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Jill Acker named 2022 Town of Vinton Employee of the Year

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Jill Acker has been named as the 2022 Town of Vinton Employee of the Year, a coveted honor in the town. She is the Administrative Manager for the Public Works Department.

Acker was recognized by Vinton Town Council at their meeting on Jan. 3. She had previously been honored at the Employee Holiday Luncheon in December.

“Beginning in 2016, the town of Vinton has asked employees to nominate a co-worker who has gone above and beyond in teamwork, work performance, attitude, and commitment,” said Vinton Human Resources and Risk Management Director Donna Collins, who facilitates the selection each year. “This year’s nominations continue that tradition. 2022’s recipient exemplifies those qualities.”

“Jill began working for the Town on July 1, 2012, in the Public Works Department,” Collins said. “As many of us can attest, there are trials to starting a new position—will I fit in, or can I handle what they ask of me?”

“Jill didn’t have time to consider her own concerns as the community’s concerns were heightened by the chaos and stress from the Derecho that hit our region on June 29, 2012,” Collins said. “Public Works played a pivotal role in helping the community work its way back to normal. And the newest member of the team was essential in that



Members of her family and the Vinton Public Works Department were on hand to show their support when Jill Acker (center) was named Vinton Employee of the Year for 2022 at the Town Council meeting on Jan. 3. Shown left to right are Desiree Gallimore, Klaudia Sledd, Jill’s sister Jami Tingler, Kenny Sledd, Jill Acker, her son Brandon Acker, Public Works Director Bo Herndon, Jerry Bishop, Andrew Critcher, and Jason Davison.

process.”
“Jill is selfless in her actions; she excels at working with citizens and staff in Public Works. She is the ‘go to’ person for everyone for whatever they need. She has a ‘team player attitude.’ She understands what high priority objectives are, and she works diligently to make them happen.”

“She leads by word and example,” Collins said. “Perhaps most importantly, she is dependable, honest, and has an infectious positive attitude.”

“From natural disaster to a pandemic, she always finds a way to come through in the end for all of us.”

Mayor Brad Grose commented that, “We are all very proud of her and her hard work—and she always handles things in such a ladylike manner.” She



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Vinton Public Works Administrative Manager Jill Acker has been named Vinton Employee of the Year for 2022.

received a standing ovation from those in attendance including members of her family and the Public Works Department.

Acker thanked the town and her co-workers for

the honor, especially “my guys” in the Public Works Department “who I try to look after. They mean the most to me. They’re the ones who should be up here.”

Stovall sworn in as new Vinton Vice Mayor; council approves purchase to improve traffic safety; business booming at the Vinton War Memorial



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Councilman Mike Stovall (on right) was named Vinton Vice Mayor at the Council Meeting on Jan. 3, 2023. He was re-elected to council in the November election for his second term. He is pictured with Mayor Brad Grose.

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council held its first meeting of the year on Jan. 3. The first order of business was the Investiture Service for council members Sabrina McCarty and Mike Stovall who were re-elected to seats on Town Council in the November election.

McCarty took the oath of office administered by Town Clerk Susan Johnson as her husband, Chris McCarty, held their Bible. Her term will expire in 2026. Johnson then administered the oath to Stovall, who was supported by his wife Patsy. His term also extends through 2026.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank Council member Sabrina McCarty for serving these past two years as vice mayor,” said Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. “It has been a comfort to me to know that Sabrina was always there and had my back. She was always there in case of emergency or a schedule conflict. In addition, Vice Mayor McCarty was always available to discuss the affairs of the town of Vinton. She has served the town of Vinton and this council well during her tenure as vice mayor. Thank you for a job well done.”

McCarty received a standing ovation from those present for her service to the town.

“The position of vice mayor in the town of Vinton is certainly one of high honor and respect,” Grose continued. “Serving in the position of vice mayor indicates that you have earned the trust of our citizens through their vote for you to serve on council and the additional support of your fellow council members. Of course, any place of such honor, also carries with it the responsibilities and duties of the position.”

“Every member of town council is eligible and qualified to serve as vice mayor. Council members earned the qualification by being elected by the citizens of the town of Vinton. In Vinton, we have always strived to allow everyone on town council to have the opportunity to serve at least one term in the position of vice mayor.”

Grose then placed the name of Councilman Stovall in nomination for vice mayor and invited other nominations.

“We all know Mike is very highly qualified,” said Grose. “He is very experienced in the operation of public budgets since he was a long-time member of the Roanoke County School Board and is now serving on our town Finance Committee. Mike has been elected by the citizens of the Town of Vinton twice for Town Council and five times to serve on the School Board. Mike has patiently waited his turn to serve, as others with more seniority served in the Vice Mayor position. Now it is Mike’s turn.”

With no other nominations, Stovall was elected and took the oath of office to serve as vice mayor of Vinton through 2024.

“Our town is strong and vibrant because of its citizens, each and every employee who ‘give it the gas’ everyday, and a great town council,” Stovall said. “I am very excited about the next four years.”

Council next appointed the five “council-appointed officers” as required—Town Manager Pete Peters, Treasurer Cody Sexton, Chief of Police Fabricio Drumond, and Town Attorney Jeremy Carroll, who will all serve until Dec. 31, 2024. Peters was also appointed as town clerk effective Feb. 1, 2023, through Jan. 31, 2024, to replace Susan Johnson, who will be retiring.

In another organizational move, Sabrina McCarty and Councilman Keith Liles were appointed to the Community Development Committee, Brad Grose and Mike Stovall to the Finance Committee, and Laurie Mullins and McCarty to the Public Works Committee. Citizen Mandy Fullen was re-appointed to another five-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals, and Vinton’s Economic Development Specialist

Vinton Business of the Week: Vinton Appliance Center

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

Jeff Janney opened Vinton Appliance Center at the corner of South Pollard Street and East Lee Avenue on Jan. 1, 2001. The location had previously been the home of Holdren’s, Inc., since the 1960s and before that, Vinton Hardware. Janney joined Holdren’s in 1975 and sold appliances there until the store closed.

At that point, he began selling and delivering used appliances out of the back of his minivan. That shoestring-budget business grew quickly and gave him “the money and the courage” to open his own store.

He credits the Cundiff family with helping him launch Vinton Appliance; in fact, they renovated the store for him.

He and his wife, Pam, were the only employees for a couple of years; however, the business quickly began booming and the number of employees increased over time. The staff now includes owner/operator Janney, general manager Paul St. Clair, and associates Vic Pennington, Penny Burkholder, and Todd Brinkley, all from Vinton. Vinton Appliance also has its own delivery staff dedicated to customer service—no third-party deliveries.

Janney says an element of that early success was the customer base that had been established by Holdren’s, and another factor was the quality of their merchandise. However, something else he gained from Holdren’s during his years as an employee, something invaluable, were their business practices, based on



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS
Vinton Appliance is located in downtown Vinton at the corner of South Pollard Street and East Lee Avenue.



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See Council, page 3

What new laws took effect in Virginia on Jan. 1, 2023?

Several new laws took effect in the Commonwealth of Virginia on Jan. 1, 2023.

Grocery tax: The one that will impact most people is the reduction in the sales tax on groceries from 2.5% to 1%. This applies to most grocery items and, also includes personal products like diapers and feminine hygiene products, but some exceptions do apply. Alcohol, tobacco, and prepared hot foods are not included. Plus, localities can still add a 1% tax at check-out if they choose.

Minimum wage: Virginia's Minimum Wage Act will increase rates to \$12 an hour. The current minimum wage in Virginia is \$11 per hour.

Privacy law: This law will control data collection and limits how much personal data is collected, by creating new rules for businesses that control, process, or sell the personal data of thousands of customers. The law also gives people rights to access, correct,

delete, and obtain a copy of personal data and to opt-out of the processing of personal data used for targeted advertising, the sale of personal data, or the profiling of consumers.

Changes to state unemployment system: This law was passed to reform the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) after widespread issues during the COVID pandemic, most especially a backlog in unemployment claims. Under the law, the VEC has to undergo mandatory and recommended "program integrity" activities recommended by the federal government. The commission will also have to review suspicious or potentially improper unemployment claims and recover any overpayment of benefits. The VEC will also have to create a report by Dec. 1 each year outlining how it is implementing and enforcing the new law.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

VINTON HISTORY: RUG BEATERS

Rug beaters were housecleaning tools used to beat carpets to shake dirt out of them. Originally designed by Melville R. Bissell in 1876, it was in common use until the vacuum cleaner became widely affordable.

Rugs, cushions, and bedding were hung over a clothesline or railing and the dust and dirt were beaten out of them. Some people preferred to beat carpets in winter on the snow. This method had some advantages – for instance, insects would freeze to death if they were not expelled through beating.

The beater may also be used to beat the dust out of sofas, etc. In this case, the beaten furniture is covered by a wet rag to collect dust.

Typically made of coiled wire or rattan, antique rug beaters have become very collectible.

Rug beaters are not only effective vintage cleaning tools, but also beautifully made so that they can be displayed as vintage decor while not in use.

Pictured are rug beaters on display at the Vinton History Museum, which is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and every first Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Submitted by Judy Cunningham, Vinton History Museum Executive Director

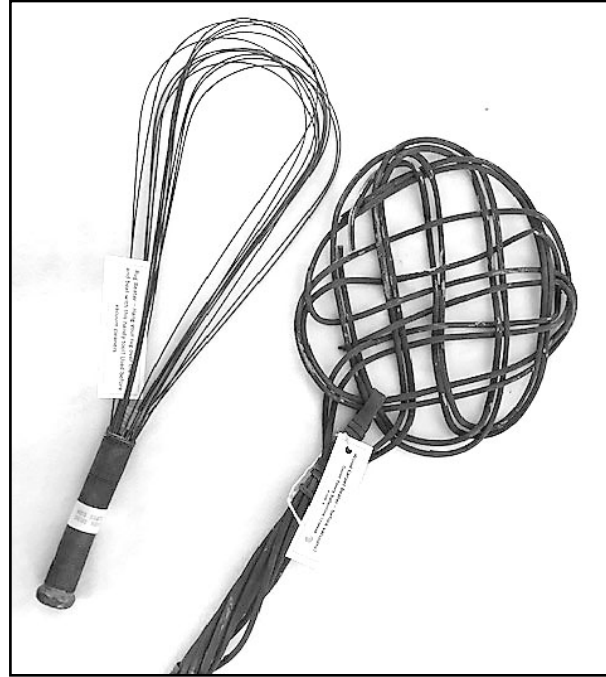


PHOTO BY JUDY CUNNINGHAM

Stop by the Vinton History Museum to visit their many artifacts, including these rug beaters.

Heroes volunteer here: Vinton salutes its First Aid Crew

Debbie Adams
dadams@ourvalley.org

The Town of Vinton and The Vinton Messenger are saluting members of the Vinton First Aid Crew (VFAC). This week's featured volunteer is Lainey Audet. She has been with the crew for almost three years, serving as a Paramedic. She started with the crew as an EMT-B, but recently completed her training to become a Paramedic.

Her regular job is working as a Registered Nurse with Carilion as Clinical Team Leader for 8 Mountain ICU. She worked in COVID ICU for two years.

Audet says she is pursuing a career as a Flight Nurse with Carilion Life-Guard, so she joined the VFAC to get EMS experience and also because of her desire to serve the community.

Audet is originally from South Carolina but moved to Roanoke when she was 7 years old. She has a two-year-old daughter and a step-daughter. Her father, John, served as a volunteer for the Vinton



PHOTO COURTESY OF VFAC

Paramedic Lainey Audet (left) with family.

and Stewartsville first aid crews.

Her hobbies include spending time with her family, country music, hiking, swimming, and camping. She is active in several HEMS organizations and loves furthering her education whenever possible.

"There is a great sense of camaraderie and sense of family at the Vinton First Aid Crew," Audet says. "We are a high call volume crew who responds to a large area in Roanoke County. It's an honor to help those in our community in their time of need. It gives me such

a strong sense of pride and accomplishment by being a member here. I highly recommend that you should come check us out and consider giving a small portion of your time to this amazing community."

"We are truly blessed to have the Vinton First Aid Crew in our town," says Vinton Mayor Brad Grose. "The crew has a long history of service to the residents of Vinton and the surrounding area. Many of our citizens have amazing stories about the wonderful service provided to them by the devoted members of the crew."

"A common trait among

individual members of the crew is their desire to serve their fellow man," Grose said. "The Vinton First Aid Crew offers an opportunity to serve, and it also provides valuable medical training that can truly be lifesaving. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and family in the crew that is rarely duplicated in organizations of its size."

"The citizens of Vinton can rest assured that they will always receive professional and caring service from the dedicated members of our Vinton First Aid Crew."

Thank you for your service, Lainey Audet!

Vintonites named to Roanoker's '40 under 40' list

Several young professionals from, living in, or working in Vinton were named to the prestigious Roanoker Magazine's Class of 2023 "40 under 40" list. They include Melissa Carr, Tyler Lyon, Morgan Johnson Romeo, and Cody Sexton.

Those on the list are nominated by colleagues, friends, and magazine readers. This year's group is the fourth to be selected. Those ultimately chosen by the magazine are recognized not only for doing their jobs well, but for giving back to the community.

Carr teaches chemistry, advanced chemistry, and AP chemistry at William Byrd High School and volunteers with the Clean Valley Council.

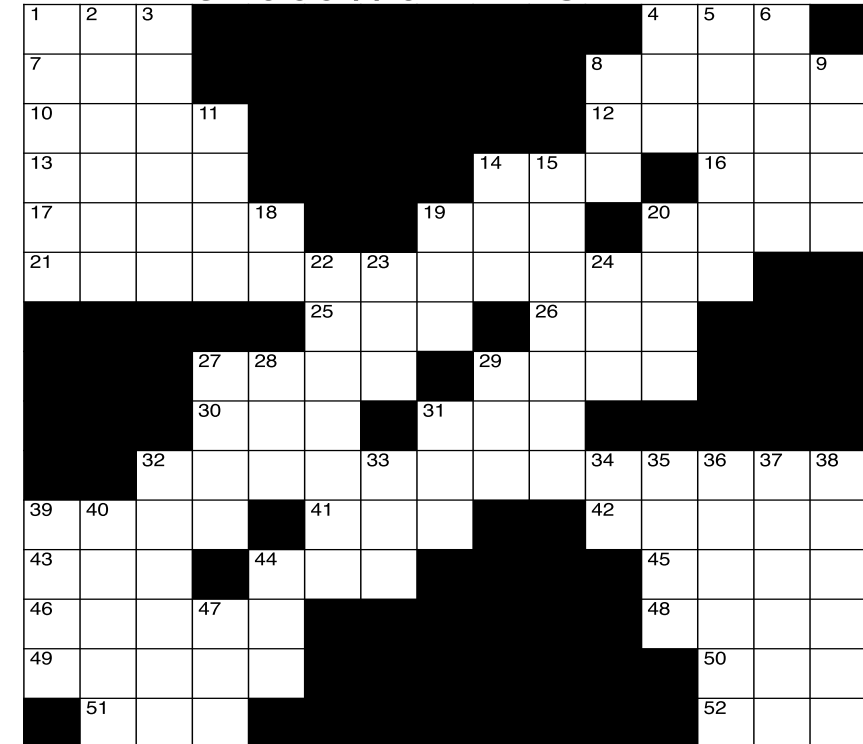
Lyon, who grew up in Vinton, is the Program Coordinator at the award-winning Grandin Theatre Film Lab. He is also an adjunct professor at Roanoke College where he teaches video production.

Romeo, who also grew up in Vinton, is the Executive Director of the non-profit Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board. She also works with local students through a variety of Career and Technical Education Advisory Committees for K-12 schools and coordinates the annual Career Quest event for grade school students to explore careers in the area.

Sexton is Vinton's Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer. He is an adjunct professor of Public Administration and state and local government at Roanoke College. He is currently the youngest local government senior administrator in the valley.

- Vinton Messenger staff report

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| CLUES ACROSS | CLUES DOWN |
| 1. Basics | 1. Engulf |
| 4. Swiss river | 2. Waterside hotel |
| 7. Constrictor snake | 3. Printed cotton fabric |
| 8. Building occupied by monks | 4. Defensive nuclear weapon |
| 10. Discount | 5. One who follows the rules |
| 12. Deal a blow to | 6. Lace up once more |
| 13. Relating to the ear | 8. Fire byproduct |
| 14. Thyrotropin | 9. Hankerings |
| 16. Loud, unpleasant noise | 11. Outer |
| 17. Large intestines | 14. One-time aerospace firm |
| 19. Move with a curving trajectory | 15. Seafood |
| 20. Witnesses | 18. Commercial |
| 21. You need both to live | 19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.) |
| 25. Dash | 20. Samoan monetary unit |
| 26. Network | 22. Type of gland |
| 27. Dig | 23. Arrest |
| 29. C. European river | 24. Check |
| | 27. Past participle of be |
| | 28. Alias |
| | 29. A major division of geological time |
| | 31. Kids programming channel (abbr.) |
| | 32. Joked |
| | 33. Helps little firms |
| | 34. Roman numeral 50 |
| | 35. Impressive in size or scope |
| | 36. Domineering leader |
| | 37. A person who delivers a speech |
| | 38. One after 89 |
| | 39. Young hawk |
| | 40. The scene of any event or action |
| | 44. A team's best pitcher |
| | 47. Integrated data processing |

Vinton Calendar of Special Events 2023

- Here's a list of the special events in the Town of Vinton coming up in 2023:
- Vinton Car Show, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, 3-6 p.m. Vinton Farmers' Market
 - Senior Services Expo, March 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Vinton War Memorial
 - State of the Town of Vinton Event, April 6, 7:30 a.m., Vinton War Memorial
 - Vinton Dogwood Festival, April 28-29, Vinton Farmers' Market, Vinton War Memorial
 - Vinton Palooza, May 20, 1 to 6 p.m., Vinton War Memorial
 - Mingle at the Market, 7 to 10 p.m., Vinton Farmers' Market, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, and Sept. 23
 - Vinton Fourth of July Celebration, July 4, 6:30 p.m., Vinton War Memorial
 - National Night Out, Aug. 1, 6-8 p.m., Vinton War Memorial,
 - Vinton Fall Festival, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., downtown Vinton
 - Downtown Vinton Trick or Treat, Oct. 26, 3-5 p.m., downtown
 - Veterans Day Flag Retirement Ceremony, Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m., Vinton War Memorial
 - Vinton Christmas Parade, Nov. 30, 7 p.m.
 - Santa Christmas Crawl, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., throughout the town

- Submitted by Town of Vinton, Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dogwood Festival Committee

RECIPES OF THE WEEK

Pam Janney's Pound Cake

One of the special touches Vinton Appliance offers customers is a postcard thank you with a personal touch that includes Pam Janney's Pound Cake recipe. Her husband, Jeff, says they get calls at the store for the recipe when someone loses the recipe card.

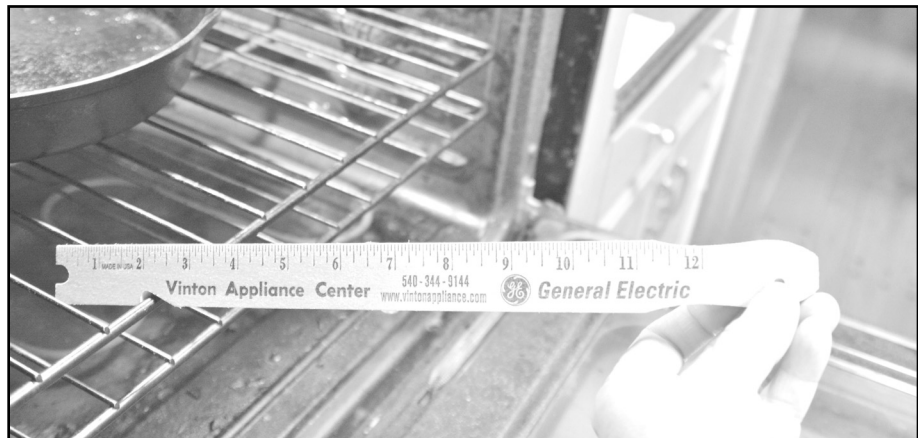
- Ingredients:**
- 3 cups sugar
 - 3 cups flour
 - 6 large eggs
 - 3 sticks Parkay margarine
 - 8 oz. Philadelphia brand cream cheese
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 1 tsp. lemon extract
- Mix margarine and cream cheese; slowly add sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add flourings. Gradually add flour and salt. Pour into a greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 and 1/2 to 2 hours. Enjoy!

Submit your community news and photos to
vintonmessenger@ourvalley.org.

Vinton Appliance from page 1



Vinton Appliance owner Jeff Janney (seated) with sales associates Vic Pennington (back left) and Todd Brinkley. Not shown are manager Paul St. Clair and associate Penny Burkholder.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vinton Appliance never sends customers home empty handed. If you don't make a purchase, they gift you with an "Oven Stick."

excellent customer service. He discovered early on that "people buy from people they trust and have a relationship with." He also firmly believes that "service starts when you walk in the door." He and his employees not only know how to sell appliances, but they have established a different environment not found in your typical appliance store.

For instance, unlike some of the "Big Box" stores, you don't have to roam the aisles and hunt for a salesman when you enter the store—a Vinton Appliance associate is there to greet you immediately. Actually several usually call out "hello" and "welcome," and "thanks for coming in" when you walk in the front door. You immediately feel as if you are among friends.

The dedication to service doesn't end there. It continues as they help you "navigate your purchase," and do the research to discover the best product to meet your needs, on through the sales process, and then throughout the life of your purchase.

And you never leave empty-handed. If you don't buy an appliance, the team gives you an "oven stick" rack pull to remember

them by (10,000 have been given away so far). They send thank you post cards to customers who make purchases, featuring a copy of Pam Janney's famous pound cake recipe.

"It's the little things you do that make the biggest impression on people," Janney says. He strives to make every customer feel that "nobody wants your business more than I do." In talking with him, you soon discover Janney is a man "passionate about" his business.

The store has received a bulletin board full of notes of appreciation in return from satisfied customers.

"We have been so blessed," Janney says.

He says those business practices have led to "lots of return customers," including four families now in their fourth generation and multiple third-generation families they continue to do business with.

The company sells mid-grade to premium grade major appliances to fit all budgets. In his experience, the average person who buys an "entry level" appliance ends up disappointed in the purchase. And buying at Big Box stores is not always the bargain it may seem. Those stores frequently hire second or third

parties to make deliveries, which leaves customers sitting home for hours waiting on the delivery truck, instead of at work, only to find out their doors are not wide enough to accommodate the appliance or that the appliance doors might need to be removed for installation.

Once again, their store is unique in that you don't see only rows of appliances, you see appliances displayed in kitchen settings surrounded by cabinets so you can envision what they will look like in your own home. The business will even assist you in developing your own kitchen plan—for when you are building a new home or renovating and need to purchase several appliances at once.

Janney says if you are in the beginning, or even planning, stages of construction or a remodel, you can go ahead and purchase your appliances and Vinton Appliance will store them until your home is ready—so no weeks or months of waiting for delivery when you are ready to move in.

While many businesses suffered during COVID, Janney says they have never been as busy as in the past two years.

For example, at the beginning of the pandemic, when everything was uncertain, anxiety led people to purchase food freezers at an unprecedented pace, fearful that the food supply would run out and they needed to stock up. Janney purchased appliances and stored them in the warehouse so that customers didn't have to wait two months or more for a purchase to arrive.

"We tried to make it easier for customers," Janney says.

Many people forced to stay at home decided to take on renovation projects—especially kitchen renovations. Some even decided to add outdoor kitchens. Vinton Appliance was ready with their kitchen plans.

Vinton Appliance does "tremendous" business throughout the valley and beyond, although Janney's running tally shows that customers from Vinton and Moneta top the sales chart. He says that they generally sell within a 100-mile radius, otherwise delivery and service become too costly for buyers.

Janney says he has kept a record of every purchase made in the past

20 years so that he remains familiar with what customers have purchased previously and to simplify service.

Customers are not given toll-free numbers to call if a problem should develop. They call Vinton Appliance, whose associates contact the service center provider. Janney says most people want to speak with a real person when there is an issue, not deal with automated recordings, texts, or emails. He says few other businesses provide their level of customer service, "nobody does that; that's why we are at the level of business we are at right now."

Vinton Appliance is located at 100 East Lee Avenue in the heart of downtown Vinton. The business has expanded so much that they also have an 8,000-sq.ft. warehouse in Vinton to house more appliances.

The store is open six days a day—Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:30, and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed on Sundays and holidays.

Call Vinton Appliance at 540-344-9144 for information or check out the website at <https://www.vintonappliance.com/>.

Council from page 1



Council member Sabrina McCarty (on left) was administered the Oath of Office by Town Clerk Susan Johnson as McCarty's husband, Chris McCarty holds the Bible. She was re-elected to Town Council for the third time in the November election and will serve through 2026.



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Vice Mayor Mike Stovall is administered the Oath of Office by Town Clerk Susan Johnson (on right), supported by his wife Patsy.

Marshall Stanley was appointed to the RVTV Committee.

Council approved the regular meeting schedule for calendar year 2023 with meetings scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of each month, except on the Fourth of July, Aug. 1 for National Night Out, and Election Day on Nov. 7.

Council also approved the holiday schedule for 2023 designating when town offices are closed.

Community Programs Director Chasity Barbour gave council an update on special events in the town and data on the use of the Vinton War Memorial and Charles Hill Community Center.

Barbour expressed her appreciation to the Community Programs staff—Dana Boyd, Amanda Payne, Caroline Loveland, Shaye Hicks, and Gary Houff—for their hard work and dedication to duty. She informed council that the staff is currently "flipping rooms" five to eight times a week for various rentals. That means they are setting tables, chairs, linens, centerpieces, greeting all vendors and clients, showing the building for future clients, keeping the kitchen in line for catering, washing all linens, along with organizing the decorations and props for outdoor events.

Council expressed their delight in hearing that the Vinton War Memorial hosted 273 events and the Community Center 394 events in 2022. This includes rentals, senior programs, and town of Vinton events.

There are already 293 events booked at the War Memorial for 2023 in addition to 325 at the Community Center "and that's if we do not book anything else 'til the end of June. I know we will hit over 350 booked events at the War Memorial and 450 at the Community Center by June," Barbour announced.

"We are projected to reach over \$200,000 in sales revenue," Barbour said. "That's because of the great staff, the support from the town, and the attention to detail by the staff who definitely go above and beyond for our clients. We are happy to say we are booked four months out of 2023 already."

Council member Laurie Mullins thanked the Community Programs staff for their hard work and commended Barbour, noting that "Chasity's joy is contagious."

Town council adopted a resolution transferring \$92,618 from Capital Fund Capital Outlay to Capital Fund Contractual Services to purchase 11 pre-empt detectors (Opticom) for emergency vehicles for the 11 signalized intersections in Vinton.

These devices allow the normal operation of traffic lights to be "preempted" in the path of an emergency vehicle, giving the emergency vehicle right-of-way.

The town currently has five intersections that utilize the pre-empt detectors. They need to be updated and replaced. Town council and staff and emergency service personnel agreed that all 11 intersections need the pre-empt detectors to provide for public safety.

Roanoke County and Roanoke City fire and emergency service vehicles currently rely on emergency traffic signal pre-emption system detectors to assist with the efficient clearing of traffic at signalized intersections to ensure safe and timely response of first responders while also providing for the safety of motorists.

Roanoke County Deputy Chief of Fire and Rescue Dustin Campbell spoke before council and thanked them, Town Manager Peters, and Public Works Director Bo Herndon for their support of the project.

He described the addition of the detectors as an "infrastructure need," and commented that the pre-empt detectors enhance response time "door to door." He noted that response time is one of the most dangerous factors in an emergency situation, since "you can't control others on the road, and you don't want to create another emergency" while responding to the first.

Finance Director Andrew Keen shared continuing positive financial news. The town has \$10 million in cash on hand and "just shy of" \$4 million in investments. The town has also been

able to negotiate with Wells Fargo Bank to optimize investments and move funds from a non-interest-bearing checking account to a "sweep" account which will accrue interest to the tune of \$5800/month (\$70,000/year).

Mayor Grose, in his closing remarks, reminded citizens to sign up for the

new CodeRED emergency alert system, easily accessible on the town's website at <https://www.vintonva.gov/>. One "click" on the homepage takes you to the registration page. Once registered, citizens and businesses will receive a host of emergency alerts via text, email, and/or phone.

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PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Bootie and Angie Chewning

New Year's Eve— for which he says thank you to both.

New Year's Eve, Saturday morning at IHOP, several members of the Class of 1981 gathered for breakfast. Randy Jones said it best, "Time spent with these friends is truly a highlight in my life. Forty-plus years have passed, and we've made it through good, bad, and ugly to gather and share."

Others joining them were Amy Mitchell, Sturlen Vaughan (who dropped by with family), and Greg Chewning. What a great way to start off the new year.

Randy also celebrated his birthday last week, so Janet Wolfe Osborne treated him to breakfast and Lori Noell Kingsbury treated him with a bottle of the bubbly to help celebrate

The Byrd Herd had their Christmas lunch at the Hotel Roanoke. The group meets once a month for lunch around town. We were missing a few this time due to illness.

If you have a fun gathering, please let Angie or Bootie know.

Hope all have a great New Year. Here's to 2023!



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

From left are Linda Barton Fisher, Kathryn Scott Sowers, Anne Lee Wagner, Carla Hunley Pickeral, Sue Sboray Wertz, and Linda Trussler Carr— the Byrd Herd— who had their Christmas lunch at the Hotel Roanoke. Several were missing due to illness.

The Vinton Messenger

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The Vinton Messenger 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 by telephone before publication. The Messenger reserves the right to deny publication of any letter and edit letters for length content and style.

The Vinton Messenger (USPS 660-020) is published weekly for \$44 a year in Vinton and Roanoke County, \$48 a year in adjoining counties, \$52 a year out of state and the yearly bundle is \$59 a year by Virginia Media Inc. P.O. Box 429, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Periodical postage paid at Vinton, VA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE VINTON MESSENGER, P.O. Box 1125, Salem, Va 24153

UPCOMING EVENTS

Charles Hill Community Center: Tai-Chi, Jan. 5 at 9 a.m.; Senior Card Games, Jan. 5, 10:15 a.m.; Line dancing Jan. 10, 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.

Lancerlot Sports Complex: The CCA Marlins & LSC are partnering for swim lessons at The Lot using the Swim America program, designed to teach participants water safety skills together with technically sound swimming skills. Instructors are knowledgeable, supportive, and friendly to enhance the swimmers learning experience. All swim levels can be accommodated at each session. Sessions begin January 23. Call Swim America Program Director Susan Bleecker at 540-309-3556 for more information.

Mount Pleasant Library: Teen Book Club, Jan. 5, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Family Storytime, Jan. 9, 11-11:30 a.m.; Crafternoon (making pinecone snow owls and coffee filter snowflakes), Jan. 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Roanoke County: Board of Supervisors organizational meeting on Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. followed by regular meeting at 3 p.m.

Roanoke County School Board: Re-organizational meeting/work session on Jan. 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Rosie's Gaming Emporium: The Jared Stout Band performs at 8 p.m. on Jan. 6; Five Shades of Grey perform on Jan. 7, at 8 p.m. Both are free shows.

Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce: Lunch and Learn, noon on Jan. 11 at the Charles Hill Community Center

Vinton History Museum: open for First Saturday on Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Vinton Public Library: Vinton Book Club, Jan. 5 at 3 p.m.; Teen Switch Gaming Teens vs. Cops, Jan. 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Wise" program on using new online catalog on Jan. 10 from 11:15 to 12:15; Open Bridge on Jan. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.; Jammie Storytime, Jan. 10, 6-7 p.m.; Family Storytime, Jan. 11, 11:30-noon.

Please submit Upcoming Community News announcements to dadams@mainstreetnewspapers.com.

See more online
at www.vintonmessenger.com

BAPTIST (SOUTHERN)

MINERAL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH & CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - 1030 Bible Lane, Vinton, Va. 24179. Church Phone 890-4465. Rev. Jason Gault. Sunday Services: Traditional Service, 8:45 AM, Sunday School, 10:00 AM, Contemporary Service, 11:00 AM, Evening Worship 6:00 PM, Wednesday Services: AWANA 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:00 PM

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BELMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), 1101 Jamison Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013, 540-343-7502, Worship Services every Sunday at 11:00AM, Pastor Terry Brace. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

CHURCH OF CHRIST

DALE RIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST - 7165 Cloverdale Rd., Roanoke, 24019; beside the Boteourt Athletic Club. Leave message 992-4385. Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m. Please come visit us in person or get to know about us first by visiting our web page: daleridgechurchofchrist.net. Updated each week with a new sermon by Mike Mazzalongo, four minutes of video showing our nearly six acres of land and our beautiful, functional inside facilities, articles, events, news from Christian sources around the world and here locally plus much, much more. See how many ways Dale Ridge is "Reaching Out There" to the Roanoke Valley with the "Good News of Jesus. By clicking on "visit us virtually" real time access to our Worship services is available via your computer, a tablet or smartphone: Just follow the instructions. We believe in the inspired Word of God which is as relevant today as it was when it was written. We believe the Holy Spirit is a gift to every Christian upon their response to the Gospel as demonstrated by the 3000 obedient souls in (Acts 2:38). We believe Jesus is the only author of our salvation. (Acts 4:12) Have you been looking for a church family that is progressive, outside the box thinkers, led by the Holy Spirit into all truth. (John 16:13). You will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) Real time contact thru our website via email.

CHURCH OF CHRIST VINTON - 2107 Feather Road, Vinton. Terry Hodge, Minister, 540-890-1170. Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m., Sunday Morning Service 10:45 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 10 a.m.

ECKANKAR

ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM, is a simple teaching that focuses on the Light and Sound of God to help people find more love in their life. The Roanoke Eckankar Center is located at 1420 3rd St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. The Center was closed during the COVID

Vinton Worship Directory

Almighty God

Read Genesis 40:1 through 41:57

Joseph spent two years in a dungeon after interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer. Joseph had asked this man to mention him to the king upon being reinstated, but, as each day dragged on, no communication came from the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh had a dream and told it to all his wise men, no one could interpret it. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him.

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh (Genesis 41:14).

Joseph was going to be taken into the presence of the nation's highest ruler. His first order of business was to make himself presentable. His prison clothing and his haggard appearance were hardly appropriate to stand before royalty. Joseph prepared to see the king, honoring the authority and majesty of Pharaoh.

We have the privilege of an audience at any time with our King, Jesus Christ. May we never forget His majesty or approach Him with less than honor and adoration.

Thought for Today: Consider the majesty of God.

Quicklook: Genesis 41:1-14

ID crisis but is now open. A spiritual event is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Since contracting COVID-19 may still be possible, please take the health steps that are best for you. It is appreciated that by attending you are taking responsibility for your own health. Visit www.eck-va.org, www.meetup.com/Roanoke-Spiritual-Experiences-Group or call 540-353-5365 for other Eckankar programs and for more information about how the teachings of Eckankar can lead you to spiritual freedom.

FOURSQUARE

EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton, (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 982-3694. Pastor-Tim Wright. Sunday, 10 AM - Worship Service, SuperChurch for Children; Wednesday 6:30-8PM - AWANA Clubs for ages 3-5th grade, Adult Bible Study.

LUTHERAN

ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, "The Church Under The Cross", 1201 Hardy Rd, Vinton VA 24179, Pastor, Rev. Dr. James B. Davis (540) 342- 1715, Sunday School 10:00am, Worship 11:00am, sttimothy1201@verizon.net.

NAZARENE

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE, 728 Highland Ave.,

SE, Roanoke, Virginia. 342-4003. Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN

CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1130 Hardy Rd, Vinton, VA, 540-343-1842; cmpc2verizon.net Sunday school 9:45am, Worship 11:00am; Communion 1st Sundays; 2nd Sunday Session; Monday Noon Bible Study; Tuesdays & Thursdays Stretch Class 9:00am; 1st Tuesdays Deacons; Wednesday Choir 7:00pm; Monday Girl Scouts 7:00pm; 3rd Saturday Men's Breakfast 8:00am. Rev. Jonathan Moelker, pastor

UNITED METHODIST

THREE OAKS FELLOWSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 1026 Gravel Hill Road, Vinton, Va. 540-512-8070. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rob Colwell. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m., Worship 11 a.m.

WESLEYAN

VINTON WESLEYAN CHURCH - 246 E. Jefferson Ave. Pastor Ricardo Rodriguez, 345-3385; Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 AM, Wednesday Night Life Ministries - Children - Awana; G-5 Youth Ministry; Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM.

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at 540-473-2741 or email tfrye@ourvalley.org



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Legals - Botetourt County

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 12790 LEE HIGHWAY, BUCHANAN, VA 24066

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 13, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$137,162.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Botetourt County, Virginia as Instrument No. 120001170. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Botetourt County, Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090 on January 30, 2023, at 12:00 PM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING AT (1) POINT ADJACENT U.S. ROUTE 11 AND THE OLD RIGHT-OF-WAY OF ROUTE 33; THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH AN ARC OF 73.83 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING N. 48 DEG. 06' 18" E. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 73.83 FT. TO (2); THENCE N. 37 DEG. 10' 22" E. 103.11 FT. TO (3); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH AN ARC OF 292.64 FT. TO (4); THENCE S. 41 DEG. 01' 46" E. 282.83 FT. TO (5); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC OF 82.01 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING S. 58 DEG. 53' 19" W. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 81.89 FT. TO (6); THENCE WITH A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH AN ARC OF 164.03 FT. AND A CHORD BEARING S. 71 DEG. 45' 20" W. A CHORD DISTANCE OF 163.54 FT. TO (7); THENCE S. 79 DEG. 25' 12" W. 268.97 FT. TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 1.6484 ACRES MORE OR LESS, ALL AS SHOWN ON PLAT OF SURVEY BY CHARLES R. MCMURRY, C.L.S., DATED OCTOBER 9, 1987 RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 339, PAGE 448. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsa.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt

Legals - Botetourt County

Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsa.com. VA-359565-1.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE

478 Dagger Spring Road, Eagle Rock, VA 24085 By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated March 18, 2017 and recorded at Instrument Number 170001207 in the Clerk's Office for the Botetourt County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$190,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Botetourt County courthouse steps located at 1 W Main Street, Fincastle, VA 24090-0219. February 02, 2023 at 11:00 AM improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit: Real property in the City of Eagle Rock, County of Botetourt, State of Virginia, described as follows: That tract located in the Fincastle Magisterial District of the County of Botetourt, Virginia designated Tract 1, containing 3.00 acres on that plat of a field survey showing a portion of the parcel 1-53.091 acres source creating Tract 1 of the Tommy Garten property by J. Brad Smith, Land Surveyor, dated May 1994, a copy of which is Recorded in Plat Book 15, page 151. AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust. TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale. In the event of default by the successful bidder, the entire deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs and expenses of sale and Substitute Trustee's fee. All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, whether incurred prior to or after the sale, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Purchaser agrees to pay the seller's attorneys at settlement, a fee of \$470.00 for review of the settlement documents. Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale and the successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Substitute Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, MD 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

Legals - City of Radford

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 508 17TH ST, RADFORD, VA 24141

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$103,561.00, with an annual interest rate of 6.980000% dated February 9, 2005, recorded among the land records of the Circuit Court for the City of Radford as Deed Instrument Number 0500160, the undersigned appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction all that property located in the City of Radford, at the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford located at 619 2nd Street, Radford, Virginia on February 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM, the property with improvements to wit: LOT 1A ROSEMONT SUBDIVISION Tax Map No. 12-111-5 THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price, will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional terms to be announced at sale. Loan type: Conventional. Reference Number 22-289964. PROFESSIONAL FORECLOSURE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, Substitute Trustees, C/O LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP, 10021 Balls Ford Road, Suite 200, Manassas, Virginia 20109 (703) 449-5800.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF RADFORD, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given, the Radford City Council will hold a public hearing on January 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 10 Robertson Street, Radford, Virginia. Pursuant to Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Article 2 Section 15.2-2006 et seq., the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments regarding a request from K&J Properties to vacate a portion of an unimproved public right of way area identified as a portion of Custis an Second Street located between West Main/Second Street and Custis/Ingles Street. The request contains a total of approximately 3,810sf (0.087 acre). Copies of the application, together with the plat of the property to be vacated, are available for review in the City Manager's Office located at 10 Robertson Street.

Legals - City of Salem

Legals - City of Salem

1) from AG Agriculture District and RSF Residential Single-Family District to RSF Residential Single-Family District.

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said requests.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA BY: James E. Talianferro, II Executive Secretary

Legals - Town of Vinton

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2204 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Vinton, Virginia hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Vinton Municipal Building, 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, Virginia. The Board of Zoning Appeals will also hold a dinner work session prior to the public hearing in the Council Chambers on January 12, 2023, beginning at 5:45 p.m. A request by Christopher Coles, for a variance of Article IV, Division 1, Sec. 4-3, Dimensional Regulations for Residential Districts, of the Vinton Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of the request is to ask for one thousand, one hundred and fifty-four (1,154) square feet variance from the six thousand (6,000) square feet lot size requirement, and a six (6) foot variance from the fifty (50) foot lot width requirement to allow for the subdivision of the existing lot. The property is located at 424 E. Lee Avenue, Tax Map Number 60.16-05-23.00-0000, zoned R-2 Residential District. Further information concerning this public hearing may be obtained in the Planning and Zoning Department located at 311 South Pollard Street, Vinton, VA 24179, (540) 983-0605, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Interested persons may be heard at the above public hearings. Given under my hand this 12th day of December, 2022. Nathaniel McClung Assistant Planning Director Secretary, Board of Zoning Appeals

NOTICE OF INTENT TO COMPLY WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

Reasonable efforts will be made to provide assistance or special arrangements to qualified individuals with disabilities in order to participate in or attend the meeting. Please call (540) 983 0605 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting so that proper arrangements can be made.

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 8.01-316,-317 Roanoke City Circuit Court **Case No. CL22-2363** Lynn Edward Craig V. Patricia Catherine Powers Craig The object of this suit is to: No-fault Divorce Complaint. It is ORDERED that Patricia Catherine Powers Craig appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 7th, 2023 Entered on 12/16/2022 By: Brenda S. Hamilton, Clerk

Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code §§ 8.01-316,-317 Roanoke City Circuit Court **Case No. CL22-2363** Lynn Edward Craig V. Patricia Catherine Powers Craig The object of this suit is to: No-fault Divorce Complaint. It is ORDERED that Patricia Catherine Powers Craig appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before February 7th, 2023 Entered on 12/16/2022 By: Brenda S. Hamilton, Clerk

Notice

is hereby given to all interested persons that the City of Salem Planning Commission, at its regular meeting on January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 114 N. Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, to consider approval of the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of the City of Salem, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 block of Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 - 1.1) from AG Agriculture District to LM Light Manufacturing District.
2. Consider the request of Charles N. Dorsey, property owner, for rezoning the property of 1900 Mill Lane (Tax Map # 179 - 2 -

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Big Orange takes second at "Take Down the New Year" tournament

The Big Orange wrestlers had a big time at the "Take Down the New Year" tournament in Lynchburg last week. William Byrd finished runnerup to host Heritage High among 20 teams in the individual holiday tournament.

"It was a good wrestling weekend for us," said Byrd coach Thomas Kessler. "We had a great first day Thursday as we out-wrestled our seeded positions. We had some really good matches on Thursday. Bricen Lancaster gutted out a tough performance and wrestled one of the best matches of the season against a higher seeded Heritage wrestler."

Byrd ended up leading the tournament after day one with six wrestlers in the semifinals and four wrestling back. On Friday morning the matchups were tough and the Orange dropped all of the semifinal matches other than Dustin Richards at heavyweight. Dustin was finally able to make his season debut and went into the tournament as the number 20 seed and



Byrd wrestlers pose for a group shot after finishing second in last week's 20 team invitational at Heritage High.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE WITCHER

upset everyone along the way to the finals. He came up short in his finals match up against a tough opponent from Turner Ashby but took second, the best finish for a Byrd wrestler.

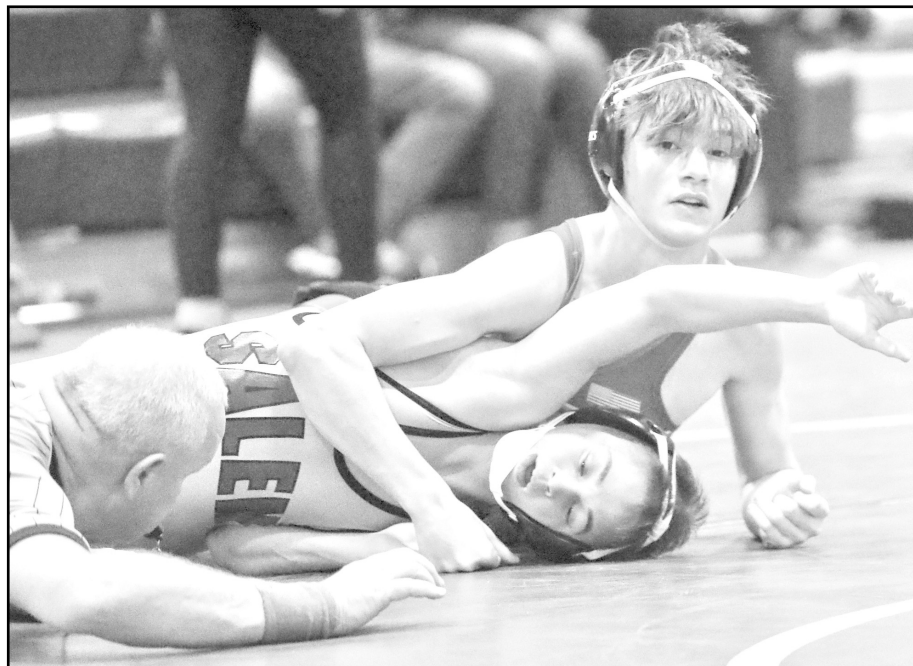
Four Terriers wrestled back to win in the consolation finals and took third places,

Dominic Pascoe at 120, Gage Cockran at 126, Bricen Lancaster at 150 and Stephen Underwood at 157. Pascoe is now 17-4, Cockran is 15-8, Lancaster is 15-8 and Underwood is 15-5.

Darin Witcher made the consolation final at 106 before losing to Xavier Wynn

of James River, a talented wrestler who is 18-1. Witcher, a freshman, went 3-2 on the day and is now 15-6.

The Big Orange will be back in Lynchburg this weekend for the two-day LCA Invitational, hosted by Liberty Christian Academy on Friday and Saturday.



Left, Byrd's Gage Cockran has Salem's Ty Porter in peril in Cockran's 126 pound consolation final win. Right, Dustin Richards is on top of Ryan Sissney of LCA.



PHOTOS BY BARRY COX & SUZANNE WITCHER

Box Lacrosse is a big hit at the Salem Civic Center

The Salem Mayhem lost the game but won a lot of fans in last Friday's Professional Box Lacrosse Association Debut. The Hampton Hammerheads took an 18-12 win in front of over 1,100 fans at the Salem Civic Center.

"I was very pleased for the first time out," said Salem Civic Center director Wendy Delano. "The action was good and the crowd was into it. All the fans I talked to thoroughly enjoyed it."

It was a first for Salem, and the crew at the civic center was busy preparing the venue right up until game time. Salem Department of Parks and Recreation workers were painting the big "S" in the faceoff circle on the artificial turf Friday afternoon as players were arriving from Canada after delays due to last week's winter storms.

"It was the first time for a whole new system of setting up," said Delano. "It was like putting together a LEGO set. The turf was a little challenging and it was somewhat stressful, but we got it done and it will be easier the next time around."

Once the fans arrived it was a festive atmosphere

from start to finish. Members of the 1978 Roanoke College national championship lacrosse team served as honorary captains for the game and local youth players scrimmaged on the turf at halftime. Loud music played right through the action, and there was plenty of action to be had. The game was fast-paced and hard-hitting as Salem took an early 5-4 lead, only to have Hampton rally in the second half to pull away for the win.

Two local men played on the Salem team, Joey Dishaw and Chad Fisher, and a third Salemite, Josh Davis, is on the roster but is on the practice squad and didn't suit up for the game. Both Dishaw and Fisher commented on how physical the game is compared to outdoor lacrosse. Both played on the Salem High and Roanoke College lacrosse teams as students.

"It was a lot of fun but getting hit like that takes a little getting used to," said Dishaw. "I was still sore on Monday."

Some fans might have been surprised to see an all-out fist-fight break out in the second half, leaving

Salem's Charles Molloy with blood running down his face. It was more reminiscent of ice hockey than field lacrosse, and Fisher is quite familiar with that. His grandfather, the late Dick Fisher, was the team doctor for the old Salem Rebels hockey team and Chad's dad, Jim, played for the Salem High ice hockey team back in the '70s and also coached a youth team Chad played on. Chad recently returned from Montana, where he played on an ice hockey team there.

"It's what I know best," he said. "It (box lacrosse) blends hockey and lacrosse together and, from the first whistle, it was an absolute blast. I was pleased with how the crowd was into it."

The players knew there could be fighting and Chad was ready if it came his way.

"I was prepared," he said. "I never had to fight in hockey but I got thrown out of a few games for rough play."

While the Canadian players on the team are experienced box lacrosse players, this was new to some members of the Mayhem.

"You can't simulate the physicality of it in practice," said Dishaw. "Until you experience it you can't imagine how physical it is, and rug burns hurt a lot more than falling on grass."

The Mayhem will be back home on January 14 for their second game when they host the Charlotte Bootleggers. This weekend the team will be in Utica, New York for a practice session.

"The players come from all over, so we really haven't had a lot of time to practice together," said Dishaw.

Last Saturday the Mayhem was competing with the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs ice hockey team, who had a home game on Friday night at the Berglund Center. Box lacrosse and ice hockey attracts the same type of fans, so Delano hopes the attendance will be even better with the Dawgs playing in Fayetteville on the 14th.

"I'm hoping we get a lot of crossover from the hockey team," she said. "Once the word gets out how much our fans enjoyed the game last Friday, I'm expecting a good turnout next week."



Mayhem goalie Lukas Coote makes a save in last Friday's game with Hampton.

PHOTO BY BRIAN HOFFMAN

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Left, Byrd's Jaiden Childress goes high to score in last week's NIT win over Glenvar. Above, Jahdai English shoots a three against Roanoke Catholic, and right Titus Blalock gets a layup against the Celtics.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE WITCHER & BRIAN HOFFMAN

Terriers open Blue Ridge District season tonight at LB

Byrd is 5-5 after finishing sixth in Northside Invitational over holiday break

The William Byrd boys will be in Daleville tonight to open their Blue Ridge District basketball schedule against host Lord Botetourt. The Cavaliers opened the 2023 portion of their season Tuesday with a 70-55 win over the Blue Demons at Christiansburg Tuesday night.

The Cavs open district play with a 5-5 overall record, including a 1-2 record in last week's Northside Invitational Tournament over Christmas break at Northside High School. Coach Brad Greenway has mixed emotions about the .500 record in non-district play.

"I have two ways I look at it," said Greenway. "Before the season, with how much youth and how little size we have, I was thinking five wins might be hard to find. However, the way we've played so far I feel like we're way ahead of schedule. I'm thinking we might have something here."

Lord Botetourt is 7-2 after splitting two games in the Spotswood Invitational

last week, losing to E.C. Glass but bouncing back to beat Staunton in the consolation game. The Cavaliers have one of the premier players in the area in point guard Jackson Crawford, a senior who has committed to play at Emory & Henry next year.

"He's an outstanding point guard, probably the best in the area," said Greenway. "He makes good decisions and he can score."

On Tuesday at Christiansburg two sophomores led Byrd to the win. Isaiah Board had 18 points and Jahdai English hit four threes and scored 14 points for the Terriers.

"Isaiah has been playing great, and this past week was a coming out party for Jahdai," said Greenway.

Byrd led just 30-29 at the half but changed focus at intermission and pulled away in the second half.

"We were shooting a lot of threes in the first half but in the second half we

put our emphasis on getting the ball in the paint," said Greenway. "Once we got on a roll we couldn't be stopped."

Last week at Northside the Terriers opened the NIT with a talented Roanoke Catholic team and hung tough before losing 60-57. The game was tied 21-21 at the half before Catholic outscored Byrd 24-13 in the third quarter to open an 11 point lead. The Terriers battled back to make it game but came up just short.

Board led Byrd with 27 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter. Grayson Webb had eight points and Israel Hairston had seven.

On Thursday the Terriers drew Glenvar, who had lost to Liberty Christian Academy in their opener. The Terriers jumped to a 36-26 lead at the half and took a 73-60 win over a Roanoke County rival.

Hayden Eads led four Byrd players in double figures with 17 points. Board

had a dozen and Jaiden Childress and Hairston had 10 each. Eads and Board hit four threes apiece.

That put Byrd in the fifth place game on Friday night against Abingdon and the Terriers fell 63-53 against a Falcon team that held a distinct size advantage. Abingdon outscored Byrd in each of the first three quarters with Board and Eads scoring 11 points each to lead the Terriers.

Host Northside went on to win the tournament, defeating Roanoke Catholic in the final, 71-53. The Vikings remained undefeated and the Terriers will first play the Vikings on January 17 at Northside.

After tonight's game at LB the Terriers will play three times next week, all at home. They host Staunton River in the second game of a girls-boys doubleheader on Tuesday followed by a home game against Bassett next Wednesday and a visit from Franklin County on Friday the 13th.

Byrd girls will "Play for Premies" in Crozet Saturday

The William Byrd girls' basketball team will be in Crozet Saturday to participate in the "Play for Premies" basketball event at Western Albemarle High School.

The event was the idea of Western Albemarle

girls' coach Kris Wright. Kris and his wife Heather have two children, both born prematurely, and lost a third child who would have been a twin of one of the survivors. They had a rough go of it during and after the pregnancies and want to shed light on the

problems many parents face, as well as help fund the NICA units in Charlottesville and Roanoke. NICU wards are equipped and staffed to provide intensive care to dangerously ill or premature newborn babies, and through five events \$31,800 has been donated to the UVA Children's Hospital in Charlottesville and Carilion Clinic Children's Hospital in Roanoke.

"It's an awesome cause and we'll try to stay involved in it," said Byrd coach Randy Bush. The Terriers played in the event last year as well.

Byrd will play the 6 pm game against host Western Albemarle. The six game schedule begins at 11 am with Monacan against William Monroe Orange County will play James Monroe at 12:45 pm, followed by EC Glass against Albemarle at 2:30 pm, Millbrook against Louisa County at 4:15 pm and the Byrd game at 6 pm. A day of hoops will wrap up with Spotswood against Charlottesville at 7:45 pm.

The Byrd girls had been off since December 23 before hosting Christiansburg on Wednesday of this week. Results were too late for publication, but the Terriers will be back home Friday host Lord Botetourt in their Blue Ridge District opener.

Next Tuesday, January 10, the girls will take on Staunton River at 5:30 pm in Vinton. It will be the opening game of a girls-boys doubleheader against the Golden Eagles.



William Byrd's Barb Hernandez plays defense in a pre-holiday game in Vinton.

PHOTO BY REGINA DEVINNEY

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