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Vinton Baptist, Vinton Moose, RCPS partner with Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide free books for area children

By Heather Balsley, Coordinator Imagination Library of Roanoke County

Roanoke County and Roanoke City have opened a new chapter in early childhood literacy in June— one that will place books directly into the hands of its youngest residents. Through a partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, children from birth to age 5 in Roanoke will soon be eligible to receive free, high-quality books delivered to their homes each month.

The program, founded by entertainer Dolly Parton, is designed with a simple but powerful goal: to foster a love of reading in children before they ever step into a kindergarten classroom. Once enrolled, each child receives one age-appropriate book every month, addressed personally to them, at no cost to the family. The books are carefully selected by early childhood experts to build language development, imagination, and early literacy skills.

Across the United States, one in six children under the age of 5 is already part of this incredible program. Families can also access reading tips, activities, and conversation starters related to each month's book through the Parent Area online.

For families, the impact



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

VBC is partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to distribute free books.

is both immediate and long-lasting. Children who are read to regularly develop stronger vocabulary, listening skills, and comprehension—critical building blocks for success in school and beyond. Just as importantly, the program encourages meaningful time between caregivers and children, helping to establish positive reading routines at home.

“This is about more than just books—it’s about opportunity,” said Heather Balsley, coordinator for the Roanoke County program.

Balsley, who serves as lead librarian for Roanoke County Public Schools, was driven to bring the program to the

community by her deep commitment to literacy. “Every child deserves the chance to fall in love with reading early. This program helps make that possible, regardless of a family’s circumstances.”

The local initiative was made possible through the generous support of the Junior League of Roanoke Valley, whose funding enabled the program to launch and begin serving families across Roanoke County.

The Imagination Library of Roanoke County initially set a goal of enrolling 500 children within three years. However, due to overwhelming community

See **Dolly**, page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Leigh Phillips was introduced as Vinton’s Senior Treasury Administrator at Town Council’s meeting on July 21. Pictured left to right are her husband Jimmy, Leigh Phillips, daughter-in-law Taylor, son Preston and Town Treasurer Kimberley Ramsey.

Town Council welcomes new staff members, adopts trespassing ordinance

Debbie Adams

dadams@ourvalley.org

Vinton Town Council members Mayor Brad Grose, Vice Mayor Laurie Mullins, Sabrina McCarty, Keith Liles and Mike Stovall were introduced to two new staff members at their meeting on July 21 and one who is changing positions within his department.

Town Treasurer Kimberley Ramsey introduced Leigh Phillips who has stepped into the role of Senior Treasury Administrator with the ultimate goal of advancing to the Deputy Treasurer position once she receives her certification.

“Leigh comes to us with 18 years of accounting and finance experience from Botetourt County Schools,” Ramsey said. “During her time there, she mastered accounts payable, budgeting and audits, while also training staff on the complex Tyler Munis operating

system.

“Beyond her impressive background, Leigh’s arrival brings much needed structural value to our daily operations. Her role allows our office to achieve a much better separation of duties, minimizing internal risks and bringing a higher level of functionality and efficiency to our treasury processes.

“Leigh has demonstrated she is incredibly organized, highly proficient, and a quick learner who is already eager to absorb new knowledge. Most importantly, she is deeply committed to helping and serving our citizens.

“We are incredibly fortunate that this move allowed us to bring her extensive experience over from Botetourt County to join our team.”

Leigh and her husband, Jimmy, are relocating to be closer to family in this area.

See **Council**, page 7



July 31 - 3-7 p.m.
Aug. 1 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Aug. 2 - Noon - 5 p.m.

Walmart Store Locations:
 Bonsack, Clearbrook,
 Salem & Valley View

Alternative Drop-Off Locations:
Community Empowerment Center
 40 Douglass Ave., NW
VFW
 Post #1264
 4930 Grandview Ave., NW

HELP US COLLECT SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS IN NEED!

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF RCPS

It’s time for annual Load the Bus campaign

Roanoke County Public Schools (RCPS) reopen on August 13. That means it’s time for the annual “Load the Bus” campaign to collect school supplies for those in need.

RCPS and other local school systems (Roanoke City, Salem City, and Craig County) will be partnering with WSLs 10, the Blue Eagle Credit Union, Q99, and Walmart to collect those supplies, and also monetary donations.

The campaign begins on July 31. School buses will be on site at

Roanoke area Walmart stores on:

- Friday, July 31: 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, August 2: Noon-5 p.m.

To contribute, drop off supplies with school staff who are working, or place items in the donation box at the store entrance. Out of town or unable to attend? Donate online using the Walmart wish list, and supplies will be shipped directly to RCPS.

Items particularly needed include: 1-inch, 3-ring binders, washable markers, composition notebooks, folders, and scissors for younger students.

Other items on the wish list include backpacks, crayons, glue sticks, colored pencils, spiral bound 1-subject notebooks, black or blue pens, pencils, notebook paper/filler paper, highlighters, tissues, and hand sanitizer.

~RCPS

Vinton receives Virginia Commission for the Arts Community Impact Grant

The Town of Vinton has announced that it has received a \$3,500 Community Impact Grant award from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, marking the first grant the town has received from the VCA.

The grant supports a new “Welcome to Vinton Railroad Bridge Mural” project the town is planning as a new visual art project— a large-scale public “Welcome to Vinton” mural to be installed on the underpass of two Norfolk Southern railroad bridges located at gateway entrances to the town.

The grant supports the first mural project located at Virginia/Dale Avenue from Roanoke City into the town limits, with the second location at Walnut Avenue planned following the completion of the first project.

The purpose of the Community Impact Grant is “to facilitate new and innovative art-based projects or services that reach and impact communities with high-quality creative arts programming.” The mural project incorporates connectivity through placemaking and is designed to create a pleasing public aesthetic and presence

for the town with enhanced brand recognition.

The mural will serve as a gateway landmark reinforcing civic identity, community pride and visual enhancement of a high-traffic corridor. With traffic counts exceeding 26,000 vehicles per day, the mural will have a significant impact on the traveling public and visitors to the town and region. It is anticipated that the impact and reach of the mural will exceed hundreds of thousands of travelers per year.

Vinton is seeking permitting for the project from Norfolk Southern, which is anticipated following approval of the mural design. The project is planned to be implemented in cooperation with Norfolk Southern and Roanoke City as plans are finalized.

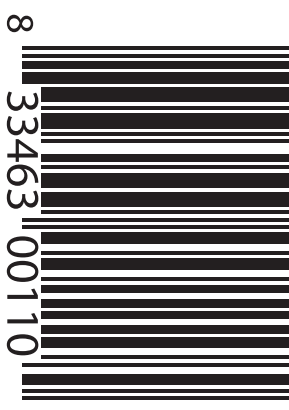
The project will also implement strategies identified in the 2050 Comprehensive Plan and the 2030 Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Vision Statement, “The Town of Vinton desires to be a regional destination that blends small-town charm with forward-thinking growth.”

Jill Loope, Special Projects Assistant to the Town Manager, said, “This is a fantastic opportunity to clearly

See **VCA**, page 7



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VCA





Annabelle Teague accepts a donation in her honor by Jim and Pam Harris which will go towards the installation of the personnel/cargo lift. Pictured left to right are Judy Cunningham, Danielle Teague, Annabelle Teague, and Sean Teague.



Celebrating the museum volunteers were (from left): front, Judy Cunningham and Mary Beth Layman; back, Norman Altizer, Susan Altizer, Annabelle Teague, Levi Whitcomb, Jan Dickens, Randy Layman, and Denny Dickens.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY BETH LAYMAN

Vinton History Museum honors student volunteers, interns

Student internships and volunteering can be a good opportunity to share and gain skills, to explore a variety of interests, and to build a personal resume. The Vinton History Museum has been fortunate to have two outstanding youth who have dedicated many volunteer hours to the museum.

On July 17, the History Museum officials celebrated and expressed their appreciation to volunteers Annabelle Teague and Levi Whitcomb.

Museum Director Judy Cunningham and members of the board of directors presented gifts from the museum and personal monetary gifts from the board of directors. In addition, they enjoyed homemade ice

cream made by Doug Sowers, a museum volunteer.

Annabelle Teague has been a volunteer at the museum for the past four years. She also interned at the museum during the summer of 2025. She has set-up displays, researched historic artifacts, led tours, assisted with a number of special activities and events, supervised other student volunteers, written articles, organized materials for resource notebooks, taken photos, and many other activities.

They also celebrated Annabelle's choice of majoring in Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington. Her college career will begin this fall.

In addition, the board of

directors was pleased to share the news about a recent \$1,000 donation by Jim and Pam Harris in honor of Annabelle's dedication and commitment to historic efforts. The Harris donation will be used for the "Rising to New Heights Accessibility Lift." They also shared information about an outstanding scholarship she received through the Community Foundation serving Western Virginia.

Levi Whitcomb, a current student at William Byrd High School, served as an intern in 2025 and returned for an internship in 2026 at the museum. This year's internship is particularly meaningful. He has been an important part of

the team keeping the museum office open during Judy's Cunningham's leave to care for her husband who is dealing with ALS.

Levi has written and published numerous informational articles in The Vinton Messenger about interesting artifacts at the museum.

He has also assisted with research and fund-raising, led tours, moved items in the museum, organized resource notebooks, and many more activities.

Shortly before the celebration, Ronald Gish, a ninth-generation Gish descendant from Georgia, visited the museum to conduct family research for the upcoming restoration and

adaptive reuse of the Gish's Mill property in Vinton. Due to Levi's kindness and welcoming attitude at the front door, Gish filled out a membership form and handed dues to Levi during the celebration.

The director said they are honored to have volunteers of all ages to participate in a variety of activities and areas at the Vinton History Museum.

For more information about becoming involved, email the museum at info@vintonhistorymuseum.org or call 540-342-8634.

-Submitted by Mary Beth Layman

Vinton Breakfast Lions pass the gavel to new leaders

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club has passed the gavel to a slate of new officers for the upcoming year. Ryan Mason will serve as president of the organization; Bob Benninger returns as treasurer, with Gary Myers as secretary. The Lions thanked past president Justin Fix for "all his hard work and dedication to the club this past year."

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club, chartered in 1985 as part of Lions of Virginia District 24-C,

is deeply committed to the Lions' global motto, "We Serve," focusing on eye health, youth, community welfare, and well being both locally and internationally.

Each year, the Lions organize popular fundraisers, such as the pancake breakfast at the Vinton Fall Festival and the spaghetti dinner before the Christmas parade, alongside broom sales, White Cane Day events, and the annual "Draw Down" raffle.

All proceeds are funneled back into community projects. The club directs its fundraising to impactful programs like funding eye exams and glasses for disadvantaged individuals; sponsoring vision screenings in schools; and supporting diabetes and hearing awareness initiatives through Lions International.

In the area of youth outreach, the club awards

See **Lions**, page 7

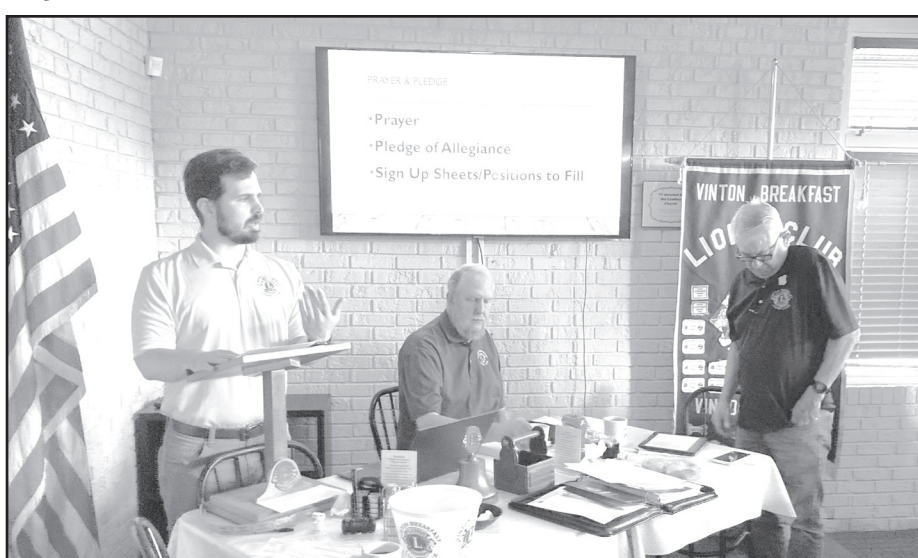


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BERRY

The Vinton Breakfast Lions Club has installed officers for the upcoming year. Pictured left to right are new President Ryan Mason, Treasurer Bob Benninger, and Secretary Gary Myers.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VACC

Next Mingle at the Market concert coming up July 25

This Saturday's Mingle at the Market, sponsored by the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce, will feature Gasoline Alley, a five-piece rock band from Roanoke which has been together since 1999. The band specializes in playing note-for-note covers of classic tunes by AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, Ted Nugent, Ozzy Osbourne, and many others.

Husband and wife Abbey & Andy Neikirk will open that evening.

This is the fourth Mingle of the season with more performances by outstanding local bands. They have all drawn huge crowds, with many dancing in the streets.

The music begins at 7 p.m. Food trucks will include The Tot Box (new to

the line-up) and Get Glazed.

This year the Chamber is offering a "VIP Experience" with reserved tables at Stone Plaza— a table for four with two beverage tickets for each person for \$125 for the table.

Admission is \$7; children under 12 are admitted free. Bring your lawn chair and ID.

The Mingles are held at the Vinton Farmers' Market in downtown Vinton. In addition to great music and food, there is a Kids Zone powered by Dave's Moonwalk sponsored by the Vinton Moose, and beverages by Blue Ridge Beverage.

The Chamber thanks the William

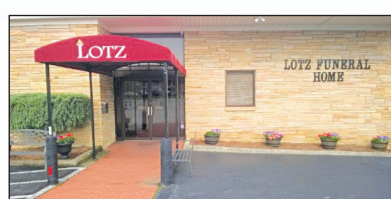
See **Mingle**, page 4

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tfrye@mainstreetnewspapers.com

www.VintonMessenger.com

Visit the Vinton Farmers’ Market this weekend for Storytime, shopping, and summer fun

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 25, and bring the whole family to the Vinton Farmers’ Market for a morning filled with stories, creativity, and community!

The market will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with plenty to see, shop, and enjoy.

At 10 a.m., the Roanoke County Library will take the market stage for a fun, interactive Storytime for children of all ages, and welcome the new Imagination Library of Roanoke County.

Thanks to a partnership between Vinton Baptist Church and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, children

throughout Roanoke County can receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail every month. Across the United States, one in six children under the age of 5 are already part of this incredible program. Families can also access reading tips, activities, and conversation starters related to each month’s book through the Parent Area online. Go by their booth to learn more about the program.

Additionally, kids can get creative with bookmark making and rock painting, enjoy yard games, or create colorful masterpieces with sidewalk chalk.

The Lemon Plug will have freshly squeezed

lemonade available in a variety of flavors.

While the kids play, browse the market and support local vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, handmade gifts, artisan crafts, and more, under the pavilion.

Free parking is available in the Walnut Avenue parking lot, conveniently located behind the market stage.

For more information, email vintonfarmersmarket@vintonva.gov or visit the Vinton Farmers Market Facebook page.

-Submitted by Vinton Community Programs, Amanda Payne

STORYTIME AT THE MARKET

JULY 25TH



STORYTIME 10 AM

An interactive Storytime led by the Roanoke County Library.



CRAFT STATION 10:30 AM

Join us at our craft tent for craft time for all ages.



LOCAL VENDORS 9AM-1PM

Join several local vendors showcasing their talents with unique gift options, produce, and sweet goodies!



GRAB A COOL BEVERAGE

The Lemon Plug will be serving Fresh-squeezed lemonade in a variety of flavors, and freshly popped popcorn.

KID FUN ZONE

A Little Party will supply fun games for the family.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 540-983-0645.

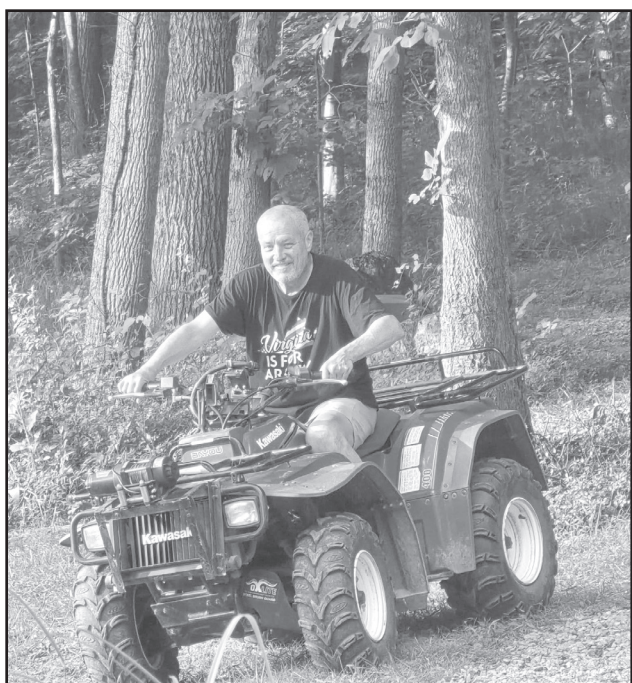
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF VINTON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

By Angie Chewning

We have just returned from another relaxing vacation in Lexington. The Maury River has its way of calming everything down. Greg, myself and Nonie and Jeff Hall have been going to this cabin for 13 years now, and I can’t imagine not ever going again. It is just far enough away to make time slow down, relaxation to set in, and memories to be made, yet close enough to get to and from without a long drive. We float the river, ride four-wheelers, sit by the fire pit, listen to the rain on the tin roof and do nothing much at all. But it’s wonderful! Thank you again, our friends, for another great week.

Reminder– Mingle at the Market is this Saturday. Come join us for some great music with Abbey & Andy Neikirk and Gasoline Alley, cold beverages, and let’s welcome a new-to-us food truck to our line-up, The Tot Box, and, of course, Get Glazed Donuts to treat that sweet tooth. See you Saturday!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGIE CHEWNING

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

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. We offer a Spiritual Event on the 2nd. Sunday of each month. The program may be a Light and Sound Service, a Spiritual video and discussion, or other topics and techniques to help Raise Your Spiritual IQ. The Roanoke ECK Center is located at 1420 3rd. St. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016. For more information visit www.eck-va.org or call 540- 353-5365. People of all faiths are welcome.

FOURSQUARE
EVANGEL CHURCH - 2360 Hardy Road, Vinton (corner of Hardy Road and Feather Road), 540-982-3694, www.evangel4sq.com, Pastor Tim Wright. Contemporary Worship Service Sunday, 10AM. Bible Study Wednesday 11AM-12PM. “Building People to Change Our World”

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 Su.ndays; 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.

VINTON

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

DEALING WISELY

1 Samuel 18:1 through 20:42
“In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him” (1 Samuel 18:14).

If ever there were ample reason to justify retaliation, David certainly qualified. Repeatedly wronged by King Saul, David always responded with respect and love. Even when he had the opportunity to kill the treacherous king, David restrained himself. Because of his willing submission to Saul’s God-given authority, David was crowned king over Israel. There are times when we too are wronged by those in authority over us. At such times, we often feel justifi ed in rebelling, thinking that we are simply standing up for ourselves. But rebellion will only reduce us to the spiritual maturity (or immaturity) level of the authority who is hurting us. Instead of rebelling, we should seek to discuss any problems with our abusive authority (Romans 12:18). If our authority continues in the abuse, then we, like David, must do all we can to protect ourselves by leaving the abusive situation. Leaving, however, does not imply license to judge our abusive authority. Only God has the right to judge and to vindicate.

Thought for Today: Abusive people are wounded people, and wounded people often hurt others.

If you would like to see your church services listed here in the Vinton Messenger contact Tucker Frye at Cell: (540) 389-9355 tfrye@ourvalley.org

Subscribe to The Vinton Messenger today!

Just Call 473-2741 or 389-9355

www.VintonMessenger.com

Mingle

from page 2

Byrd football team for volunteering to set up and break down the venue at each concert. Volunteers from Defy Gravity work the gate and do drink ticket sales.

Sponsors for the first Mingle included Stage Sponsors HomeTrust Bank and Pok-e-Joe's,

the Shepherd Realty Group, Blue Ridge Beverage, PFG, the Salem RidgeYaks, Rosie's Gaming Emporium, McDonald's, Davis H. Elliott, Oakey's, Pollard 107 South, Crooked Shoreline, Upward Financial Planning, the Vinton Moose Lodge

#1121, ServPro, the Virginia Credit Union, the Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Star Valley Container, LLC, McCarthy Tire Service, Renewal by Andersen, LAMAR, Dirk Padgett Law, PLLC, Coastal Insurance Planning, the Ashley Wickstrom Lending Team, Lee Enterprises, Roanoke County Schools, Sun Solutions, EEC, MOI, My Mechanic, Vinton Roofing, One Stop Auto, and The Vinton Messenger.

There are two Mingle concerts each month, June through September. After Gasoline Alley on July 25, concerts by Five Dollar Shake, Supafly Five, Big Daddy Raye, Solocoustix, and Chris Keaton and the Millennials round out the season.

Parking is no problem with the Walnut Avenue lot next door to the Farmers' Market, Vinton Baptist, on downtown streets, and in the Municipal Building lot. Patrons enter the venue on Walnut Avenue.

Contact the Vinton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 540-343-1364 or email info@vintonchamber.com.

-Vinton Messenger staff report

OBITUARY

Hartsock, John Frank

4/28/1946 – 7/14/2026

a 33° honorary degree in August of 2019, the highest honor conferred

John Frank Hartsock, 80, of Vinton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, surrounded by love.

Born on April 28, 1946, in Galax, he was the son of the late Bickley and Euna Lee Hartsock. He graduated from Galax High School in 1964, moved to Roanoke, and began a long career with Norfolk Southern Railway, retiring after 40 years of dedicated service. He shared 59-1/2 years of marriage with the love of his life, Becky Guthrie Hartsock, with whom he built a life centered on faith, family, and enduring devotion. Lovingly known as "Pappa John" by his four grandsons, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He will be remembered for his quiet strength, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering commitment to serving others.

He is survived by his wife, Becky Hartsock of Vinton; his daughter, Lori Blevins and husband, Brian, of Vinton; his son, Jonathan Hartsock and wife, Jenny, of Lexington; his grandsons, Colton, Caiden, and Joshua Hartsock of Lexington, and Jake Blevins of Richmond; his sister, Deana Goodson of London, England; and numerous extended family members and dear friends.

John's life was marked by devoted service to Freemasonry and the Scottish Rite. He was raised a Master Mason in Vinton Lodge No. 204 in November of 1982 and served as Master of the lodge in 1987 and again in 1991. He became a Life Member of Melrose Lodge No. 139 in November of 2005 and was granted Honorary Membership by Vinton Lodge No. 204 in March of 2011. Following the consolidation of Vinton Lodge, he became a member of Lakeland Lodge No. 190, where he remained a member until his passing.

John joined the Roanoke Scottish Rite in November of 1983. He received the Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH), an honorary 32° recognition, in October of 2009; served as Venerable Master in February 2013; and was coroneted



by the Scottish Rite. He later served as General Secretary from November of 2021 through July of 2023.

John was also a dedicated Shriner, joining Kazim Shrine in November of 1990. He was a past member of the Roanoke Valley Shrine Club and

the Kazim Road Runners, whose members transported children and their families to Shriners Children's Hospital in Greenville, S.C. John logged thousands of miles to ensure children with orthopedic conditions received the specialized care they needed. He was also a proud member of the Kazim Temple Fire Brigade Unit, serving as Chief in 2009 and 2017. Throughout his Masonic journey, John exemplified the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth through his unwavering dedication to serving others, leaving a lasting impact on his fraternity and his community.

The family extends its sincere appreciation to the physicians, nurses, dialysis staff, caregivers, and all who provided compassionate care during his illness. The family received friends at Oakey's Vinton Chapel on Monday, July 20, 2026, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Masonic Rites were conducted at the graveside at 2 p.m. at Mountain View Cemetery, followed by interment.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in John's memory to Shriners Children's Hospital at donate.shrinerschildrens.org. When making a gift, donors may choose to dedicate their donation in memory of John, continuing his lifelong commitment to helping children in need. John's legacy of love, faith, integrity, and selfless service will continue to live on through his family, his Masonic brothers, and the countless lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him. Condolences may be shared with his family by visiting www.Oakeys.com. Arrangements were entrusted to Oakey's Vinton Chapel, (540) 982-2221.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS
1. Listen to
5. Presents
10. A type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Pretentiously artistic
17. Harness
18. Diamond weight measurement
19. "Better Call ____"
20. Fervent support
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. Disposed to venture or take risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Women's ____ movement
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. A princess can detect it
38. Tractor-trailer
39. Leslie and Leon are two

CLUES DOWN
1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy
3. Jewish calendar month
4. Family of long-legged frogs
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute used in Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Cease to stand
10. The bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct monetary unit
21. Challenges
23. Body part
25. Tell on
26. By way of
27. Shady green alcove
28. Egyptian city

CLUES ACROSS
29. ____ and flowed
32. Widens a hole
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. "Be back later"
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large root eaten as a vegetable
41. Units of subjective loudness
43. Music genre
44. A way to drench
46. Popular hot beverage
47. Silk-like cotton fabric
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. Observational comedian Bill
57. Small fry
58. ____ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Semi-liquid food for babies
62. Consumed food

SALEM RIDGEYAKS VS AUGUSTA GREENJACKETS

JULY 23rd 6:35 PM
Murder Mystery Night

JULY 24th 6:35 PM
Christmas in July

JULY 25th 6:35 PM
Nick at Nite

JULY 26th 4:05 PM

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Help Wanted

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Adult Choir Director

to join our worship team, lead our adult choir effectively and joyfully, and improve and encourage the musical capabilities of our musicians. Responsibilities include selecting music for the choir, leading weekly choir rehearsal (September – June), conducting the choir and congregation for Sunday morning and special services, planning and coordinating special music for summer services, and serving as coordinator/advisor for related musical groups. Qualifications:

- Experience directing church choirs.
- Formal education and background in music or music education.
- Ability to collaborate with, teach, and inspire volunteer musicians in an affirming manner.

Compensation:

- Choir Director: \$11,000 - \$13,000

Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

Fincastle United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Piano and/or Organist

Accompanist to join our worship team and help lead our congregation in meaningful, spirit-filled worship. Responsibilities include playing music for Sunday morning and special services, practicing with and accompanying the choir and other musicians, selecting music, and maintaining our instruments in good working order. Qualifications:

- Proficiency with piano and/or organ
- Ability to sight-read music
- Ability to work collaboratively with clergy, choir, and other musicians
- Strong sense of musicality and sensitivity to worship flow

Compensation:

- Pianist: \$5,000 - \$7,000
- Organist: \$12,000 - \$16,000

Please reply to office@fincastleumc.org or call (540) 473-3001

Retirement Notice

NOTICE

N. Laura Liles, D.O. is retiring from her medical practice as of 7/31/26. If you would like to send/obtain a copy, or part of a copy or a summary of your medical records, you may call 540-366-6729 until 7/31/26. After that date, you may send a Release of Records form to Dr. Liles at 10969 Freeman Court, Indianapolis, Indiana 46234. A reasonable cost-based fee will be associated with copying and sending."

Notice

NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 29.5 feet on a 24-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 109 College Ave, 235 North Main St, Blacksburg, Montgomery County, VA 24060. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Maggie Vincent, m.vincent@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 410-853-7128.

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Legals - City of Salem

Order of Publication

Commonwealth of Virginia VA Code§§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316,-317,20-104 Case No. 26-1292 VIRGINIA: IN THE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE **COUNTY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA,** Complainant, Vs. **PURCELL BARRETT, et al,** Respondents.

TO: THE RESPONDENTS: The object of this suit is to enforce the lien for taxes assessed by the County of Roanoke, Virginia against certain real property designated as Tax Map Parcel No. 026.19-01-27.00-0000. An affidavit having been made and filed that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of Clyde B. Barrett and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Clyde B. Barrett and that there are or may be persons with an interest in the subject property, including heirs, devisees, and successors in title of Clyde B. Barrett, who may be deceased, whose names and addresses are unknown, it is hereby ORDERED that each of the parties appear on or before the August 12, 2026, and do whatever is necessary to protect their interests in said land.

It is further ORDERED, pursuant of Va. Code Ann.§8.01-321, that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the Salem Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Roanoke, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse in County of Roanoke, Virginia. Entered this 7th day of July 2026.

Hon. Charles N. Dorsey, Judge

I ask for this:

Amy H. Geddes, Esquire VSB#38650 OPN Law 3140 Chaparral Drive, Suite 200-C Roanoke Va 24018 Ph: (540) 725-8181 FX:540)772-0126 Email: ageddes@opnlaw.com Counsel for Complainant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the City Hall, 114 North Broad Street, in the City of Salem, Virginia, will hold a public hearing and consider the establishment of a Stormwater Utility and associated fees. Questions concerning the proposed Stormwater Utility may be addressed to the City of Salem Community Development Department, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem, Virginia, at 540-375-3032. At said hearing, parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard relative to the said request.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
H. Robert Light
Clerk of Salem City Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all interested persons that the Council of the City of Salem, at its regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, 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 the following requests relative to the CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA:

1. Consider the request of Community Church Inc, property owner and Cornerstone Classical Academy, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to allow for an Educational Facility, Primary/Secondary, on the property located at 1923 East Main Street (Tax Map #78-1-14).
2. Consider the request of Robertson Family Revocable Trust, property owner and Amer Alsayadi, lessee, for the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to

Legals - City of Salem

allow a retail sales, smoke shop on the property located at 501 West 4th Street (Tax Map #143-3-14).

3. Consider the request of The Preston Place Preservation Foundation Inc., property owner, for a Special Exception Permit to allow an assembly hall, nonresidential uses in an accessory structure, and nonresidential uses out of doors, and a Use Not Provided for Permit for outdoor gatherings of less than 500 people on the property located at 1936 West Main Street (Tax Map #138-2-7).

Copies of the proposed plans, ordinances or amendments may be examined in the Office of Community Development, 21 South Bruffey Street, Salem Virginia

Legals - Montgomery County

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia

that the Board of Supervisors hereby schedules a public hearing on August 10, 2026, at 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter at the Montgomery County Government Center, 2nd Floor Board Room, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg, Virginia, to hear citizen comments on the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 2 entitled Administration, of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia by amending Section 2-36 Return Check Fee, to include electronic payment of taxes or any other sum due, which is subsequently returned without payment by the receiving bank, depository institution or other recipient of the order. No fee shall be imposed under this section as the result of an electronic payment order that is not honored as the result of the nonexistence of any account matching the account information provided by the taxpayer, provided that the taxpayer has not tendered any other electronic payment order that was not honored during the 12 months preceding the tender of the payment order in question. This fee shall be in addition to any other fee or penalty provided by law. A copy of the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the County Administrator and is available for public inspection or copying. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Angela M. Hill
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL

The Town of Christiansburg Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments concerning:

A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jeffrey T. and Jamie M. Zoellner, Applicants, and Ray D. Cragett Trust, c/o Anna C. Rogers, Trustee, Property Owner, to allow a Planned Housing Development consisting of one Two-Family Dwelling in the General Business (B-3) zoning district on property located at 185 New Street NW, identified as Tax Parcel 526 - ((A)) - 238; (Parcel ID 004144), and consisting of approximately of 0.465 acres. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Samuel Bishop, Property Owner and Applicant, to allow residential use in the General Business (B-3) zoning district on property located at 465 Stuart Street NE, identified as Tax Parcel 527-((3))-50A and 527-((3))-49B; (Parcel ID 001756 and 001755), and consisting of

Legals - Montgomery County

approximately 0.18 acres. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Town Hall will be open and available to receive public comments in person at the time of this Public Hearing. A copy of the applications, the Town's Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinance, and Future Land Use Map may be viewed in the Planning Department Office, 100 E. Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073 during normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Planning Department, at (540) 382-6128, ext. 1902 or by email at planning@christiansburg.org, with any questions or if you require reasonable accommodations.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 2676 DRY VALLEY ROAD, RADFORD, VA 24141.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 25, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$60,900.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Virginia as Instrument No. 2003010550. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for the City of Radford, 619 Second St., W., Radford, VA, or any such temporary alternative Circuit Court location designated by the Judges of the Circuit Court, on September 16, 2026, at 11:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT UN-NUMBERED PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 0.731 ACRE DESIGNATED AS RETAINED BY OLLIE BAIN ON THAT CERTAIN PLAT OF SURVEYENTITLED "PLAT FOR KYLE E. DAVIS AND SHARON B. DAVIS OF AN UN-NUMBERED 1.0005 AC. LOT NEAR BAINS CHAPEL IN RINER MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT MONTGOMERYCOUNTY, VIRGINIA", PREPARED BY NEAL H. WIRT, LAND SURVEYOR, DATED MAY 5, 1997, DESIGNATED PLAT NO. 97-505, A COPY OF WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE IN DEED BOOK 991, PAGE 410, AND TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCED IS HEREBY MADE FOR A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF THE

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PROPERTY HEREIN CONVEYED. 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 Mortgagor, 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.aldridgepate.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 Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Virginia Pre-Sale Department of counsel for Equity Trustees, LLC at 301-961-6555, website: www.aldridgepate.com. VA-378698-2.

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Council

from page 1



Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins (left) introduced Morgan Poplawski as the new Manager of Guest Experiences and Events, overseeing the Vinton War Memorial.

Director of Cultural Placemaking and Events Mandy Adkins introduced Morgan Poplawski, Manager of Guest Experiences and Events.

“Throughout our hiring process, Morgan stood out because of her passion for creating memorable experiences, her exceptional attention to detail, and her ability to build meaningful relationships with clients, volunteers, and community partners,” Adkins said. “She brings nearly a decade of hands-on experience planning and executing events of all sizes, from weddings and fundraisers to community festivals and retreats.”

Most recently, Morgan served as Event Venue Manager at The Loft at Liberty Street, where she managed all aspects of venue operations, including client relations, event logistics, staffing, catering, marketing, budgeting, and day-of-event execution.

Morgan earned her Bachelor of Science in Interpersonal Communication Studies from JMU with minors in Biology and Human Resource Development.

“Her educational background, combined with her extensive experience in hospitality, customer service, and event management, have prepared her well for this role.”

Morgan will help oversee rentals and guest experiences at the newly renovated Vinton War Memorial.

Deputy Police Chief Tim Lawless introduced Officer Sean McKittrick as the department’s new Community Service Officer (CSO).

“Officer McKittrick joined the Vinton Police Department in 2023 after serving with the Roanoke City Police Department. He has extensive experience in community policing, public engagement, and building positive relationships with residents and businesses,” Lawless said. “During his years with Roanoke City, he served as a Community Policing Specialist for eight years, where he worked closely with neighborhood groups, attended community meetings, and helped mentor

and train new officers. He also remained actively involved in the community as an assistant Scout leader and has demonstrated a strong commitment to public responsibility throughout his career.

“We are confident Officer McKittrick will excel in this role. His experience, professionalism, and passion for community engagement make him an outstanding choice to lead our outreach efforts. He has already expressed a vision of increasing foot patrols in our downtown and greenway areas, expanding engagement with local businesses, developing resource information for residents and business owners, and strengthening partnerships throughout our community. We believe his proactive approach will further enhance the department’s visibility, accessibility, and relationships with the people we serve.”

Donna Collins, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management, briefed council members on proposed changes to the Employee Handbook. Areas outlined for updates include safety and security: the Emergency Closure Policy and Prescription Safety Glass Program; Pay Practices– Overtime, Discretionary Time, and Remote Work Policy; and Time Off– the PTO Policy.

Council adopted an ordinance amending Vinton Town Code to add an article on the use of town parks and greenways.

“This ordinance establishes clear rules to help keep these public spaces safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone,” said Deputy Chief Lawless. “It addresses issues that are not specifically covered in our current Town Code, including hours of operation, overnight camping, unattended property, alcohol consumption, open fires, and unauthorized motorized vehicles.

“A key reason for this ordinance is to proactively address the use of motorized vehicles such as ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes, and golf carts on the greenways. Many



PHOTOS BY DEBBIE ADAMS

Deputy Police Chief Tim Lawless (left) introduced Officer Sean McKittrick who has changed roles in the department and is now the Community Services Officer.

neighboring localities have experienced safety concerns and complaints involving these vehicles. While we have not seen those problems to the same extent, we want to address the issue before it becomes a concern in our community.

“This ordinance also gives our officers the legal authority to enforce these regulations consistently and protect both the public and the town’s investment in our parks and greenways.”

The ordinance restricts park, trail, and greenway hours between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Council also adopted a “Trespass Bar Program” ordinance, presented by Lt. Myke Caldwell, which establishes trespassing as a violation of Town Code. Caldwell noted that trespassing has increased in Vinton in the past year. In 2025, there were 101 calls for trespassing; there have been 81 so far in 2026.

The ordinance creates a formal authorization process allowing property owners to appoint the Vinton Police Department in writing as their authorized agent for trespass enforcement, barring people from going upon or remaining upon property, and enables officers to issue “Trespass Bar Letters” and enforce violations without requiring the property owner to be present during every incident.

The ordinance also prohibits trespassing on designated town-owned properties, thereby protecting public facilities, keeping town property safe and accessible for residents and visitors.

Caldwell said Vinton police will be working closely with business owners and property managers to identify recurring problem locations and repeat offenders, taking a proactive approach to reducing crime and improving communication between law enforcement and the business community. This ordinance will reduce the burden on businesses, help alleviate concerns about retaliation from offenders, and encourage greater participation in trespass enforcement.

The Trespass Bar Letters “create a

strong deterrent and clearly communicate the consequences of returning to prohibited properties to offenders and may discourage future violations before they occur,” Caldwell said.

The program will “enhance cooperation between the police department, businesses, and property owners, reduce repeat calls for service, and enhance overall community safety.”

Participation in the program is voluntary.

Council adopted a proactive ordinance authorizing a Temporary Cash Transaction Rounding Policy. This relates to the United States Mint ceasing production of the penny coin, which is expected to create shortages of exact change at town payment counters. Total cash settlements, including taxes ending in .01, .02, .06, and .07, will round down to the nearest nickel. Total cash settlements ending in .03, .04, .08, or .09 will round up to the nearest nickel. This applies to physical cash transactions settled in person at a town payment counter. All checks, ACH payments, credit cards, debit cards, and digital transactions will continue to be processed and billed to the exact penny.

This ordinance is inactive and is held in reserve until the town treasurer determines a localized shortage of penny coins impairs the efficient operation of the town’s payment counters. It expires on July 1, 2027.

Interim Director of Public Works Jill Acker presented a report on recent stormwater and street maintenance projects. She noted recent repairs by Public Works on Halliahurst Avenue which required 76.5 tons of asphalt, shoveled and raked by hand in the scorching heat by Public Works employees.

Town Manager Pete Peters commented on speeding issues causing problems at an intersection near downtown; the town plans to evaluate the use of speed cushions and halo lights to alleviate the problem.

Lions

from page 2

multiple scholarships to William Byrd and Staunton River High School seniors, supports the Leo Club at William Byrd High School, and hosts the Bland Music Scholarship competition for local middle and high school musicians.

Throughout the holiday season, the club purchases clothing and toys for

around 18-20 elementary-age children on the annual Christmas shopping spree and distribute school supplies, snacks, and clothing to local schools.

In recent months the Lions have contributed to the Vinton Multigenerational Playground on the hill behind the Vinton War Memorial.

The club has also taken on longer-term community preservation work, notably restoring and maintaining Gladetown Cemetery– an important historic African-American burial ground.

Beyond local impact, they engage with broader Lions International efforts in disaster relief, sight research and

conservation, diabetes awareness, and hearing support in partnership with the Hearing Foundation of Virginia and UVA.

-Submitted by Lion John Berry

VCA

from page 1

identify and welcome visitors entering Vinton, improve the appearance of existing railway infrastructure, create a timeless visual element appropriate for a wide audience that reflect the town’s character, history and sense of place.”

The grant is supported solely by state general funds awarded for Fiscal Year 2027, with the expectation that the project will be completed by June 1, 2027.

This project was supported, in part, by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support

from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency

-Submitted by Town of Vinton

Dolly

from page 1

interest, that milestone was reached in just two weeks. Since then, the program has continued to grow, enrolling approximately 20-25 new children each week.

As enrollment continues to increase, organizers anticipate seeking additional funding from community partners, businesses, foundations, and individual donors to sustain and expand the program, ensuring that every eligible child has access to free, high-quality books.

Vinton Baptist Church serves as the program’s

501(c)(3) fiscal partner and has provided invaluable support through volunteers, community outreach, and promotion of the program throughout the Vinton area.

The Vinton Moose Lodge has also been an important partner, making it possible for the Roanoke County affiliate to participate in numerous community events across the county, helping raise awareness and register children from every part of the community.

Together, these dedicated partners remain committed to the success

of the Imagination Library of Roanoke County and continue to support its mission of fostering a love of reading and bringing the gift of books to children and families throughout the Roanoke Valley.

Organizers emphasize that the continued success of the program depends on community involvement. In addition to volunteer support and community outreach, financial contributions are essential to sustaining and expanding the program so that every eligible child can continue receiving free, high-quality books each

month.

With its launch, Roanoke joins thousands of communities across the country that have embraced the Imagination Library as a proven investment in children’s futures. By placing books into homes and encouraging a lifelong love of reading, the program promises to make a lasting difference– one story at a time.

Families will have the opportunity to sign up for the Imagination Library this Saturday, June 25, at the Vinton Farmers’ Market. Stop

by their booth to learn more about the program, register if you would like, and then participate in other activities such as Storytime, crafts, and yard games.

Donations and sponsorship of children can be made through Vinton Baptist Church, by visiting vintonbaptistchurch.org/ give and selecting the “Dolly Parton Library” fund. Supporters may also give directly through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library donation portal by designating Roanoke County as their local program partner at <https://>

donate.imaginationlibrary.com/. Every donation helps provide books to local children and ensures the program can continue growing to serve families throughout Roanoke County.

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