

# CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

County names new Director of Animal Services to oversee shelter

A2, LOCAL



Celebrate Earth Week by volunteering at Park Day in Culpeper on Saturday

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Thursday, April 23, 2026

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## REDISTRICTING REFERENDUM

# For Culpeper, a definitive no

Statewide, new Democrat majority maps pass with 51%

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

Culpeper County and its four adjoining counties overwhelmingly said no at the polls Tuesday to the

Virginia redistricting that narrowly passed statewide and redraws the congressional districts 10-1 to favor Democrats.

The referendum narrowly passed 51% to 49% across Virginia, separated by over 88,000 votes of more than 3 million cast in the special election, according to the Virginia Department of Elections. The old maps were 6-5 in favor of Democrats.

"I'm sure our founding fathers are rolling over in their graves," Culpeper County Republican Chairwoman Lynne Richman Bell posted on Facebook Tuesday night. "I guess I'll go back to being a hermit on the farm with my guns and my horses. "Hopefully, the Supreme Court thinks that words matter and constitutionality matters. Somehow, I'm reminded of the

French Revolution..."

The Virginia Supreme Court gave the green light to proceed with the special election after a GOP challenge earlier this year, but the court left the door open for a final ruling after the referendum.

The official ballot question formed by Democrats in charge in

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# CAPITAL WING SOARS AT WINGS OVER WILMINGTON



LAURA SALMON, GLANTZ MEDIAS

CAF warbird flies low over the Wilmington, N.C. Atlantic shoreline during the Warbirds Over Wilmington event earlier this month.

## Warbird flyers based at Culpeper Airport fly low over Atlantic Coast

CULPEPER STAR-EXPONENT

Commemorative Air Force Capital Wing Pilot Phil McLanahan flies a Japanese Fuji LM-1, one of only five in the world still flying, during the recent Wings Over Wilmington event in Wilmington, N.C. This warbird is seen at many Capital Wing Warbird Expo events.

Warbird rides are typically a 30-minute experience, priced to fit all budgets,

starting at \$225 and going up to \$1,350 for both seats in the TBM Avenger torpedo bomber. The next CAF Capital Wing events will take place at the Williamsburg Executive Airport May 9 and at Shenandoah Valley Airport in Weyers Cave May 16-17. Warbird Rides support the nonprofit Capital Wing, based at Culpeper Regional Airport, to keep the 80-year-old planes in flying condition.

## THREE OAKS

# Move-ins starting in age-restricted neighborhood

Nearly 40 homeowners expected in next several months in Nalles Mill Road development

ALLISON BROPHY CHAMPION  
Culpeper Star-Exponent

New citizens are beginning to move into Culpeper's first 55+ housing development, located along Nalles Mill Road just outside of town.

"We just recently celebrated our first closing at ThreeOaks, which is a tremendous milestone for this community," said Jason King, general manager for Shea Homes in Virginia, in recent correspondence with the Star-Exponent.

Some early infrastructure delays related to gas line work have since been resolved, he said.

"We're heading into a busy stretch of moving in nearly 40 homeowners over the next few months. The clubhouse construction is underway, and we're looking forward to grandly opening our model homes this summer," King said.

The clubhouse is slated to open in late 2026 or early 2027, he said, and a trail system, pocket park and entry landscaping in the development have been completed. A ThreeOaks Lifestyle Director has been hired and will start in late May, King said.

The planned 262-home subdivision, advertised as a boutique community, sits on a former farm parcel along the railroad and Mountain Run. Offerings will include an outdoor pool and pickleball courts in addition to the clubhouse with a restaurant/bar and gym.

The housing units are currently priced at starting just under \$500,000 up to \$560,000 for a two-story home with a loft, according to sheahomes.com

The response from buyers has been strong, King said, adding they're excited to see the community come to life.

"In addition to the sold homes nearing completion, we have an additional 10 move-in-ready homes. We are closing between two and three homes per week, which is a pretty big task, while remaining focused on the quality and experience that sets Shea Homes apart," he said.

A national developer of neighborhoods for older adults, Shea Homes began developing ThreeOaks in Culpeper after its market research showed that many potential residents preferred smaller communities, according to a release. Homes range from 1,829 to

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Keep an eye out for Knights of Columbus in bright yellow vests collecting for KOVAR COMMUNITY, A3

## Weather

Partly sunny, very warm  
High 82 • Low 50  
Forecast • A6

## Inside

360	INSIDE	LIVELY	INSIDE	OPINION	A5
CLASSIFIEDS	B6	LOCAL	A2	SPORTS	B1
COMMUNITY	A3	OBITUARIES	A3	WEATHER	A6

