburses approved organizations for meals served and for associated administrative costs. In addition, all participants receive training and technical assistance from VDOE.

The Summer Food Service Program operates at sites such as schools, public housing centers, community centers, playgrounds, camps, parks and churches. Organizations that may qualify to participate in the program include public and private schools, local governments, public and nonprofit private residential summer camps, and faith-

based and community-based non-profit organizations.

VDOE's approximately 160 summer meals partner organizations served more than 13 million meals to Virginia's children between June and August last year.

The program — which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture — allows organizations to combine a feeding program with another activity in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Information for organizations interested in applying to participate in the Summer Food Service Program — including details on application deadlines — is available on the VDOE website.

Non-Discrimination Statement
In accordance with federal civil rights

law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992.

Submit a completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: intake@usda.gov.

Real estate reassessment review period gets underway in Martinsville

Property owners on the City of Martinsville should soon receive notices that their real property has been reassessed as required by state law. Reassessment notices were mailed on January 9. Assessors in the commissioner of the revenue office reassess all city properties every two years.

The purpose of the reassessment is to equitably assess a fair market value to all properties within the city. This does not mean that every property in the city will have the same value, but similar properties will have similar values based on market trends in the real estate market over the past two years since the last reassessment. This uniformity in the assessment process ensures that when city council sets the tax rate as part of their annual budget process, the tax burden is evenly distributed within the locality.

Assessors do not "create" the value of property. People establish the value of property by buying and selling real estate in the market place. The assessor analyzes these transactions, along with replacement costs, income that a property may generate, property depreciation and location in order to arrive at a fair market value of the property.

The reassessment notice is not a tax increase, which is clearly stated on the notice. Only city council has the authority to set tax rates. City administration will utilize the reassessment values in creating the annual budget. Hearings on the tax rate will be scheduled after the city manager presents the annual budget. Notice of the public hearing on the real estate tax rate will be advertised 30 days before the hearing date.

Reassessment information is available at <https://www.martinsville-va.gov/government/commissioner-of-the-revenue/real-estate-assessments> or by contacting the real estate assessors. If property owners feel the reassessment value does not reflect the true fair market value of their property they are encouraged to take advantage of the review period from January 17th through February 28th to schedule an appointment with the assessors to review the reassessment.

Reassessment values will not be finalized until the Board of Equalization completes its review by May 15, 2023. The reassessment values will be the values that real estate tax bills due December 5, 2023 will be based.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | B | U | G | | B | E | D | | M | A | S | H | | |
| A | P | P | U | R | E | S | A | R | D | | E | R | I | E | |
| B | E | R | G | | S | I | K | A | S | | S | I | G | S | |
| S | E | R | E | N | A | D | E | S | | A | M | A | H | S | |
| | | | | | S | O | L | E | S | | G | D | E | S | E |
| W | B | N | | B | E | L | | G | A | U | R | S | | | |
| E | L | E | A | | S | I | D | E | S | W | I | P | E | | |
| B | A | N | N | S | | N | A | N | | A | Z | I | N | E | |
| B | E | T | O | K | E | N | E | D | | E | L | D | A | | |
| | | S | A | R | O | S | | R | A | P | | T | O | R | |
| E | B | | R | A | M | | S | A | R | I | S | | | | |
| B | O | S | C | S | | L | A | T | E | C | O | M | E | R | |
| B | L | O | T | | B | A | B | E | S | | A | E | R | O | |
| E | T | U | I | | A | C | E | S | | A | K | A | N | S | |
| D | I | S | C | | H | E | R | | | U | S | N | E | A | |

Like the Henry County Enterprise on Facebook

2023

TEACHER RECRUITING JOB FAIR

Positions Available

- Teachers - all grades
- Teachers - all content areas
- Administrators
- School Counselors

JANUARY 28, 2023

**Salem Civic Center
Salem, Virginia
9 am - 1 pm**

Contact Us:

☎ 540-831-6399
 🌐 www.wvpec.org
 ✉ office@wvpec.org

**Job Fair is free
Registration link at wvpec.org**

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

OBITUARIES

Jason Draper Harrell



Jason Draper Harrell, 63, of Fieldale, VA passed away Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at his home. He was born September 28, 1959, in Martinsville, VA to Betty Draper Harrell and the late William H. Harrell. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his brother, Timothy H. Harrell.

In addition to his mother, Betty Harrell, he is survived by his daughter, Christie H. Hutchinson (Danny) of Collinsville, VA; granddaughter, Morgan Layne Hutchinson of Collinsville, VA; brother, Kelly G. Harrell of Fieldale, VA; and his significant other, Sandra Keatts of Axton, VA.

Jason was a member of Fieldale Baptist Church. He was a graduate of Patrick and Henry Community College and worked as an electrician. He served in the U.S. Army.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, January 15, 2023, at Norris Funeral Services, Chapel with Rev. Bud Sedwick officiating. Norris Funeral Services, Martinsville, VA is serving the Harrell family. Online condolences may be made at norrisfuneral.com.

Catherine Darlene Payne

Catherine Darlene Payne, 57, of Martinsville, VA passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2023. She was born on May 27, 1965, in Martinsville, VA to Vergie Hooper and the late Sherman James Payne. Ms. Payne worked at Haynes Brand as a quality control inspector.

In addition to her mother, Catherine is survived by her brother, Joseph Hooper of Martinsville, VA.

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

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

Bipartisan legislation proposes restoring SCC authority to address energy burden crisis

Democratic Senators Jennifer McClellan and Creigh Deeds joined Republican Delegate Lee Ware and Democratic Delegate Rip Sullivan last week in announcing the Affordable Energy Act (House Bill 1604), legislation that seeks to address rising electricity bills in Virginia. Speaking from the General Assembly building, the legislators outlined their bipartisan bill that reestablishes a fair regulatory process for Virginia's electric utility monopolies, Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company.

The Affordable Energy Act removes restrictions preventing the State Corporation Commission (SCC) from lowering electric utility rates when the agency determines customers will be overcharged.

The SCC reports that the current rates of Dominion Energy, Virginia's largest energy provider, overcharged customers by \$152.1 million in 2021 alone. Since 2009, Dominion has overcharged customers by at least \$1.9 billion.

The Affordable Energy Act changes no other part of the SCC review process and does not prevent any funding for authorized projects.

In the 2024 rate case, the SCC will examine Dominion's earnings and set the utility's base rate and profit level going forward. Passing the Affordable Energy Act during the 2022 legislative session is the most impactful way the General Assembly can restore the SCC with its traditional regulatory authority in order to protect consumers during Dominion's next rate case.

"Virginians are facing rising electric bills in large part due to decisions made by the General Assembly years ago limiting the State Corporation Commission's ability to lower rates it finds are too high. This common-sense bipartisan bill would restore the power of the SCC to protect Virginians from being overcharged on their energy bills. The Affordable Energy Act will

help consumers' pocketbooks and help return balance to electricity rate-setting in Virginia," said McClellan, D-Richmond.

"The goal of this bill is to restore to the State Corporation Commission the ability to review electricity rates and ensure fairness to both the consumer and the monopoly. The Affordable Energy Act is the most important consumer protection legislation that we will have the chance to pass this year," said Deeds, D-Charlottesville.

"The legislature is not competent to regulate a major public utility, which is precisely why the State Corporation Commission (SCC) exists. However, owing to unwise legislation in recent years, the SCC has been denied its ability to adjudicate Dominion's ratepayer charges and rate-of-return on investment. It is only just and prudent that we restore to the SCC the authority to discharge its constitutional duties," said Ware, R-Powhatan.

"Saving Virginia families money on their electric bills is not controversial. Or partisan. At least it shouldn't be. The Affordable Energy Act will do that. It will re-empower the SCC by restoring its traditional authority to adjust rates. It does not mandate any outcome. It simply provides a fail-safe ability for the SCC to determine fair and reasonable electricity rates, while preserving the utilities' ability to recover costs and earn a fair rate of return. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in both Chambers, to get this bill to the Governor's desk," said Sullivan, D-Fairfax.

The Affordable Energy Act has attracted a broad coalition of support. Americans For Prosperity, Southern Environmental Law Center, and the Virginia Poverty Law Center all voiced their support for the Affordable Energy Act:

"American for Prosperity applauds Governor

Youngkin's administration for rightfully identifying the soaring electricity costs for Virginians. Families are struggling and making trade-offs between buying food and paying rising energy bills. Restoring the independent oversight of the SCC is the best approach to ensure monopolies that overcharge rate payers are kept in check and untouched by political influences. It's time for lawmakers to put an end to the monopoly giveaway at the expense of hard-working Virginia families," said C.J. Sailor, State Director at Americans for Prosperity Virginia.

"The bedrock principle of utilities is that in exchange for exclusive territorial rights, monopolies must operate under price regulation. For too long in Virginia, that principle has not applied. This bill simply restores the balance and ensures that the State Corporation Commission has the power to prevent monopolies from overcharging customers," said Will Cleveland, Senior Attorney at Southern Environmental Law Center.

"The problem with Virginia's electric utility model is quite simple: electricity in Virginia costs more than it should. If passed, the bipartisan Affordable Energy Act will restore an appropriate balance between the interests of customers and monopoly public service utilities to provide savings to ratepayers," said Dana Wiggins, Director of the Center for Economic Justice at Virginia Poverty Law Center. "Over the past decade, the General Assembly has enacted sweeping, controversial policy changes to utility monopoly regulation at the behest of the utilities. These policies have enabled the utilities to overcharge customers above a legally authorized profit margin repeatedly and then shielded those excessive profits from oversight. When considering any changes to electric utility policy during this legislative session, the General Assembly must begin the discussion by asking, 'is this good for ratepayers?'"

VA Bill Would Ban Withholding Student Transcripts for Debt Collection

Edwin J. Viera
Virginia News Connection

As the Virginia General Assembly begins its new legislative session, one bill will be returning - with the goal of alleviating some student-debt burdens.

It would prevent a college from withholding a student's transcripts if they still owe the school money. People need their transcripts to get financial aid, serve in the U.S. military, apply to another school or sometimes, to get a job.

Several states have already banned schools withholding student transcripts - and this isn't the first time it's come up in Virginia. In 2022, a bill passed the Senate, but failed in the House.

State Sen. Ghazala Hashmi - D-Richmond - drafted it, and described the change in the new version.

"What is changing in this particular bill now," said Hashmi, "is that it is putting in place the payment plan, that institutions can put in repayment agreements with the student."

She added that the bill will include a compromise, to allow students to have access to a partial transcript should they transfer schools.

Much of the opposition has come from colleges and universities, saying the only leverage they have to pursue college debt is by withholding transcripts. But backers of the idea say the schools can't recoup those debts if people don't have

the chance to get jobs.

Though this year's legislative session will be truncated due to elections, Hashmi said she is hopeful to see other work done on higher education.

She said she feels the state needs to lift the burden of rising tuition costs off middle-class families, and budget more for higher ed. She said a combination of her own experience working in higher ed inspired her to introduce this bill.

"I worked in the community college system," said Hashmi. "I had students who said, 'Well, I've completed x, y and z courses, but I don't have the transcripts to demonstrate it.' So, they are forced to take those classes again. What happens then is, of course, it's a hit on their finan-



cial aid, the federal financial aid."

Hashmi said she feels the updated bill will address issues that prevented its passage the first time around.

A report from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia finds withholding transcripts for debt resolution can be harmful to students looking to pay down their debt.

Nominations Now Open For Distinguished Alumni

The Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation is seeking nominations for P&HCC graduates to be named "Distinguished Alumni" during the annual awards dinner. The deadline to make a nomination is February 20, 2023.

To be considered, nominees must have graduated with a degree or certificate or taken a minimum of 24 credit hours from P&HCC. They must have demonstrated success within their chosen career or field of expertise, given significant community-based services,

and be able to attend the awards ceremony.

"This award is a great honor for P&HCC alums," said Tiffani Underwood, Executive Director of the P&HCC Foundation. "It recognizes the achievements of our students, and honors those who found Patrick & Henry Community College to be a significant stepping stone to their overall success."

Last year's recipients were Jennifer Ashworth ('91), Ann Blankenship ('86), Crystal Booth ('96), Mark Gilbert ('96), Daniel Hennis, Sr. ('73), Gary

Hollandsworth ('70), Rob Lovell ('79), Melissa Martin ('89), Melissa Smith ('94), Kristy Walker ('93), Jason Wood ('98), and Shonna Woods ('00).

Alumni nomination forms can be accessed online at www.patrickhenryfoundation.com, under the "Helpful Links" section. Forms are also available from the foundation office at Patrick & Henry Community College, 645 Patriot Avenue, Martinsville, VA 24112. Contact Letitia Pulliam at 276-656-0250 or at lpulliam@patrickhenry.edu.

Advertise With Us!

What we offer:

- Flexible pricing
- Highly Customizable Packages that include print, digital or both
- Deeply discounted rates
- Seasonal Specials

What we have:

- A team of Advertising Specialists who will work with you to customize a package, STRETCH your advertising dollars, and accomplish your advertising goals
- A talented team of designers who will work to help you reach your base.

Join our family and put our talented team to work for you today.

For more information, call the office at (276) 694-3101

Congressional staff to hold local hours

Ninth District staff from U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith office will be available in Patrick and Henry counties this month.

On January 25, staff will be in Henry County from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Henry County Administration Building, Summerlin Room - Board of Supervisors Meeting Chambers, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112.

The staff members will set up office in Patrick County from 12:30 -- 2 p.m. in the Patrick County Administration

Building, Conference Room, 106 Rucker Street, Stuart, VA 24171.

In the event of inclement weather (heavy snow, sleet, icy rain, etc.), traveling office hours may be rescheduled to avoid putting constituents at risk. If a locality's schools are closed, then its office hours will be closed as well. Call the Christiansburg Office at (540) 381-5671 or the Abingdon Office at (276) 525-1405 with any questions or to schedule an appointment time in the event of office hour closure.

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.

Thomas Land Solutions LLC
Forestry mulching, overgrown property cleanup, bush-hogging, pasture & field reclamation, ATV & walking trails, hunting lanes, skid-steer, tractor and mini-excavator work. Free estimates. Call 276-229-9410 or Facebook Thomas Land Solutions LLC

FOR SALE

Hoyer patient electric body lift. Never used.
Lists for over \$1900. Asking \$999 or best offer.

Mahogany China cabinet, an antique settee and an antique chest of drawers.
Call 276-694-4100 for more information.

HELP WANTED

Experienced Mechanic
40 hrs. Monday-Friday
Patrick Springs area
Call Duncan Speed Shop
276-694-4133

PARC Workshop Direct Support Professional (DSP)
Will assist Medicaid sponsored individuals in basic skills, safety rules, social skills and PARC rules and regulations. Qualifications: Associates degree preferred but not required. At least 1 year experience working with DD/ID population. May substitute in appropriate fields for education. Provide above average clerical, secretarial and computer skills. Background in training, supervision and "people skills" a plus. Must be able to pass all required background screens/drug test complete state competency training and update training annually. Call us at 276-694-4211 or email parc-workshop@embarqmail.com.

Let our readers know you're hiring with a classified ad in The Enterprise for as little as \$8 a week.

If you've read this far, you can see how a classified ad in the Henry County Enterprise can work.

Notice of Unsafe Structures

To All Owners and Parties in Interest of the Following Properties:
200 Emmette Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owner: Robin I Morrison
1004 Jordan Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owner: Priscilla Hodge
1217 Lawson Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Robert Nixon Collier et seq & William Thomas Collier
211 Stuart Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Waverly Cousin Jr. & Barbara Cousin
1223 Top Street - condemned from previous code enforcement
Owners: Baldwin Memorial Trust, 1223 Lt Trust, Estate For years, G E Ennis, Trustee C/O Baldwin 1223
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:

200 Emmette Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage 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-702.1 - Safe, continuous and unobstructed path not provided.

1004 Jordan Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage 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-304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
PM-702.1 - Safe, continuous path of travel not maintained.

1217 Lawson Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage 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-304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
PM-702.1 - Safe, continuous path of travel not provided.

211 Stuart Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage 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-304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.
PM-702.1 - Safe, continuous path of travel not provided.

1223 Top Street
PM-106 - Unsafe structure, extensive damage 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-304.10 - Deck not maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

ORDER
The Building Official has determined that in order to abate the unsafe or dangerous conditions on these properties, the buildings 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.

HENRY COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO REMOVE AN UNSAFE STRUCTURE

**RECORD OWNER:
Rodney M. Edwards**

Pursuant to Section 6-300 of the Henry County Code, NOTICE is hereby given that the owner shall remove the structure which might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of the County on or before thirty (30) days following this publication and failure to do so will result in the County having to remove the structure and the cost or expense shall be charged to and paid by the owner and collected as taxes are collected.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION - Unsafe structure
OWNER - Landowner: Rodney M Edwards
PROPERTY LOCATION AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
53 Longbow Dr. - Blackberry District
Henry County, Virginia
Tax Map: 14.4(006)000/000E
Account Number - 114920004

County of Henry
Charles Campbell
Chief Building Inspector
Telephone (276) 634-4615



ADVERTISE!

Be Winter-Wise.

And COVID/flu Smart.

Wash hands. Mask when needed. Circulate the air. Vaccinate. Stay home when sick!



www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus

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



AXTON SOLAR

Your Community, Your Solar Project

Thank you Henry County residents for providing feedback on our project. We have made changes and believe Axton Solar is now a better project thanks to your input.

Visit our website www.axtonsolarva.com to learn more or follow us on Facebook @AxtonSolarVA

A Clean Energy Future, Rooted in Conservative Principles

Across Virginia, farmers are supporting the grid with a new cash crop—solar energy. Supporting solar in your community protects property rights, empowers ratepayers, promotes competition and technological innovation, fosters job growth, and encourages energy diversification and independence.

Paid for by Conservatives for Clean Energy, Virginia