

The Farmville Herald

Honor for the past, help for the present, hope for the future

Farmville, Virginia

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

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BOS addresses changed hearing

BY RACHEL AUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

Buckingham Board of Supervisors held four public hearings during its monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 14, as well as planned a new one. The board voted to host a public hearing on Feb. 28 to discuss a proposed solar farm on land owned by the Weyerhaeuser timberland company. Riverstone Solar, owned by

Apex Clean Energy Inc., proposed a solar facility on nearly 1,963 acres that was endorsed by the Planning Commission after a Sept. 27 public hearing. During the public comment period of the supervisors' meeting, many citizens spoke about the project. "Please take your time to thoroughly investigate the large industrial-scale solar project that is being sold to the county," said Theodore

BUCKINGHAM

Smith. "The community needs your due diligence to check references, evaluate the claims and promises of the salesman and understand the downfalls that this group will have on our community." Smith and Jane Moss filed a lawsuit in December due to an alleged lack of notice adjoining landowners received for the previous public hearing. He

was one of 15 who mailed and emailed letters in opposition to the solar farm. Other letters read during the hearing noted the effects the year-long construction would have on traffic and roads, and asserted that the noise will affect the livestock. The majority of the letters had the same message, urging the board to rethink the decision and vote no to the farm. "Solar farms belong in indus-

trial parks, not in our front, side and backyards," said many letters. "Please vote no to protect us as members of Buckingham County." The board voted to have a joint public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 28. Even though the Planning Commission already gave a recommendation, this

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Area residents and business owners are reporting telephone and internet outages in Prince Edward and Buckingham Counties. Above are just two of the many telephone pedestals spotted in Buckingham with loose or broken covers and wires exposed to the elements.

Grant to fund new homes in region

BY CRYSTAL VANDEGRIFT
The Farmville Herald

A housing grant awarded to a local organization will help in funding new homes for those less fortunate.

The Piedmont Habitat for Humanity has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$946,149 through the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) Affordable Workforce Housing Program.

This funding will help build 11 new homes over the next two years across the counties of Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Nelson, Nottoway and Prince Edward.

On Friday, Feb. 18 the CRC announced that it had awarded \$1,630,999 in Affordable Workforce Housing Grants in the CRC region.

According to a press release from the CRC the program's goal is to establish 20 affordable workforce housing units in the CRC region by June 30, 2024. Eleven of those units will be built in the Piedmont Habitat for Humanity service area.

The CRC sought grant proposals from experienced housing partners to assist the CRC in accomplishing the program goals.

According to Piedmont Habitat for Humanity over the last few years, the organization has been able to grow in its capacity to build more homes, add a home repair program, and serve more counties.

Piedmont Habitat for Humanity's build programs focus on new home construction, and help individuals and families own a safe, decent, affordable home.

This program is available for residents in the counties of Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Nelson, Nottoway and Prince Edward.

In 1990, a group of local citizens joined together with the goal of bringing Habitat for Humanity to the Farmville Area.

Thirty-two years later, during which 56 homes have been built or repaired.

The addition of the ReStore in 2009, where gently used furniture, household goods, appliances, and building materials are donated and resold to the public, helps Habitat serve even more people locally.

In 2019, Nelson County Habitat for Humanity merged with the affiliate and the Farmville Area Habitat for Humanity became Piedmont Habitat for Humanity.

Residents have a chance to connect on CenturyLink issues

BY RACHEL AUSTIN
The Farmville Herald

Many citizens in rural Virginia, including Prince Edward and Buckingham counties, have faced issues with phone and internet quality from CenturyLink. These problems will be heard by the state this week.

After hearing more than enough complaints, Buckingham Board of Supervisors

Chair Thomas Jordan Miles III reported the issues to the state in October. The complaints were about telephone and internet service, including dropped calls, intermittent internet outages or loss of service.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will consider the complaints as CenturyLink is looking to transfer its assets to Connect Holding LLC, a company known for having

the highest-speed fiber optic internet experience, according to its about section on Remotive.com.

"Unfortunately, there is not a lot that we as a county can do to fix these issues," said Prince Edward County Administrator Doug Stanley. "With the SCC taking testimony on the pending sale/transfer of assets, this is an excellent

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Cases plummet in Piedmont

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

The Piedmont Health District is seeing a speedier decrease in COVID-19 cases this week as Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signs a bill to empower parents to opt their children out of school mask mandates.

The area's recovery following last month's omicron surge has picked up some speed this week. According to data pulled from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), all counties in the health district have been trending downward in cases for several weeks.

Data posted by VDH shows that from the period of Mon-

day, Feb. 14, to Monday, Feb. 21, Prince Edward County saw 48 reported cases of the virus. Buckingham saw 47 new COVID-19 cases, and Cumberland rose by eight cases. Charlotte county observed 35 new COVID-19 cases over the last week, and Lunenburg was up by 23 cases.

Nearly all counties in the

health district saw their weekly COVID-19 cases decrease by more than half compared to last week's figures.

Prince Edward, Charlotte and Lunenburg counties each reported one new COVID-related death in the last week.

The state as a whole is seeing similar figures. On Friday, Feb. 18, Virginia reported

2,846 new COVID-19 cases. That's down from 4,275 cases reported the previous Friday. The state's seven-day moving average dropped from 4,379 cases Feb. 11 to 2,858 on Feb. 18.

Longwood University in Farmville was reporting seven

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