

The Free Lance-Star

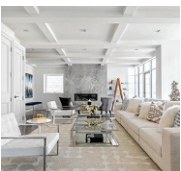
Coaching reflections

Cignetti, Deboer once worked at others school, to meet at Rose Bowl. **SPORTS, PAGE B1**



Flow & function

Furniture arrangement tips for your space. **HOUSE & HOME, PAGE A9**



Friday, December 26, 2025

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

Fredericksburg.com • \$3

County to give water to Clark Patton Road residents

Homeowners upset about impacts to wells from nearby development

CATHY DYSON
The Free Lance-Star

Stafford County is providing temporary water, at no cost, to residents of Clark Patton Road who

say they're having problems with their wells as a result of a nearby development.

A Wednesday story in The Free Lance-Star detailed impassioned pleas made last week from some of the 12 residents of Clark Patton Road, off U.S. 17 and near the Walmart in the Hartwood District. Homeowners said that since construction crews began developing lots at nearby Westlake — approved in 1989 and slated to have

701 single-family homes — some residents have had to dig new wells and others are having water-related problems.

Andrew Spence, Stafford spokesman, provided additional information about the county's efforts late Tuesday night, after the newspaper's deadline. Details about Stafford's next steps, and corrections to the initial story, are included here. Longer-term options the county is considering for Clark Patton

Road residents include reviewing the infrastructure, developing waterlines to their road and the use of state or federal assistance programs.

"The county will continue to communicate with residents and explore feasible pathways forward within the constraints of state law and existing approvals," Spence said in an email.

The Stafford Board of Supervisors rezoned the land for

Westlake in 1989, then proffers were amended in 2006. The development will be served by public water and sewer, and Spence said the infrastructure has been constructed but not activated.

While lot development has been ongoing, no homes have been built at Westlake. The first three building permits were issued in early December.

Please see **WATER**, Page A14



GREGORIO BORGIA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Leo XIV waves after delivering the Urbi et Orbi (Latin for "to the city and to the world") Christmas day blessing Thursday from the main balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Pope urges faithful to shed indifference

SILVIA STELLACCI AND COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV during his first Christmas Day message Thursday urged

the faithful to shed indifference in the face of those who have lost everything, such as in Gaza, those who are impoverished, such as in Yemen, and the many migrants who cross the Mediterranean Sea

and the American continent for a better future.

The first U.S. pontiff addressed some 26,000 people from the loggia overlooking St. Peter's Square for the traditional papal

"Urbi et Orbi" address, Latin for "To the City and to the World," which serves as a summary of the woes facing the world.

Please see **POPE**, Page A14

Police seek help with 'Christmas miracle'

An individual turned in a lost envelope of cash found in the Central Park area

SCOTT SHENK
The Free Lance-Star

The Fredericksburg Police Department on Tuesday afternoon posted on Facebook that they are "trying to assist with making a Christmas miracle come true! Yesterday, a special person turned in a large quantity of U.S. currency that was packaged in a particular envelope. The money was found on December 22 around 3:30pm in the Central Park area."

"If you lost this money please contact the Fredericksburg Police Department 540/373-3122, Option 2, and ask for Officer Bach," the post continued.

The department said anyone claiming the money will need to provide specific facts.

Please see **POLICE**, Page A14



PETER CIHELKA, THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Shown in November, the Potomac Church Tech Center, along Old Potomac Church Road near Stafford Hospital, is one of five data center projects approved before Stafford County adopted stricter regulations in October.

Officials, residents tackle data center issues

In the region, localities putting regulations in place

CATHY DYSON AND SCOTT SHENK
The Free Lance-Star

Every locality in the Fredericksburg region continued to deal with the issue of data centers in 2025 and how to strike a balance between the revenue the projects generate and the impact they have on their

neighbors.

Fredericksburg City Council approved a Technology Overlay District in February and is dealing with various applications totaling millions of feet of data-center space. While the complexes will be allowed "by right" in the district, the city's Planning Commission, and residents, made it clear in December that such a project on Gateway Boulevard doesn't fit the city's comprehensive plan. The City Council will deal

with that development next year.

Meanwhile, Spotsylvania and Stafford counties adopted regulations on issues that most concern residents: how close the centers are to neighborhoods, schools and natural resources.

In October, Stafford officials decided 750 feet would be the magic number. Two months later, Spotsylvania went with 400 feet. Here's a closer look at each locality.

Please see **DATA CENTERS**, Page A14

VIEW: Download The Free Lance-Star's mobile app. Point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

Weather
Rain and drizzle
High 40 • Low 35
FORECAST • XX

Inside

ADVICE	A11	HOROSCOPE	A11	OBITUARIES	A5	SUDOKU	A13
CLASSIFIEDS	A7	HOUSE & HOME	A9	OPINION	A4	TV PAGE	A12
COMICS	A13	NATION & WORLD	A2	SPORTS	B1	WEATHER	B6



\$3.00 • FRIDAY • Volume 141, Issue 360 • A Lee Enterprises Newspaper • Copyright 2025

Follow us online: [f/fredericksburgdotcom](#) [X/NewsInTheBurg](#)

ESTIMATES ON FLOORING REPAIRS

Do you need your present flooring repaired?
Call Warren Shaw for free estimate.

ESTIMATES ON FLOORING REPAIRS

Do you need your present flooring repaired?
Call Warren Shaw for free estimate.

NO INTEREST FINANCING
for 12 Months with Synchrony Bank
(must be approved prior to purchase)

Celebrating 59 years in 2026

Shaw's Carpets Inc.

4424 LAFAYETTE BLVD. | FREDERICKSBURG VA
540-898-4993 | TOLL FREE 844-898-1434
MON-FRI 9AM-5PM, SAT 9AM-4PM, SUN CLOSED
WWW.SHAWSCARPETSANDFLOORS.COM
CARPETING • HARDWOOD FLOORING • LVP & LAMINATE FLOORS
FLOORING REPAIR • AREA RUGS • VINYL FLOORING

Installation available by our quality in-house installers!