

# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

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## CULPEPER COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

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Brad Jarvis & Adam Downing (Madison), Kenner Love (Rappahannock);

FCS – Clare Lillard (Orange)

## Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

### Carl Stafford, Senior Extension Agent, ANR - Animal Science

Forage-livestock producers face significant challenges with pasture management this spring given the soil disturbance that has occurred with the excessive precipitation. This challenge may actually be an opportunity to renovate or restore pastures to a more productive state. Read on for some tips on this wide spread condition across the Northern Piedmont area of Virginia.

While pugging and soil compaction can result in poor pasture productivity, damage due to livestock treading is usually limited to the top 6" of soil. In all but very sandy soils, this compaction will be reversed after a number of freeze/thaw cycles. Dragging or light discing may help smooth a rough soil surface, but tillage is generally not advisable as a way to reduce compaction. Studies of aeration generally show that practice to be of little benefit.

In severely compacted soil, a ripper/cultivator may help break up the compacted layers without inverting the soil. However, such disturbance should be done when the soils have dried out, and it appears it may be some time before that happens. So, ripping is not an advisable practice for best compaction changing results when the soil is moist.

Pastures with significant, widespread damage and stand loss may be a target for complete renovation. In that case, it may be best to get as much grazing out of the pasture as possible this spring before seed heads develop. These sites should then be killed and planted with a summer annual such as millet or a sorghum sudan hybrid by June. Where compaction is an issue, producers may want to plant more complex mixtures that include tillage radish to help break up compacted layers.

Incorporating summer annuals will allow producers to have forage for summer grazing or conserved feed, and these areas would then be planted with novel fescue in late summer/early fall. While this strategy may incur significant cost, having limited forage production due to broad

scale damage will also be expensive. Be on the lookout for a revised Extension publication on warm season annuals production and management, in the works and will be available soon.

If stands/soils are not greatly damaged, one could broadcast red and white clover. These species should "take" well in hoof prints, and light grazing as manageable will improve seed-soil contact.

For pastures with intense damage in limited areas – particularly around feed bunks or hay rings, another option would be to spread crabgrass seed then use a light drag to smooth out the area. "Healing" these sites with desirable forages is important for greater productivity and to minimize weed encroachment. David Fiske used this practice to good effect at SVAREC as described in the Spring version of the Virginia Forager. More information on crabgrass may be found here: <https://hayandforage.com/article-1813-crabgrass-%E2%80%94-94-turning-a-weed-into-forage.html>

Contact your local Extension Agent for help in making a good choice for your situation as you attempt to solve this tough hand nature has given us on our Virginia farms. Virginia Cooperative Extension Forage Specialists Dr John Fike and Dr Gabe Pent are significant contributors to this article.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR)

### Ashley Appling, Extension Agent, ANR - Horticulture

#### The Effects of Cold Weather and Snow on Landscape Plants

The cold, winter weather can impact our homes and landscapes in many ways. We have seen many cold mornings and gray afternoons, along with slick roads and sidewalks. Our plant friends have also experienced this cold and have responded with brown leaves, along with dead branches and flower buds that will not be evident until spring. So, what is it about winter that bothers plants and what protection measures can we put in place?

In addition to heavy snowfalls breaking branches and uprooting trees, rapid temperature changes may injure plant tissues as well. Warm 60°F days followed by cold fronts lowering the temperatures below freezing can wreak havoc on plant tissues, from dead flower buds, to branch and root death. Newly expanded leaves and buds exposed to freezing temperatures may appear wilted and turn black within hours or days after the event. The damage is caused by the formation of ice crystals, which rupture the cell walls of plant cells.

Frozen soil can lead to desiccation of needled and broad-leafed evergreens. Windy, sunny days can lead to rapid tissue damage as leaves warmed by the sun begin to transpire. The water lost through transpiration cannot be replenished under these circumstances since the roots are frozen solid. This often leads to brown leaf margins or whole leaves as in the case of camellias, hollies, and junipers. The damage is most evident on the windward side of the plant.

Frost heaving can also damage plants through the process of the soil alternating between freezing and thawing. This process can push shallow rooted plants out of the ground, exposing the roots to wind damage.

Trees and shrubs with smooth bark may also experience bark splitting (another name is southwest injury since the damage is usually seen on this side of the tree) because of sudden



Frost heaving is most common in small, new plantings. The danger is root exposure. Replant quickly.

### Extension - Continued

changes in temperature. Sunlight can warm the bark on clear days, which may cause splitting as the temperature rapidly declines after sunset or during cloudy weather. This decline in temperature freezes the water within the trunk of the tree, causing it to split open. Trees such as cherries, maples, and young fruit trees are most susceptible. Wrapping the trunk with burlap strips, painting white, or shading the trunk may help prevent the split.

Some preparations can be undertaken before the cold weather hits. The first step is to grow plants that are cold hardy in our USDA Plant Hardiness zones 6a, 6b, or 7a. Other steps to take include not fertilizing in fall, no late summer pruning (which may lead to new growth that is damaged by frost), watering of evergreen plants during dry fall weather, and finally mulching to slow moisture loss and prevent upheaval of newly planted plants. A two to four-inch layer of hardwood mulch will reduce soil heaving. It is best to wait to spring to determine whether or not dead limbs will need to be pruned from trees and shrubs. The spring flush of growth should hide the damaged leaves of evergreens. Patience is the best practice, because some damaged plants such as crape myrtles may not leaf out until June after severe winters. If patience is not your virtue, you can also use a pocket knife to scrape back the outer layer of bark to check for green tissue. Seeing green tissue is a good sign that the plant is not totally dead, even though it is not a guarantee. Also, keep an eye on winter-damaged plants if drought conditions are experienced the following summer. Winter damage plus summer drought could lead to the demise of your perennial, shrub, or tree.

### Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

**Lenah Nguyen, Senior Extension Agent, FCS**



The Carver Food Enterprise Center is a Community Commercial Kitchen open to makers, bakers, caterers, food trucks, growers, and producers. Our inspected and certified production space includes a main kitchen, prep space great for mobile food units, and bakery. We also provide support with regulatory paperwork, storage space for scalable production, and connections to distributor and retail markets. Kitchen rental rates begin at \$10 / hour. We regularly run job training programs and food rescue events to support our local food banks. More information about the Carver Food Enterprise Center including information about reserving space in the commercial kitchen and upcoming events can be found here: [www.gwcfec.org](http://www.gwcfec.org)



### 4-H Youth Development

**Cristy Mosley, Extension Agent 4-H**

**Courtney Wesner, Extension Agent, 4-H Animal Scien**

**JoAnna Kilby, Program Assistant, 4-H**



Green Like a Clover in Spring

The 2023-2024 4-H Club year has come out of winter and hit spring running. Clubs have spent the winter months expanding their knowledge of projects (livestock, shooting sports, and gardening) in club meetings, practicing their public speaking skills through presentations, and exercising good citizenship through winter community service projects in Culpeper County. The shortest way to sum up what the program has been up to over the long winter months is through the 4-H Pledge.

“I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world”.

Just as the grass starts to think about “greening” up over the next couple of months, the 4-H Clover and its many activities supporting the pledge start to “green up” as well.

4-H Food Challenge Team

This group of students have been practicing hard over the winter months for a March District Competition. At the 4-H Food Challenge, much like the reality show Chopped, teams of 3-4 students receive a list of ingredients and have 40 minutes to create a dish. These teams then present their dish to judges where they are scored on preparation, serving size, food safety concerns, nutritional value, and cost. Culpeper County teams will compete at the District level with the potential to advance on to both a State and National contest.

4-H Livestock Competition Club

The Food Challenge Team focuses on cooking or preparing protein, while this group of students focuses on learning the scientific-based knowledge to successfully produce animal-based protein. Livestock producers, breeders, feeders, buyers, and packers all evaluate livestock for their potential as either breeding or market animals. In other words, they relate the “form” of an animal with the “function” in which it is intended to serve. This group of students has been learning how to do just that through the process of evaluating, selecting, placing, and learning about the various livestock species. The group has planned to represent Culpeper in numerous Springtime competitions.

CSR Overnight 4-H Camp: June 9-13, 2024

Planning and preparation for Overnight camp has been in full swing. When it comes to providing a child with a life-changing experience, there’s nothing quite like 4-H summer camp. Camp provides the full benefits of a 4-H experience coupled with the fun and wonder of camping in the great outdoors. Campers will select from a variety of classes such as archery, canoeing, cooking, arts and crafts, swimming, ropes course, etc. They will enjoy afternoon recreation; including daily swimming, and evening programs such as a talent show. A roommate request is guaranteed in our dorm style rooms so bring a friend. For more information on summer camp, please visit our camp website at: <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/2023-4hcamp/Home>.

Culpeper-Madison-Rappahannock Farm Show: July 11-15, 2024

Year-round work goes into the planning and preparation of the CMR Farm Show; 2024 is no exception. Make plans to join our 4-H family at what serves many students as the culminating experience of their 4-H project work. Tour the barns, see the animals, watch 4-H members compete in livestock competitions, enter exhibits, for both youth and adults, such as arts and crafts, fiber art, flowers and vegetables, pies, pound cakes, and cobblers. Visit the Homemaker’s Building to view the exhibits. Participate in special events such as the Cornhole Tournament, Little Mr. & Miss CMR Pageant, Bucket Babies, and more.

For more information visit the website at: [www.cmrfarmshow.com](http://www.cmrfarmshow.com).

Should you be interested in supporting any of the aforementioned opportunities or in joining 4-H, please reach out to the Extension Office as we work to continue offering these opportunities, and more, to the youth of Culpeper County.



**Extension - Continued**

Please see our Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/culpepercounty4H> or our office website: <https://culpeper.ext.vt.edu/>

*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Virginia Cooperative Extension, Culpeper Office, at 540-727-3435 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to discuss accommodations one week prior to this event.*

## Recognizing Excellence: Insights into the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet *by Sarah Langland*

On November 2, 2023, the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce hosted a memorable 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet, celebrating exceptional individuals and businesses that have made noteworthy contributions to the community. The evening showcased the diverse talents and achievements within the Culpeper business landscape, featuring awards in various categories.

The process of selecting recipients for these esteemed awards is thorough and careful. The Banquet Awards Committee, comprising three respected individuals who received awards in the previous year, two community members unaffiliated with the Chamber, the current board chair, and a dedicated member of the Banquet Planning Committee, carefully evaluates each nominee. Nominees underwent evaluation based on specific category criteria, utilizing a 1-5 point scoring system.

**Young Professional of the Year Criteria:**

This award recognizes a local professional under 40 who demonstrates creativity, innovation, character, consistency, and excellence in their field. Importantly, nominees are required to make meaningful contributions to the well-being of the community through their work or volunteer activities.

**Small Business of the Year Criteria:**

This accolade, awarded to businesses with less than 34 employees, is given to the entity that best embodies the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce values. Criteria include demonstrated growth, integrity, innovation, community engagement, volunteerism, customer service, and workforce development.

**Entrepreneur of the Year Criteria:**

This award is given to an individual who willingly accepts the challenges of entering the business world. Criteria include possessing critical and creative thinking skills, demonstrating initiative and drive to bring a product/service to market, and ownership and/or management of a successful business venture started within the past two years.

**Nonprofit of the Year Criteria:**

Awarded to the nonprofit making the most positive impact on the community. The criteria include:

- Innovation or consistent service.
- Offering a breadth and depth of services that improve the community's well-being.
- Initiating collaborative efforts for synergy and mutual success amongst partner organizations.

**Large Business of the Year Criteria:**

For businesses with 35 or more employees, the Large Business of the Year award criteria include demonstrated growth, integrity, innovation, community engagement, volunteerism, customer service, and workforce development.

**L.B. Henretty Outstanding Citizen Award Criteria:**

This prestigious award, created in 1971, has stringent eligibility criteria and selection criteria, including:

- Attainment of the age of 21 years by the date of the award,
- Residency in Culpeper for at least three years immediately prior to the award date. Shall not be eligible to receive the award more than once.
- Contributions to society through individual or organizational service without consideration of sex, race, color, or creed,
- Service or assistance rendered to individuals or groups on a community, county, or statewide basis, and
- Basic effectiveness of service and leadership resulting in tangible accomplishments.

The winners of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet, announced on this illustrious evening, are as follows:

- **Young Professional of the Year: Corrie Gyory, Mane Street Hair**
- **Small Business of the Year: Willow Moon Healing**
- **Entrepreneur of the Year: Courtney Simpson, Court's Kitchen**
- **Nonprofit of the Year: Culpeper Pride**
- **Large Business of the Year: Communications Corporation of America**
- **L.B. Henretty Outstanding Citizen: Scott Found, Found & Sons Funeral Chapels**

These individuals and businesses stood out for their exceptional commitment, leadership, and service, truly embodying the values and spirit of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to all the well-deserving winners!

**Looking Ahead: Nominations are now open 2024 110th Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet on November 7. Be a part of recognizing excellence in our community by nominating a person or business at [culpeperchamber.com/awards](https://culpeperchamber.com/awards).**



### Culpeper County Conference to help strengthen Culpeper Businesses

Be A Culpeper Local is excited to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual C3 – Culpeper County Conference, a free small business summit for

Culpeper County business owners and entrepreneurs. This year's event will be held Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Daniel Technology Center campus of Germanna Community College. The half-day event is made up of 2–90-minute workshops offering 3 topic options for each session, followed by a lunch panel.

The conference is free for all Culpeper County business owners. Registrants can attend a single session of interest or stay for the duration of the event. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Additional resources for small businesses, including information from the Small Business Development Center, will be available. Registration is open on [www.CulpeperConference.com](https://www.CulpeperConference.com).

Sessions Include:

- Attracting and Retaining Talent
- Sources of capital
- Identifying the Right Customer
- Prioritizing Your Time & Outsourcing
- Action Steps of Successful Selling & Sales
- Finding your Selling Superpower

Be a Culpeper Local is a program of Culpeper County's Department of Economic Development.



## ACCESS TO CAPITAL - WHERE'S THE MONEY?

Throughout the lifespan of your business, for any number of reasons, you may find you need extra cash. The stage of your business, start-up, early growth, expansion, all the way to exit, will help determine which types of capital and funding are available for you to access. Keep in mind that, at all stages, approaching any source of financing needs to be treated as a serious business transaction. Some key thoughts to consider:

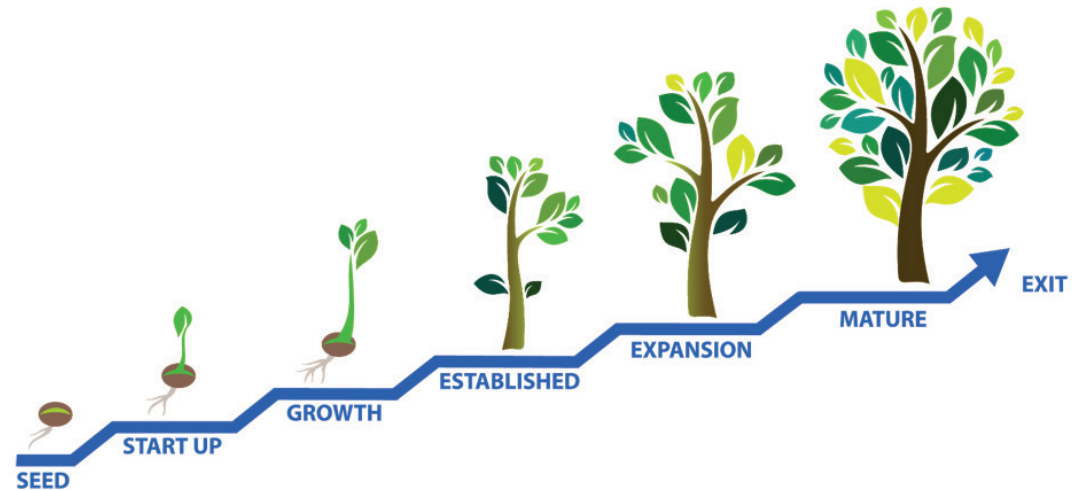
1) Are you ready with a statement of the use of funds, balance sheet and cash flow statement/projection? 2) Do you have a business plan, pitch deck or other form of communicating confidence in your business's ability to succeed with the capital? 3) Have you prepared your deal terms and a negotiation strategy before you approach a potential investor? How much are you willing to pay or give for the capital given to your business? And 4), if you are pursuing a loan or line of credit, what collateral is available to offer to the lender? If any of these terms are unfamiliar, the Small Business Development Center is here to meet with you and help you prepare.

Let's look at the different stages a business goes through and what types of financing options are available at these different stages.

### PRE-SEED, SEED, START-UP

There is capital available for you even in the very early stages of your business. Some of the strategies you can employ include:

1. **Friends and Family.** These are often the first lenders or investors for your business. The goal in any agreements with friends and family is to protect your relationship as well as your business. We recommend treating this group as you would any other outside investor. This would include presenting your business and marketing plan, sharing your projected sales and cash flow estimates, and agreeing on how much they are willing to invest, the timeline for payback, and how they will be paid back. Options for repayment can be creative, such as via the company product, equity in the company or repayment with or without interest. There are many options that can be tailored to both parties' wants and needs. Once an agreement is reached, write it down! If the deal needs to be renegotiated down the line that's fine, but there should be an up-front understanding, in writing, of the terms of your agreement. If you are considering any investment in your business, please speak with an advisor before proceeding.



### 2. *Cash Flow Enhancements.*

- a) When you are purchasing goods or services it is wise to ask for credit terms with your suppliers and provide the same to those paying you. If your customers are paying you within 30 days, and you have 60-day payment terms with your suppliers, the extra 30-days you get from your suppliers can really help your cash flow! That grace period in between (or "float") can keep you from having to use bank money, which will cost you in interest payments
- b) If you have other businesses in the area who are purchasing from the same supplier, and you can coordinate deliveries to share delivery fees and save on fuel surcharges, this can be another way to help your cash flow.
- c) Tax incentives, exemptions, and credits: Are you taking all of the tax breaks, for which your business is eligible? A tax accountant can be very helpful in this matter.
- d) Business credit cards: Getting a business credit card with a cash back option or with points can help you not only build credit for your business, but can provide valuable benefits. Keep in mind that retailers may offer cash back or reduced pricing for business accounts.

3. **Strategic Alliances.** Examples of strategic alliances include joint ventures, resale or licensing agreements, and consulting shared service or product agreements. Common strategic alliances include contract manufacturing or product distribution agreements. Can you imagine an alliance that allows you to avoid building everything you need yourself, but rather using what someone else has already built? Commercial kitchens are another example. A good strategic alliance considers benefits for both parties.

### START-UP – GROWTH

1. **Grants.** During the pandemic, there were many government-supported grants and loans for small businesses to keep the doors open and keep employees on the payroll. That funding is no longer available. Grants are usually for specific populations or industry groups that are of interest to the granting agency. For example if you are in high tech or an agriculture-related business, there are grants available through the Commonwealth of Virginia's Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPIC), Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other departments of the federal government. Grants are often very competitive, require you to fill out an application to their specifications, and meet deadlines for application and reporting.

Although most private grants are awarded to nonprofits, there are some that are awarded to small



businesses. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce publishes a list of grant opportunities on their website, which is updated monthly: <https://www.uschamber.com/co/run/business-financing/small-business-grants-and-programs>. You can also check with your Small Business Development Center, which tracks grants that are available for specific industries, for specific groups of people such as women-owned or minority-owned businesses, and more.

2. **CDFI Lenders.** A Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) helps promote access to capital and local economic growth by lending to startups, targeted populations, and small businesses. If you are a new business, this could be a source of capital for you, provided you meet the terms. The loan amount is limited – typically a maximum of \$50,000 or \$100,000 – and is personally guaranteed by the borrower. Two CDFIs who lend to Culpeper small businesses are the Community Investment Collaborative (CIC - <https://cicville.org/>) and People Inc. (<https://www.peopleinc.net/>). Visit their websites or talk to their loan officers (or your Central Virginia SBDC) for more information.

### GROWTH – ESTABLISHED - EXIT

1. **Loans & Lines of Credit.** Most banks require a business track record before they loan a business money. It's good practice to get to know your banker before you need to borrow money. A good local banker can be a great source of knowledge, can help you make connections to suppliers and customers, and can assist you in building a credit foundation for the business and a wide range of business needs.
2. **Equity Investments.** Investors, angel groups and venture capital firms provide equity investments. Equity investment is only appropriate for businesses that plan to have an exit, or future equity rounds. Why? Equity investors want their money back. Typically, 5-10x their original investment. Therefore, a lifestyle business that will not grow is not a fit for traditional venture capital.
3. **Revenue Sharing.** For small businesses, revenue sharing is a way to improve cash flow and is typically governed by a revenue sharing agreement (RSA). For example, a business owner may share profits when another business refers to

new customers. Revenue sharing can be flexible in design to share operating profits or losses among associated financial actors and can ensure each entity is fairly compensated for its efforts.

4. **Initial Public Offering, or IPO,** is a form of raising capital in which shares of a company are sold to institutional investors and retail (individual) investors. One or more investment banks assist with the launch of an IPO by guaranteeing the price (underwriting) and arranging for the stock to be sold on one or more stock exchanges. In undergoing an IPO, a company is no longer privately owned. The cost and reporting requirements for access to this type of capital are usually quite high. The primary costs involved include banking and legal fees and ongoing reporting requirements.
5. **Mergers and Acquisitions,** better known as M&A, are appropriate for more than just late-stage businesses. Businesses that have captured market share and demonstrated value may benefit from M&A, even at sales levels below \$1M annually. Traditionally, when a business wants to buy another business or sell the business, they use a M&A bank or M&A strategist to identify buyers in their industry and drill into the details of the business, the business assets, and to find weaknesses, opportunities, and identify what the business is worth. M&A firms may also put feelers out to potential buyers and prepare materials to attract those buyers.
6. **Licensing.** Licensing know-how, intellectual property or business assets is another way to bring capital into a business. Given the diversity of licensing options, we will not explore that topic at length in this article. Everything from licensing brands, recipes and processes to patented technology may be considered under licensing.

### Good financial planning is key to keeping your business profitable!

The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center holds office hours in the Economic Development Center, 803 South Main, Culpeper Virginia. To schedule an appointment please visit our website at <https://cvsbdc.org/>.



People Incorporated is a non-profit with locations across Virginia, including Culpeper. People Inc. is committed to providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged people to reach their goals to enhance their lives, their families, and their communities. We offer family services, financial services, education, housing, employment training, and community services in our 16 city and county service region across Virginia.

Our Culpeper office is located at 233 East Davis St., Suite 100 and 300. Call the office at 833-277-9330, email [info@peopleinc.net](mailto:info@peopleinc.net) or visit our website at [peopleinc.net](http://peopleinc.net) to learn more.

Find program updates, events, and community resources by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

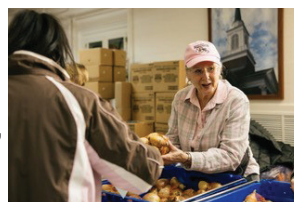
### People Inc.'s Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Culpeper is looking for dedicated volunteers

to represent the best interests of foster children in the court system. Learn more about this volunteer opportunity by contacting Bri Taylor at 540-317-1665 or emailing [bataylor@peopleinc.net](mailto:bataylor@peopleinc.net).



### Empowering Culpeper will continue to hold their community food distributions on the third Saturday of every month in Culpeper.

The service has now expanded to include personal care and hygiene items, as well as pet food supplies. Visit People Inc.'s Facebook page, call 540-935-0047, or email [empoweringculpeper@gmail.com](mailto:empoweringculpeper@gmail.com) for location and distribution dates.



Interested in volunteering with Empowering Culpeper? Email [volunteer@peopleinc.net](mailto:volunteer@peopleinc.net).

Did you know that People Inc. offers personal loans, business loans, services for ex-offenders, homeless services, volunteer services, family services, free tax preparation services, and affordable housing in Culpeper? Call the Culpeper Office for more information at 833-277-9330, visit our website at [peopleinc.net](http://peopleinc.net) or email [info@peopleinc.net](mailto:info@peopleinc.net).



People Incorporated's **Whole Family Approach** provides one-on-one coaching and support for the entire family. For more information, contact Sue Bridges at [sbridges@peopleinc.net](mailto:sbridges@peopleinc.net).



## Financial Assistance for Septic System Maintenance and Repair Available to Most Culpeper Residents

Many Culpeper County residents are eligible for reimbursement of 50 to 80 percent toward the expense of pumping, maintaining, repairing, or replacing private septic systems. The Mountain Run, Muddy Run and Hazel River watersheds contain nearly all of Culpeper County except lands lying south of State Route 3, which drain directly to the Rapidan River, and areas north of Jeffersonton which drain directly to the Rappahannock River. The Hubbard Run area is also excluded.

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) grants program continues to expand its funding to help reduce bacteria pollution in local streams. The series of grants are focused on reducing any existing or potential impacts on local ground and surface water quality. Levels of E. coli bacteria in some local streams have long been identified as being higher than expected by state quality standards. Repairing or replacing dysfunctional septic systems helps to reduce E. Coli levels. An additional benefit to the property owner is the assurance that their system is up to standard and functioning properly -- It's a win-win for both water quality and property value.

Program participants are eligible for several different payments depending on the actual needs of their systems. Options include pump outs, repairs, inspections, and full system replacements. Reimbursements cover 50 percent of costs but can go as high as 80 percent based on low-income status.

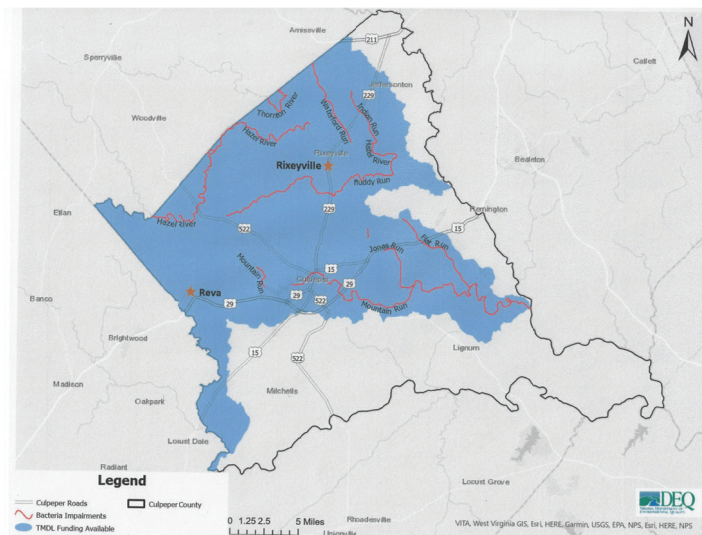
Pump outs are recommended every 3-5 years and inspections are encouraged for older systems; such preventative maintenance can extend the life of a system and if repairs are indicated during the inspection, owners are eligible for additional repair payments.

Applications are required and need to be approved prior to the work being started, or funding can be declined. Free assistance with initial assessments of system needs is available from the District. Reimbursement payments are made promptly once the work has been completed. The program is entirely voluntary and assistance from the District is free of charge.

For more information on the program, call the CWSCD at (540) 825-8591. Funding for these projects have been secured but the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## Road and Driveway Maintenance Guide Available

Now is a great time to start maintenance of your road or driveway! Over time, many roads and driveways deteriorate for a variety of reasons: poor initial design or construction, poor maintenance, extreme weather or heavy traffic. In addition to costly repairs, many roads and roadside ditches drain into local streams delivering both sediment and gravel into stream channels. This is destructive to the stream, resulting in loss of stream bottom habitat and channel capacity. Improved maintenance incorporating best management practices (BMPs) can save money and better protect waterways.



Currently available to property owners is the Dirt and Gravel Road BMP Guide, published with funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The guide can be found at the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District website ([www.culpeperswcd.org](http://www.culpeperswcd.org)) under Publications. Hard copies can be picked up from CSWCD as well as your local Extension office or Building office. For technical assistance, contact Richard Jacobs at 540-825-8591 or [RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:RichardJ@culpeperswcd.org).

Culpeper County is represented on the Culpeper SWCD Board of Directors by Elected Directors Tom O'Halloran and Dennis Verhoff as well as Associate Director Bob Williamson.

As always, Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is available with cost share for agricultural producers, technical assistance for all residents, hands on classroom/Zoom programs and rain barrels! Contact Stephanie DeNicola at [stephanied@culpeperswcd.org](mailto:stephanied@culpeperswcd.org) or 540-825-8591 for more information.



## Culpeper County Voter Registration & Election Office



### Spring Forward by Confirming Your Registration

A good TIME to check and update your voter registration is when we spring ahead in March.

The Culpeper County Voter Registration and Election Office website, <https://web.culpepercounty.gov/registrar>, is a one-stop outlet for spring cleaning your voter registration. Visit our website to:

- Register to vote;
- Check and confirm your registration information;
- Update your registration address;
- Update your name if you've had a name change;
- Find out where you vote;
- Find information about voting absentee if you'll be out of the area on Election Day (especially helpful for first-time voters like collegebound students or deployed military).

For those who want to register, or know they need to update their information, it couldn't be simpler. With your social security number and driver's license, you'll be able to complete the application online and it will likely be processed the same day. Within 7-10 days, you'll receive a voter notification letter, and you'll know you're set to vote in November.

It is only necessary to register to vote one time. Your voter registration information will remain on file for all future elections. However, if you have a name or address change, it is your responsibility to update your registration.

Avoid having any issues this fall and check your voter registration this spring.

**CULPEPER COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK - CARSON W. BEARD**

To the Citizens of Culpeper County,

I am so honored and humbled to serve the community as the Clerk of Court. Thank you all for everything. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday (540) 727-3438.

**PUBLIC OFFICE STAFF:**

Jennifer L. Weakley, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Sylvia Renninger, Administrative Assistant Deputy Clerk  
Stacy S. Putnam, Deputy Clerk  
Nicole Richardson Fields, Deputy Clerk  
Kristen E. Lee, Deputy Clerk  
Shaneil Williams-Butler, Deputy Clerk

**COURTROOM STAFF:**

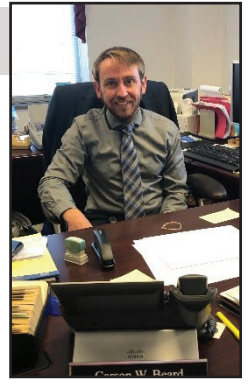
Stephanie Voss, Deputy Clerk  
Courtne Koontz, Deputy Clerk  
Helen Casillas, Deputy Clerk  
Ashley Fox, Deputy Clerk  
Elizabeth Rybarczyk, Deputy Clerk

**INFORMATION:**

Please check out the Clerk of Court page on Culpeper County's government website. It contains a lot of helpful information about the office including information about concealed handgun permits, marriage licenses, estate matters, juries, etc. The URL is <https://web.culpepercounty.gov/circuit>. We will continue to post more and more information about the office on this page.

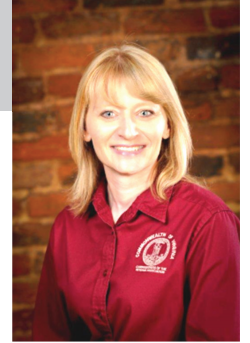
As we approach Spring, I thought I would take this opportunity to share some basics around the courthouse. The Culpeper County Courthouse is located at 135 W. Cameron St. in the Town of Culpeper. Unfortunately, parking in and around the Town of Culpeper can be difficult. There is a center parking lot right across from the entrance of the courthouse on 135 W. Cameron St. that has a few parking spaces for the public in the center of the lot. The spaces along the edge are mostly reserved parking and are indicated as such with signs. The next parking area near the courthouse is the lot located at the corner of West Cameron St. and West St, with access to this lot off West Cameron St. This lot also has spaces for timed public parking, but there are some spaces with signs that are reserved parking. Right across from that lot, also on West Cameron St., are some timed public spaces which the Town of Culpeper controls. The spaces nearest to the courthouse though in that lot are permit only. The next area of parking is a public lot located off Blue Ridge Ave., right across from the main entrance to Yowell Meadow Park. To access the courthouse from this area, you must use steps leading up to the previously mentioned parking lot and then access another set of steps to the sidewalk on West St. I have suggested in the past a potential need for a sidewalk along West Cameron St and Blue Ridge Ave. where the lots are located for safer and easier access to the courthouse. There are unfortunately only two Accessible Parking spaces right outside the entrance of the courthouse to the left of the doors. Of course, there is always parking along some of the streets where allowed by the Town of Culpeper and some lots that are further away, including the lots off West Culpeper St. and West Locust St.

Once in the courthouse, there are three floors. No electronic devices are allowed unless you have received prior permission by one of the Clerk's Offices or a Judge of one of the Courts. If you have access to a vehicle, please leave the device(s) in said vehicle. If you walked or were dropped-off, there are a limited number of small lockers where you can store your device(s), but they are first come, first served. The first floor contains the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. They have a clerk's office and two courtrooms located down a hallway on your left when you pass security. The second floor contains this office, the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. It can be accessed via an elevator straight ahead when you enter the first floor, or by steps located to the right of the elevator. If you need to access the General District Court and clerk's office, that court and office is located on the third floor with access via the same routes as previously mentioned. Depending on what route you take to the third floor, the General District Court Clerk's Office is located straight ahead when stepping out of the elevator and the courtroom for General District Court is located straight ahead and to the right. If you exit from the stairwell, the General District Court Clerk's Office is located straight ahead and to the left in the lobby and the courtroom is located to the right of that office. If you need to go to the Circuit Court Courtroom, then said courtroom is also on the third floor and can be found to the right when exiting off the elevator down a long, "L"-shaped hallway with the entrance at the end of the hallway on the right side. If you exit off the stairwell, then it is straight ahead and to the right down the same hallway. I hope this information helps in navigating in and around this courthouse as it can be confusing if you have never been here.





## Commissioner of the Revenue Terry L. Yowell



### Commissioner's Office considers high mileage when valuing vehicles

#### Most Popular Question:

Does my vehicle have to have over 100,000 miles in order to make application for high mileage adjustment?

**Answer: NO.**

By law, if mileage is taken into consideration as an adjustment to the January 1st assessed value, the adjustment must be determined using the mileage table included with the January issue of the J. D. Power Official Used Car Guides (formerly NADA). The effect of mileage for qualifying vehicles will vary according to the class and age of the vehicle. If you believe your vehicle may qualify for a value adjustment due to high mileage, please complete a high mileage application, attach third party documentation and submit to the Commissioner of the Revenue. Applications may be obtained online or by contacting the Commissioner's office. Documentation must be legible and must indicate mileage on or before January 1st of the tax assessment year seeking such adjustment. Documentation may be in the form of a state inspection receipt (displaying year, make, model and VIN), oil change or service center repair receipt, or simply have the garage read your odometer and document it. In order to ensure the highest value reduction, submit documentation indicating the mileage as close to January 1st as possible. As always, if you have any questions, please stop by, call or email me.

**Please note that the documentation must be submitted annually until the mileage reaches 245,001**

**High mileage adjustments are not available on motorcycles, motor homes, large trucks or trailers**

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME



### CULPEPER COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

TERRY L. YOWELL, MCR  
PO BOX 1807  
151 N MAIN ST, SUITE 201  
CULPEPER VA 22701  
PHONE: (540) 727-3443 FAX: (540) 727-3472

### 2024 APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE HIGH MILEAGE ADJUSTMENT

If you believe your vehicle may qualify for a value adjustment due to high mileage, please complete this form, attach third party documentation and submit to the Commissioner of the Revenue. Documentation must be legible and must indicate mileage on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the tax assessment year seeking such adjustment. Documentation may be in the form of a state inspection receipt (displaying year, make, model and VIN), oil change or service center repair receipt, or simply have the garage read your odometer and document it. In order to ensure the highest value reduction, submit documentation indicating the mileage as close to January 1<sup>st</sup> as possible. By law, if mileage is taken into consideration as an adjustment to January 1<sup>st</sup> fair market assessed value, the adjustment must be determined using the mileage table included with the January issue of the J.D. Power (formerly NADA) guide.

**Please note that the documentation must be SUBMITTED ANNUALLY until the mileage reaches 245,001**  
**High mileage adjustments are not available on motorcycles, motor homes, large trucks or trailers**

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete and sign this form.
- Attach proper high mileage documentation, i.e. oil change receipts, state inspection slips, or repair bills. **Please do not send the originals.** Documentation provided must be dated on or before **January 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Return this application and your documentation to the mailing address listed above.

AGE OF VEHICLE	REQUIRED MINIMUM MILEAGE AS OF JAN 01	VEHICLE INFORMATION		VIN (VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER)	
		YR	MAKE	MODEL	
1 year old (2023)	20,001				
2 years old (2022)	35,001				
3 years old (2021)	45,001	LICENSE PLATE		USED MORE THAN 50% FOR BUSINESS: YES NO	
4 years old (2020)	60,001			VEHICLE IS GARAGED IN: COUNTY TOWN	
5 years old (2019)	70,001	OWNER INFORMATION		SSN/FEDERAL ID	
6 years old (2018)	85,001	LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MI SUFFIX
7 years old (2017)	95,001				
8 years old (2016)	105,001	CO-OWNER		SSN/FEDERAL ID	
9 years old (2015)	120,001	LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MI SUFFIX
10 years old (2014)	130,001				
11 years old (2013)	140,001				
12 years old (2012)	150,001	STREET ADDRESS			
13 years old (2011)	155,001				
14-19 years old (2005-2010)	165,001	CITY/STATE/ZIP			
20 years old or more	No additional adjustment				

Pursuant to Code of Virginia §58.1-11, any such person who willfully subscribes any such return which he/she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

DECLARATION BY TAXPAYER: I declare that the foregoing statements are true, full and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

SIGNATURE	DATE	PHONE/E-MAIL
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	Date documentation received:	Tax Year:
Clean trade-in value as of January 1:	Mileage used:	Auditor Initials:
Less High Mileage Allowance:	Account #:	
Equals value of:	Comments:	

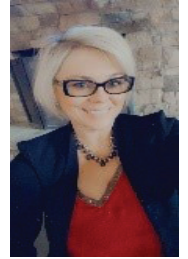
Commissioner of the Revenue  
151 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA 22701  
Email: [tyowell@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:tyowell@culpepercounty.gov) website: [web.culpepercounty.gov](http://web.culpepercounty.gov)

**CULPEPER COUNTY TREASURER, Missy N. White**

Dear Culpeper Citizens,

I hope this issue of the Culpeper Quarterly finds you all well! I know we are all ready for Spring and some warmer weather! As always, it continues to be my pleasure to serve as your Culpeper County Treasurer. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you ever need assistance or have any questions regarding your tax bills.

*~Missy N. White*



**DO YOU 'CRINGE' WHEN YOU  
GET YOUR ANNUAL TAX BILL?  
HERE'S AN EASY WAY TO MAKE  
PAYMENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!!**



### **MONTHLY AUTOMATIC DEBIT (ACH) PAYMENT PROGRAM!**

We are thrilled to offer Culpeper citizens the opportunity to have monthly payments automatically drafted from your checking account to pay towards your annual tax bill! This program is designed to make paying your taxes easy, convenient and hassle-free.

- There is no charge to participate in this program.
- By enrolling in this program, you are authorizing Culpeper County Treasurer's Office to deduct agreed upon payment(s) from your financial institution on the 1st of each month, beginning the month following enrollment. These amounts will be applied to any delinquent tax bill first or, if no balance, will be put into a 'prepay' account to be applied to your annual tax bill.

We are very excited to offer this program as we are continually striving to make our services more convenient and cost effective for our citizens.

Please contact our office at 540.727.3442 or [missynwhite@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:missynwhite@culpepercounty.gov) for more information or to obtain an enrollment form.

**NOT INTERESTED IN THE AUTO-PAYMENT OPTION?  
NO PROBLEM!  
YOU CAN PREPAY TOWARDS YOUR TAXES AT ANY TIME BY MAIL,  
IN PERSON OR ONLINE!  
LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP!**



## Commonwealth's Attorney

On December 21, 2023, Russell L. "Russ" Rabb III received the oath of office as Commonwealth's Attorney for a term of office commencing on January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2027. This term of office coincides with all other constitutional officers except for the Clerk of the Court who has an eight-year term. Also receiving the oath were Travis Owens and Maggie Cleary who will both serve as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorneys. Additionally, William Waller, Peyton Devine and Cindy Edwards were sworn as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys.

The oath of office for all Commonwealth's Attorneys reads as follows: "I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as Commonwealth's Attorney according to the best of my ability so help me God."

The primary duty of the Commonwealth Attorney is to prosecute all felonies. The Commonwealth's Attorney may prosecute class 1, 2, or 3 misdemeanors. This would encompass any criminal violation with a fine of \$500 or more. The Culpeper Commonwealth's Attorney's Office does prosecute misdemeanors. However, the Commonwealth Attorney does not handle civil matters except with limited exceptions such as expungements, firearms rights restorations or basically civil matters that are related to a criminal prosecution. The Commonwealth's Attorney has a number of other responsibilities such as collection of fines and fees, conflict of interest advisory opinions for certain governmental officers, and special prosecutions for other counties or cities. One of the most important duties involves legal training for law enforcement officers and working with them to promote an efficient and fair administration of justice.

A little bit about Russ:

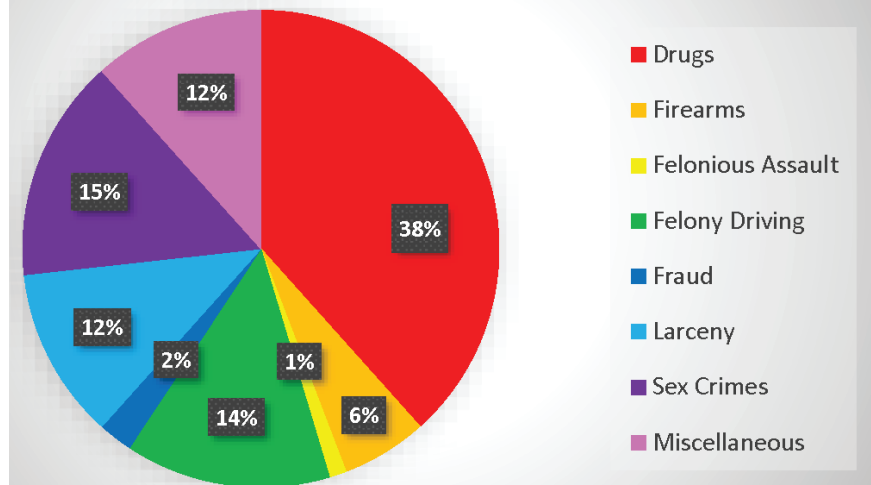


He is a native of Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from James Madison University with a B.A in English and received his law degree from Appalachian School of Law. After getting married in 2006, he and his wife moved to Culpeper. Since 2006, he has served as a prosecutor with Fauquier and Culpeper Counties. He has prosecuted over fifty jury trials and many more felony bench trials. He has tried everything from murder and rape to fraud and drug distribution.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his two children and his two dogs. He is a member of Culpeper Presbyterian Church where he previously served as an elder. He is also a

board member for the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program ("VASAP"), Fauquier Hospital, and Grymes Memorial School.

## December 2023 Felony Grand Jury



Cases of Interest:

On September 19, 2023, Debbie Hilton was sentenced in the Culpeper Circuit Court on two counts of Felony Embezzlement in reference to taking more than \$600,000.00 from Bingham and Taylor while she was employed there between March 2022 and March 2023. She received a sentence of thirty-eight years with all but three years suspended. She was ordered to pay restitution in full to the business and was placed on supervised probation for five years upon release.

On October 5, 2023, Daiquan Thompson was convicted and sentenced to thirty years with all but six years suspended on charges relating to Possession with Intent to Distribute a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance, Possession of a Firearm while possessing a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance, and Possession of a Firearm by a felon. He was placed on five years of supervised probation upon release, twenty years of good behavior and forfeited over \$2,000.00 to the Commonwealth as proceeds from his criminal activity.

On December 12, 2023, Richard Cannon pleaded guilty to Possession with Intent to Distribute a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance, Second Offense. He was sentenced to forty years and a fine of \$100,000.00 with all but eight years and \$5,000.00 of the fine suspended. He also received an additional active sentence of one year on a probation violation arising from the new charges. He was placed on supervised probation for a period of five years and good behavior for forty years. The defendant also forfeited U.S. Currency to the Commonwealth as proceeds from his criminal activity.

On January 4, 2024, Dont'e Tibbs pleaded guilty to and was found guilty of Felony Escape and Failure to Appear. He was sentenced to a total of ten years with all but two years and six months suspended. He received additional active time on a probation violation related to the new charges. It was recommended that he serve his sentence in the Virginia Department of Corrections Therapeutic Community to aid his substance abuse treatment.

A publication of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors

# Culpeper Quarterly



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## General Aviation - Flights of Compassion by Tanya Woodward & Kley Parkhurst

With every quarterly article, I try to give a quick glimpse into the world of General Aviation (GA) and the many facets that make it a truly amazing industry to be a part of. At least 2 of the four articles talk about our annual Air Fest, where we educate, entertain and honor all things aviation and our largest event of the year. However, this article is a little different, it is more personal and a one-on-one with one of our based tenants- Kley Parkhurst. Kley volunteers his time and his aircraft to fly people to and from needed medical appointments as well as assisting with animal rescues. It is written in his words and it shows what a profound impact aviation has had on his life and how he then has been able to use his talent and help others.

*"Friends of my mine have been asking, how has all of this charity flying changed you?"*

*I've thought a lot about the question, and concluded: humbled.*

*I am humbled by the incredible fortitude of the patients I fly, who have the perseverance to confront incredible challenges. Some are so young they have never known another way, and others were struck, out of the blue, by some life-threatening condition that has completely changed their lives. Yet they have somehow managed to find a path forward, often with very limited resources. Many I fly have incurable or terminal illnesses, but you wouldn't know that from their attitude and smiles. A few I've flown have passed, and others have been 'cured'. It is truly an emotional roller coaster.*

*I am humbled by the 24x7x365 commitment of people in the animal rescue world. The efforts they put forth to save innocent animals, frequently snatched at the last minute from being euthanized, is inspiring. And there is a darker side to this story as well, not all are "Fluffy", who can be given a bath and adopted in 3 days. Some of these dogs have been used for fighting or breeding in a puppy-mill, been caged or tied up outside their entire lives, or are neglected, malnourished or abandoned. The time, cost and love it takes to rescue, vet, socialize and place these dogs is beyond belief. And while we may be making a small dent in the problem, for each saved, there are probably 25 more left behind. Tough.*

*And I am humbled by incredible generosity of my old and new friends who have supported my mission. About a year ago, when I really started to get into this, I put*

*out a plea for support which was basically, I fly a certain amount now, but could fly more with financial help. Well, you supported me beyond my wildest expectations, and fly more I did!*

*YTD, I have flown 709 hours, of which 517 hours was 114 charity flights, transporting 76 patients and 54 passengers in 80 missions, and 244 dogs in 34 Pilots N Paws missions. To put this in some perspective, the average airline pilot flies about 700 hours a year (and is legally bound to 1,000 or less), and the average private pilot flies 95 hours.*

*With your generous support, I fly as often as my schedule (and wife) (and working airplanes) (and weather) allows. I would like to continue flying as many missions as possible in 2024, and am humbly asking for additional contributions to keep the avgas flowing. Please note that 100% of your donation is used to purchase fuel for missions. The cost of fuel is about 2/3 of the overall cost per hour of operating the plane.*

*If you would like to donate directly to any of the many charities that I fly for, they are listed here and are always in need of donations. [Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic/ Elevated Access/ Angel Flight East/ PALS/Pilots N Paws/ Sky Hope](#) and [Angel Flight of New England](#).*

*Thank you everyone for your support in these missions, whether you are on the ground rescuing dogs, coordinating missions for people in need, providing financial support to enable my Avgas addiction, or simply saying a kind word or "like" on my Facebook page."*

*We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give – Sir Winston Churchill*

