

The News & Advance

Lynchburg-area colleges project fall enrollment for the 2026-27 academic year.
LOCAL & STATE, PAGE B1



Brookville, LCA and Liberty High football teams all win in new coach debuts.
SPORTS, PAGE C1

Sunday, August 30, 2026 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES newsadvance.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAMMERING OUT HOPE IN HILL CITY



MATTHEW PERSCHALL PHOTOS, THE NEWS & ADVANCE
Volunteers help construct a wall as part of Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity's Women Build initiative Saturday.

Lynchburg women construct affordable home for local family through initiative

RACHAEL SMITH
The News & Advance

Lynchburg women from across the community are coming together this month to help build a home for a local family through Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity's Women Build initiative.

The project brings together women representing local government, healthcare, higher education, manufacturing, business and the nonprofit sector for a hands-on effort to address the need for affordable homeownership in the city.

Marjette Upshur, the city of Lynchburg's director of economic development and

tourism, is among the women participating. "What drew me to Women Build was how tangible it is," Upshur said. "This is not just a conversation about affordable housing or community need; it is a hands-on opportunity to help build something real for a local family. I also loved the idea of women from across the community using our networks, our time and our energy to support Habitat's work in such a visible and practical way."

Upshur said the project also highlights the connection between housing and economic development.

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Ashley Palmer cuts a piece of wood as part of Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity's Women Build initiative Saturday.

LYNCHBURG Audit of camera system planned

LPD aims to ID third-party vendor to examine use of Flock as opposition grows

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

As opposition to the use of Flock Safety cameras in Lynchburg and across the country grows, officials in some jurisdictions are highlighting the public safety benefits of the cameras, while other cities and counties are ending their contracts with the company.

In Virginia, the town of Christiansburg and Giles County, both in the southwestern region of the state, became the latest jurisdictions to end their relationships with Flock.

At Tuesday's city council meeting, several Lynchburg residents lined up to express their concerns about the city's contract with Flock and the cameras' mass surveillance capabilities.

On the flip side, a resident told a story about how Flock cameras in the region helped locate an elderly family member with serious health issues who had driven off, causing family members to worry about his whereabouts.

Flock cameras take photos of license plates and log the vehicle make, model and color. The cameras also can capture images of people riding in cars.

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2025-26 RESULTS Glance at how area divisions fared on SOLs

LCS pass rates were below Va. average in all subjects

MADI KIRKMAN
The News & Advance

The Virginia Department of Education has released Standards of Learning assessment results for the 2025-26 school year.

Last school year, students across the state saw "incremental increases" in math and reading pass rates compared to the prior school year, the VDOE said in a news release Tuesday.

The release said these results are part of a larger post-pandemic recovery trend over the past five years, in which students in Virginia have increased reading proficiency by 5 percentage points and math proficiency by 19 percentage points.

"This modest progress proves that our targeted investments in high-dosage tutoring, updated instructional

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Weather
Partly sunny; very warm
High: 88 Low: 66
Forecast: A12

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