Center Stage at Budget Vote

**Board Raises Taxes 3.6 Percent** 

PAGE 6

**Quirky Contest Showcases Art Crafted from Books** 



**Track and Field Teams Destroy Competition** 

**Veterans Sought to Honor Comrades in Arms** PAGE 8

**Old Farm Day Adds New Tasting Garden** 

## Supervisor frustrations take center stage at budget vote Board raises taxes 3.6 percent

In unexpected displays of passion, four of the superintendent is coming and saying, 'I "With government, it starts with the bottom er," O'Brien said. "We're not spending it because the five Fluvanna County supervisors deliv-promise you I'm going to save this and you're and works up, and when it gets to the top – if we're buying fancy Mercedes for all of our staff." (April 24) to vote on the new budget and tax

site reasons.

Sheridan: Ask – don't preach

Before the vote, Chair Mike Sheridan tackled

rumors he said were swirling throughout the

county that supervisors ignore core services, such as fire and rescue, schools and law en-

forcement. Actually, Sheridan said, each

budget increase will go directly toward a core

"There's a lot of folks out there and they like

to talk about half-truths. And they like to do

a lot of pointing fingers and chest thumping,"

he declared. "Everything we've added [to the

budget]: Is there anything that you see there

that we don't need? These are the only places

we've gone up. Every one of them has been a

"Sometimes it makes me aggravated when

we're just going out here...taxing and spend-

ing, just giving money to anybody and every-

92.5-cent tax rate, or nearly one-third, goes di-

rectly to the county's debt. Fluvanna therefore

effectively functions on a tax rate of 62.5 cents,

Brow furrowed, Sheridan finished his

speech: "Anybody who's got questions about

**Booker: School scuffling** 

and scrambling is criminal

those at the meeting described as likely.

trying to dictate to the other, but their

missions – to best serve their respective

plan to prioritize the greatest needs, and

If the schools don't allocate budget

to the nice shelter staff decided to name me Valentine!

really enjoy attention, however, I am not to fond of other

felines. This may change once I am in a home and have more

am spayed, micro-chipped, and up-to date on vaccines

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space to be on my own. Please come visit with me sometime.

money to technology, O'Brien said he

would rather see the dollars in the CIP.

they think best.

their autonomy to spend the money as is a sunk base."

Sheridan pointed out that 30 cents of the

body frivolously," he said. "And we're not."

core service to our county, to our people.

The vote to raise taxes to 92.5 cents, up Last Wednesday supervisors debated just Fluvanna; it's the state and the federal understand that pressure. I feel that pressure... margin. Supervisors Don Weaver and Tony fund, which is akin to the county's savings O'Brien voted against the decision for oppocrease by a penny. One penny on the tax rate pay with debt brings in about \$309,000.

pennies, just throw it on. I have a problem with "I'd like to finish." she said after several inter- that." he continued. "That's the reason all of our

"I call hogwash on that. For God's sakes," said "Last week I heard the chair of the School O'Brien, launching into the longest speech of

"Anybody who's got questions

money, ask - don't preach." Mike Sheridan, chair of the Board of Supervisors

about where we're spending our

Soard talk, telling how they – just like we do the evening. "\$70 million of our debt is due to a need to be looking after our children," Booker business talking about that debt."

where we're spending our money, ask – don't mentality leads to debt

Weaver expressed frustration that govern-

The schools need four new buses but are "I've been in private business most of my life, "It has," said Weaver willing to delay buying two so that they can remaining two buses at the end of the school businesses work from the top down; in other future." approximately how much they're going to said drily. "I don't think that's fair to the schools," Suhave in sales and all, so they have [the amount]

"Yeah, we're spending that money into the pervisor Mozell Booker said with evident frus-set right to begin with. They work the budget future, finally, so that at one point in time you tration. "The last couple of years it's almost like towards that. **6** | **FLUVANNA REVIEW** | MAY 2–8, 2019

go through every penny to make sure that school. At what point in time did you not think things are in the right place," Booker said. "I you were going to need a new school in this would just rather see the \$300,000 go to the county? And when did you start saving money for that school? Because if you didn't start "The school system is our core service. We saving money for that school then you have no aid emphatically. "Technology cannot fall "How many people buy their houses for behind. I think it's criminal they're scuffling cash?" O'Brien asked. "If you didn't save [for] it and scrambling to keep up to date with techit then it costs money. And that money goes

and government certainly doesn't run the way

"No it has not," O'Brien said three times. "We private business does," Weaver said. "Private have just started to spend that money into the year if enough money is left over – a situation words, they know at the beginning of the year "Oh, we're starting to spend it now," Weaver

how our priorities have changed

potential cuts [and] reallocations,

ing into its future."

was guaranteed. You had to spend it on "We don't just ask for add, add,

Nichols said the issue is complicated. and how we can change with them," "I don't know how to solve that," he said. she said. "This is the first time I re-

"It's just a trust issue between the two member that we took a long list of

"When's the last time this Board [of put them up on the wall and went

ly an increase aimed at technology?" we did it and we did it again, and

Nichols denied that supervisors ever the result of that."

rectly toward technology?"

technology in the schools.

agreement was resolved.

can actually take the burden off the homeown

governments are in such debt. I mean, it's not have done a remarkable job of helping all of us that I've made to try to make this county better

Sheridan refocused the conversation on passing 2019 tax rates and a fiscal year 2020 (FY20) budget. Supervisor Trish Eager, the only board member not to deliver a passionate monologue, spoke in favor of setting the tax rate

at 92.5 cents, up about 3.6 percent from the equalized rate of 89.3 cents. "We've worked really hard on that," she said. Only a slim majority of the board agreed, setting the overall budget at \$82,838,129 and the tax rate at 92.5 cents by a 3-2 vote (Weaver and O'Brien dissenting). Booker said she didn't want to raise taxes higher than 92.5 cents. "School Board, I apologize," she said. "I'm going to fight a little harder

O'Brien wanted to put more money into the general fund. "We are now working with

next year." The budget allocates \$17,864,597 to

• Real estate: 92.5 cents per \$100 valuation; into the budget. And you have to pay for that. Residential personal property: \$4.35 per And that's just a matter of fact... So you can't sit there and say, 'Oh my God, look at what's Business personal property: \$2.90 per \$100 happened, we've spent \$70 million doing this.' ment turns so frequently to raising taxes as a This county has spent almost no money invest-Machinery and tools: \$1.90 per \$100

> provements plan 4-1 (Weaver dissenting) in the amount of \$4,266,610. The budget and capital the county's website at fluvannacounty.org.

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# Cosner Wood

20) plainly demonstrated the unavoid- never, as of yet, enacted. the real estate tax rate bringing in about the CIP. Supervisor Tony O'Brien referred \$309,000, this request represents a 3.2- to a potential \$250,000 server upgrade

BY CHRISTINA DIMEO

cent tax increase for Fluvanna residents as such an expense. But Eric Dahl, county before any other budget considerations finance director, pointed out that recur-Newport News and formally Saluda, Va., passed away peacefully on Feb. In Fluvanna, the Board of Supervi- "We want to see bonafide big-rock 18, 2019, at the age of 85. Born in Kents Store, Va., on Sept. 19, 1933, to the late Adam and Anna Cosner, pervisors allocate dollars, and then the coming through the CIP." she was the youngest of 12 children and is survived by her sister, Mrs. Merle Garner of Palmyra, Va. Marianne is preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Clarence (Sam) Wood. She leaves behind two sons: Dale E. Wood and his wife Terri hands, it went elsewhere.

Wood (Grigg) of Newport News and On the other hand, the schools rarely, the regular budget? Brett A. Wood and his wife Jeanie if ever, receive all the money they ask Wood (Hernandez) of Gloucester, for, and must make needed adjustments Va.; four grandchildren: Sunny, when budget realities force them to Michael, Sam, and Tyler Wood, and choose between, for example, technology and a pay raise for teachers. Marianne graduated from Flu-This dynamic can lead to frustration vanna High School in 1951, rebetween the boards. ceived certification from American On Wednesday afternoon, these feel-Institute of Banking in 1972, and ings spilled into a conversation over

how money should be allocated.

There is an exception to the rule that the Board of Supervisors can't earmark school money for particular purposes. It's called the CIP. When money comes to the schools through the CIP, the schools must spend the dollars accordingly. should be moved into the regular so that it does not inflate the baseline, **6** | **FLUVANNA REVIEW** | FEB. 28 - MARCH 6, 2019

**Recapping the** 

elected official dynamics A detailed discussion over a seeming- ments plan indicates that the projects budget for the purpose of boosting Flu

Supervisor Trish Eager said the Plan-Supervisors may hear a heartfelt plea ning Commission has been concerned for better technology in the schools and with expenses tucked into the CIP that decide to raise their citizens' tax rate to don't actually qualify for such placement. supply that need – only to discover that Does it actually matter – to anyone once the money was in School Board except the accountants, that is –

ring costs don't qualify.

whether these dollars go into the CIP or

culated by dividing the school budget the following year. Albemarle, Nelson, Charlottesville, and Iy happens is confusing, he said. **Capital improvements** the state average come in higher. "That's the problem... Here's where for example, the cost of the buses that struggle with these numbers."

ly mundane issue – whether technol- belonging to it should be substantial, vanna's per-pupil expenditure. ogy money should go into the school one-time investments. The CIP contains School Board member Andrew Pullen budget or the capital improvements line items like new ambulances and said per-pupil expenditure isn't a good plan (CIP) – revealed issues between the buses, or roof replacements and build-way to judge school performance. "It's Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors ing renovations. It also contains im- not the big picture," he said. provements such as community pools Brenda Gilliam, the schools' execu-The respectful conversation between and spray parks, though these are pertive director for instruction and finance, the boards Wednesday afternoon (Feb. petually pushed into later years and said that a lower per-pupil expenditure amount shows sacrifices are being able struggle when one elected board School technology money sits in the CIP made. "I'm not saying that we're not holds the purse strings of another. as well, and on Wednesday, both boards providing a quality basic education to The schools are asking the Board zeroed in on that line item with laser focus. every kid," she said. "But there are things of Supervisors to up their funding by Some school technology items are that you give up as a community when almost \$1 million, for a total of \$18.4 big-ticket one-time investments that you have a lower per-pupil expenditure.

sors doesn't have control over how the technology," he said. "We don't want to at least the same amount of money. School Board spends its money. Su- see you buying keyboards and things One year's funding level becomes the

amount of new money sought. If school technology dollars are al-

Per-pupil expenditure is roughly calbecome part of the baseline funding for by the number of students in the dis- Money allocated in the budget for a trict. Fluvanna's per-pupil expenditure in Chromebook replacement cycle would fiscal year 2017 (FY17) was \$10,557. That therefore reappear the following year, puts it fourth-lowest in the area, ahead said O'Brien. The schools would not of Culpeper, Orange and Greene. Buck- then need to request additional money ingham, Louisa, Goochland, Madison, for the expense. But whether this actual-Any money allocated to the schools this issue is about... Is it earmarked? in the CIP does not factor into per-puls it going to be used for that? Does it

Both boards acknowledged this reality \$250,000 server upgrade, should be Wednesday, but neither voiced opin- dealt with through the CIP, both because ions on whether CIP technology money it is a one-time significant expense and

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### CIP funding reveals difficulty in "It makes sense, then, to revisit what that because you can't spend it on any-add. We do go back and look at the rules are and what the expectations thing else. are, because I can tell you in my short time in this role, that's been a little confusing," said Gilliam. Saving \$50,000 per year for five years boards." within the regular budget would not work, both boards agreed, because the Supervisors]...feels that we got an through them, with people sitting schools don't have a savings account. actual increase in our budget – our right there that it affected. It was

Unused money is returned to the county baseline budget – that was specifical- uncomfortable but important, and at the end of the year. "That's why it needs to be in the CIP," asked Superintendent Chuck Winkler. we costed it out, we narrowed it said County Administrator Steve Nichols. Issues of control between the two boards understandably exist. Neither is

constituents – can conflict at budget time. Supervisors want to know that when they raise taxes specifically to meet a need within the school system, the million. With the uptick of one penny on meet the requirements for inclusion in That's just the facts." money will be spent for that purpose, and the need will not reappear the following year as a pressing, unaddressed issue requiring more spending. Once the county gives money to the But when the School Board receives school system, the assumption is that the less money than needed to fulfill its budget plan, members must modify that

> next year's "baseline funding," and the schools typically ask for more on top of This is why school funding requests additional dollars sought. While the schools' FY20 request is for \$18.4 million, both boards will mostly focus on the almost \$1 million figure, as that is the

Nichols said. "The Board [of Supervi- Nichols. Per-pupil expenditure located in the regular budget, they was a wedge put in the CIP because it board.

pil expenditure, which measures dollars actually happen?" O'Brien said. "That's spent on day-to-day education and not, an example of where we [supervisors] A bigger expense, such as the

Supervisor Chair Mike Sheridan and down, and this [budget request] is gave a marked increase for anything. "I wish, rather than feeling penal-"We give you an amount of money and ized for the transparency of looking you spend it as you deem appropriate," at costs and what we can change,

said Sheridan, who is also a Fluvanna you will, rather than penalize us, trust us that we want the same thing you Winkler rephrased. "When's the last want," she said. time this board gave us whatever in- Supervisors appeared concerned. crease it was that you thought any "How do you feel penalized?" O'Brien portion of that increase was going diaasked. "Just that when we put some-"Every single year," said Nichols. At the thing up there, we're letting you

same moment Sheridan said, "Last year." know what we're considering living Winkler was clearly surprised. without," Johnson said. "That's how it Sheridan said that he has seen new could be a potential penalty." Winkler said that "naysayers" see "We got it through CIP," said Winkler. those potential cuts and seize on Nichols disagreed. Out of last year's them as unnecessary expenses. oudget, he said, "you spent...some of Supervisors and county staff resist what can be seen as a reach into that...on technology... Therefore there seemed sobered, and assured the school personnel that recent trans-Conversation shifted before the disparency has been welcome.

"There was a fear a few years ago Trust affirmed that - excuse me for characterizing "This discussion that's going on dent Gena Keller] and your board it this way – 'Oh, woe is me, we've got every year, about where these things are laying it out to the community no money to spend on technology," should be, needs to be figured out," said because it's the community's taxpayer dollars. I think it's fantastic." "It's a really good dialogue," he

sors] wanted to guarantee that there School Board Chair Perrie Johnson, was money spent on technology, and who along with Pullen were the two you guys [the School Board] wanted to School Board members in attendance, spend money on technology, so there spoke passionately on behalf of her -Tuvanna SPCA | 5239 Union Mills Rd., Troy, VA (434) 591-0123 | www.fspca.org

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continued. "It doesn't mean you're going to get every penny you ask for this year...because [supervisors] are going to have to make lots of decisions that might be hard, but t's not because they're penalizing ou], it's just because...we have to sometimes make hard decisions, ust can't do this one this year." Sheridan said that supervisors have increased the school budget by over \$4 million in recent years. "We've had a lot of faith in the school system in the last five years," ne said. "We're trying to work with y'all and do everything we can."

The schools have requested \$991,319 in additional dollars from the county for FY20,

There are staffing concerns at the high school, said Superintendent Chuck Winkler. crease to 1,510 next year – an increase of 41 students from this year, which itself saw an increase of 38 students from last year. Positions needed include a high school English teacher, a high school physical edelective teacher, a high school special education teacher, a school counselor, and a

tion teacher. The schools have requested \$370,000 for these positions. teacher laptops, and a copier lease renewal, account for \$600,000 of the request. "All of "The budget before was mystery our servers in the tech building will be... and mumbo jumbo," Nichols said antiquated in March of next year," Winkler to Winkler. "Quite frankly, your said. "We need to plan on that, and we won't predecessor [former Superintenhave the support from the company" due to

Other needs make up \$60,000 of the request. The schools want to increase substitute pay, add field hockey, and hire a new homebound teacher. been here, in eight years," said Winkler. Substitute teachers with a college degree currently earn \$75.50 per day, he said. Substitutes without a college degree earn less. He wants to raise their pay by \$5. require a one-time \$20,000 investment. and sometimes that means...we "Just about every VHSL school around here has field hockey for girls," he said. These budget requests do not add up to the nearly \$1 million total in requested new money due to several factors, the most significant of which is expected additional Supervisors are scheduled to finalize the

oudget and tax rates April 17. Public hear-

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Initially the club wanted to offer stick- School Board had leaked the letter.

ings take place April 10.

**Neighbors Share** 

**New Year's Resolutions** Page 4

Child Development Center Page 14

**Business Spotlight: New** 

two great-grandchildren.

graduated from Louisiana State Uni-

versity School of Banking in 1983.

She retired from Sovran Bank, now

Bank of America, as vice president

of commercial loans in 1988 after 27

Arrangements are being made at

Va., and services will be held private-

ly. In lieu of flowers, memorial do-

nations may be made to Mt. Gilead

Baptist Church, 4768 Shannon Hill

years of service.

Road, Columbia, Va.

### Jan. 3 - 9, 2019 | Volume 39, Issue 1 | One Copy Free

**2018: The Year of Inspiration** 

**Sports Highlights of 2018** 

Page 22

## Recapping the 10 biggest stories of 2018

speeding tickets to dedications of solar farms and museums, last year was a busy one for Fluvanna County. Here, in no particular order, are the 10 biggest

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**6** | FLUVANNA REVIEW | Jan. 3, 2019

Wonderoast

From controversies over logos and Controversy roils over

Fluvanna's most intense controversy of 2018 unleashed over a request from students in the high school's Alliance Club, a group for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) students

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a sign of a "safe space" for LGBTQ stu- Pullen did not attend the meeting and Superintendent Chuck Winkler pre- as to why. In his absence the board split sented the club's request to the School 2-2 (Johnson and Shirley Stewart for the SALE DATES: JANUARY 2, 3, 4, 5 Palmyra@Rt.15&Rt.53 13027 JAMES MADISON HIGHWAY 434 589-8412

File photo of Perrie Johnson, School

Board in an Oct. 10 closed session Somehow Rob Schilling, a radio host and blogger for the conservative Bearing Drift website, ended up with a color picture of the formal request letter. On Nov. 2, five days before the request was made public, Schilling posted a column entitled "The culture wars come to equest and took a stand against it.

Fluvanna," in which he described the People packed a Nov. 7 School Board appeared to be a deliberate leaking of student information to a blogger. At the meeting, the Alliance Club dropped the part of its request that involved giving the logo to teachers for classroom display. Though the School Board had first learned of the request a month prior to the Nov. 7 meeting, it decided not to nake a decision that night due to insufficient legal knowledge. The School Board conducted a self-in-

Farm Heritage Museum

rainbow F for a fourth time Jan. 9.

File photo of Farm Heritage Museum at Pleasant Grove

After years of planning, the Farm Heri tage Museum at Pleasant Grove celebrated its dedication Aug. 4. The Fluvanna Historical Society spearheaded the effort to construct the barnlike museum, which will house a collecby local farmer, John May, and his family. The museum cost slightly over against the rainbow F. About three-society provided \$272,000 of that total. quarters of the speakers supported the For years 50 percent of the proceeds request and about one-quarter opposed from Old Farm Day, Fluvanna's celebrait. Many on both sides protested what tion of its farm heritage, were squirreled away for the new museum. Fluvanna County also contributed financially to the project. The museum's exhibits should be in place by this year's Old Farm Day on

**CVEC launches broadband** Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) launched an ambitious project to vestigation in response to the anger over provide all its Fluvanna customers with the apparent leaking of the student's an option for broadband in the next five letter to Schilling. Chair Perrie Johnson

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and allies, to use a rainbow-color version stated at a Dec. 19 meeting that the selfpacity for Fluvanna residents and busiinvestigation concluded no one on the nesses is important, Jason Smith, former his company's broadband project to the rural electric cooperative push to provide ers bearing the rainbow F logo to teach- No decision was reached Dec. 19 electricity to rural areas in the 1930s. ers and staff to display in their rooms as either. School Board member Andrew did not respond to requests for comment will do it ourselves," he wrote in a letter logo, Charles Rittenhouse and Brenda Pace against). The board will discuss the



The \$110 million project includes a Firefly network," according to a CVEC

over IP phone service with unlimited

The project is expected to create about

"Just like in those early days, the cooper-

ative has decided that if no one else will

build the infrastructure to serve us all, we

CVEC aims to have service to the Zion

to CVEC customers.

320 million to \$25 million investment in press release. Firefly will also offer voice-

CVEC covers about 85 percent of local and long-distance calling in the

Fluvanna with about 8,600 points of continental U.S. for \$29.99 as an add-on

service. Dominion Virginia Power serves to internet service.

Expanding internet access and ca- 10 new jobs in Fluvanna.

to locate to areas without internet access. will have one year to complete the work. Fluvanna's Economic Development The county expects to find out sometime Authority has offered CVEC \$500,000 in this spring whether it was selected. tax rebates for the portion of the project being completed in the county. CVEC's nvestments in Fluvanna will bring in

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tax dollars after the \$500,000 rebate has been satisfied. CVEC's Firefly Fiber Broadband Fluvanna residents voted in the Nov. 6 company will offer high-speed internet election for Democrat Tim Kaine for U.S. with unlimited data at 100 megabits per man for U.S. House of Representatives gigabit per second of unlimited data for for the 5<sup>th</sup> District. Kaine and Riggleman \$79.99 per month. "Unlike many other internet services, the download and both won their races.

See Biggest stories, page 8 HELLO I'M TABBY am 8 months old, female. Grey and white domestic shorthair. I am very sweet and loving... I would make a wonderful companion

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for my mew family. I love running around chasing toys and uddling on the couch. I have a medical condition called Congenital Arrhythmia (Heart Murmur) My new family would need to make sure that I stay inside and not to over exert myself. I would need to be in a home with cat friendly dogs/Cats. I would need to be in an I am current on all shots, micdro-chipped and spayed. I am located @ Petsmart 425 Merchant Walk Square Charlottesville, Va 22902

Fluvanna picks winning





Rep. Denver Riggleman

8 | FLUVANNA REVIEW | Jan. 3, 2019

217 votes (1.8 percent). Riggleman earned 6,168 Fluvanna votes (51.5 percent), while Democratic candidate Leslie Cockburn took 5,785 Voters flatly rejected Fluvanna Counvoters opposed the tax (71.0 percent),

murder: Richard Glenn Spradlin, 56, and his son Kevin Michael Moore, 34. while 3,404 voters supported the tax

count of first-degree murder, one felony

The 2019 reassessment was adminmade waves this year by implementing

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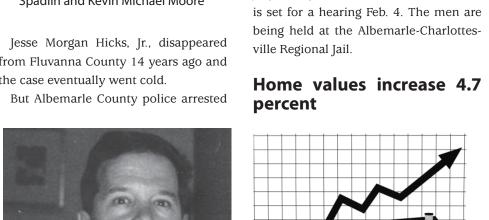
warrants issued in the case have been sealed by an Albemarle County judge. Hicks was reported missing to the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office Sept.

percent) while Republican candidate 12,029 (64.9 percent) cast a ballot. In the marle County men after 14 years has not **Supervisors raise taxes 3.5** 



than in previous midterm elections. Of

the 18,543 registered Fluvanna voters,



little information about the case, includ-

ing the exact location where Hicks' body

count of conspiracy to commit murder, Residents had the option of appealing

and one felony count of using a firearm their reassessments for a window of time

after receiving their notices in the mail.

11 to increase the real estate tax rate by

about 3.5 percent, from 90.7 cents per

A resident who owns a house valued at

The vote also passed the \$77.6 million

Supervisors kept other tax rates steady

from last year. The personal property tax

is \$4.35 per \$100 valuation, the business

personal property tax is \$2.90, and the

Three cents of the 3.2-cent increase

came from costs associated with the

Zion Crossroads water system and the

Supervisors passed the budget and tax

rates with a vote of 4-1 (Supervisor Don

machinery and tools tax is \$1.90.

budget for fiscal year 2019, which

stretches from July 1, 2018, through June

30, 2019.

E911 radio project.

\$200,000 now pays \$64 more per year

in real estate taxes, for a total of \$1,878.

The value of Fluvanna homes in creased by an average of 4.7 percent, according to information presented to the Board of Supervisors Oct. 3 by Randy

Willis, assessor for Pearson's Appraisal Excluding Lake Monticello, county controversial speeding properties increased by 5.4 percent. Lake **policy** Monticello saw a 3.4 percent increase. The Lake Monticello Board of Directors istrative, meaning that assessors only a controversial speeding policy it later visited properties that underwent some dropped.

they are typically pleased with increased

they may be unhappy because they will

pay more in taxes.

kind of change, such as an addition or a Originally the Lake Monticello Police new finished basement. The next assess- Department (LMPD) only issued Flument in 2021 will be a general reassess- vanna County traffic citations for drivers ment, in which every property is examcaught going 39 miles per hour (mph) or The reassessment values took effect Willis noted that residents' feelings the LMPD could issue a policy violation

But on Jan. 25 the board voted unanimously to implement a plan under which about their reassessment values align — rather than a Fluvanna County speedclosely with their purposes for their ing ticket – for drivers clocked at speeds property. If homeowners want to sell, between 26 and 39 mph. The plan also value. If they plan to stay put, however, See Biggest stories, page 15

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Biggest stories, from page 8 allowed the LMPD to issue a policy viola-

complete stop at stop signs.

tion to drivers who failed to come to a



guest or hired contract worker were stopped for minor speeding, the socalled compliance ticket would go to the esident, who is "responsible" for anyone they let in the gates under the homeowners' association rules. The \$50 compliance tickets would would have gone before the Lake Compliance Committee if they desired to

argue their cases. Director Tom Braithwaite and the board said that one factor in their decision was the loss of revenue to LMOA, which does not benefit from county court fines and has to make LMPD officers available for court hearings. But at a June 21 meeting, Board President Richard Barringer said, "It turns out under consideration. She noted that "If our private police force uses the in the country to tackle a 10 megawatt

state system to check for wants and warrants for a vehicle stopped, and if a ticket A group of about 75 people gathered is issued, we are obligated to issue...a for the ceremony. Gov. Ralph Northam county ticket," Barringer said in an email. gave a speech, saying that investment

olar farm opens in Troy Fluvanna now has a solar energy nesses to Virginia and creates jobs.

center in Troy. The Palmer Solar Center, a 41-acre field of solar panels, held a dedication ceremony May 22. The solar center, along with the 35-acre **Steve Nichols announces** Martin Solar Center in Goochland County **retirement** near Kents Store, will convert light into gether, the two solar centers can produce the Dec. 19 meeting of the Board of Su-10 megawatts of power – enough to meet pervisors. Nichols will retire July 5, after the needs of 1,200 homes a year. It is the serving over seven years as Fluvanna's largest solar project undertaken by an county administrator. electric cooperative in Virginia to date. "I will always look back with pride at

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County Administrator Steve Nichols energy for at least the next 25 years. To-

File photo of dedication ceremony

the output from both plants for the next

Debra Roepke, of the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association, said

that cooperative solar is surging across

the country, with co-ops like CVEC pro-

ducing 877 megawatts of solar power

nationwide with another 800 megawatts

CVEC was one of only 10 cooperatives

in renewable energy is not only good

business, given that it draws new busi-

for the environment but is also good for

attended by Gov. Ralph Northam

**County Administrator** The facilities were developed and built Fluvanna's path over the last decade, and by Coronal Energy, a Charlottesville- for my small part in the positive changes based solar energy company. Coronal that have occurred," Nichols wrote in his



File photo of Steve Nichols

resignation letter. "I also look forward

to fewer meetings, more travel, and the

time to become a more accomplished

goof off, gopher and golfer in my retire-

Nichols praised Fluvanna County staff

and recommended that Eric Dahl, deputy

county administrator and finance direc-

Nichols will turn 65 years old in June.

For a sports recap of 2018, see page

2, and check out page 10 for memora-

ble stories that inspired us. Last week's

or, take over as his replacement.

cilities, and Central Virginia Electric Co- notable crimes, court cases and law en-

operative (CVEC) has contracted to buy forcement situations of 2018.

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