https://www.fauquier.com/news/fauquier-county-cleans-up-following-flash-floods/article_d8537dba-18de-43aa-b61e-09e7850fd3f2.html

Fauquier County cleans up following flash floods

Nearly four inches of rain fell in just 24 hours

By Sarah Dolgin and Tate Hewitt Staff Writers
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RB Chudasama, the owner of the BP gas station on Lee Highway in Warrenton, spent his morning mopping the floors r flooding.

Staff photo by Sarah Dolgin

This story was updated on Tuesday, July 22.

At the BP gas station on Warrenton's Lee Highway on Thursday morning, owner RB Chudasama was on his third hour of mopping the muddy floors inside the station.

The pumps were not in service, and the backup battery was down. A large puddle stood, and dirt stained the parking lot. He said it would be hours before he was able to reopen. Neighboring shop owners told him the water was as high as the gas nozzles the night before.

“I know I’ve seen the rain that hard but today was bad,” Chudasama said.

Like Chudasama, many Fauquier County residents were spending the day assessing the damage wrought by **Wednesday's flash floods**. While for most residents the power had been restored and the water has receded, some businesses were still closed with storm-related damage.

Some parts of the county saw nearly four inches of rain in a short time span Wednesday night, according to the Luis Rosa, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, leading to flooded roadways that left cars stuck in water.

Although Rosa said the rainfall for the month does not break any records, Michael Guditus, the Fauquier County emergency manager, said that the speed it fell made it significant.

Guditus said that Fauquier County received 3.99 and 4.62 inches of rain in 12 and 24-hour-periods last week, according to the National Weather Service.

“According to their chart, that's an ‘every 10 year occurrence,’” Guditus said. “When I talked to the National Weather Service, and they said that we had that two inches in a 30-minute period — that's enough to wash away almost any road.”

The persistent downpour led to more than **13 “water-related” emergencies**, according to Rob Smith, spokesperson for the Fauquier County Fire Rescue System, across the county late Wednesday. Six of those included emergency rescues from stranded vehicles.

Among the challenges emergency workers responded to were a car stalled out in 2 to 3 feet of water on Blantyre Road, a truck flipped by quick-moving water on St. Leonard’s Lane in Warrenton and flooding on Springs Road in Turnbull that required several rescues. One man waited over an hour until it was safe for first responders to enter the water and bring him to safety.



First responders performed more than a dozen water rescues after accidents like this one where a red pickup truck was flipped into a creek. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Long/Fauquier County Sheriff's Office)

Submitted

In multiple cases, emergency responders in Fauquier County relied on mutual-aid partners from Stafford and Culpeper counties.

“It was not safe for rescuers to do a hand line or to walk out, or to drive out to try and rescue these folks,” Guditus said. “When it gets too dangerous for our first responders, we call for specialized equipment like a helicopter and or swift water team so they can bring boats out and train personnel to effect the rescue.”

Warrenton was among the hardest hit areas of the county after 3.7 inches of rain fell Wednesday night. Marshall also saw 3.5 inches of rainfall.



Flooding downed power poles on Broadview Avenue in Warrenton.
Staff photo by Tate Hewitt

Carpet squished under Craig Johnston's feet as he used the wet motorcycle kickstands to measure the inches of water that had come through the doors at Blalock Cycle Honda Service on Lee Highway in Warrenton.

"It was just a mess in the parking lot with debris," said Johnston, the shop's general manager. "There was water inside the building."

The motorcycles weren't damaged, she said, but dirt and residue remained on the bottoms of the wheels and kickstands.

"In my 15 years here," Johnston said, "this is the first time it's flooded like this."

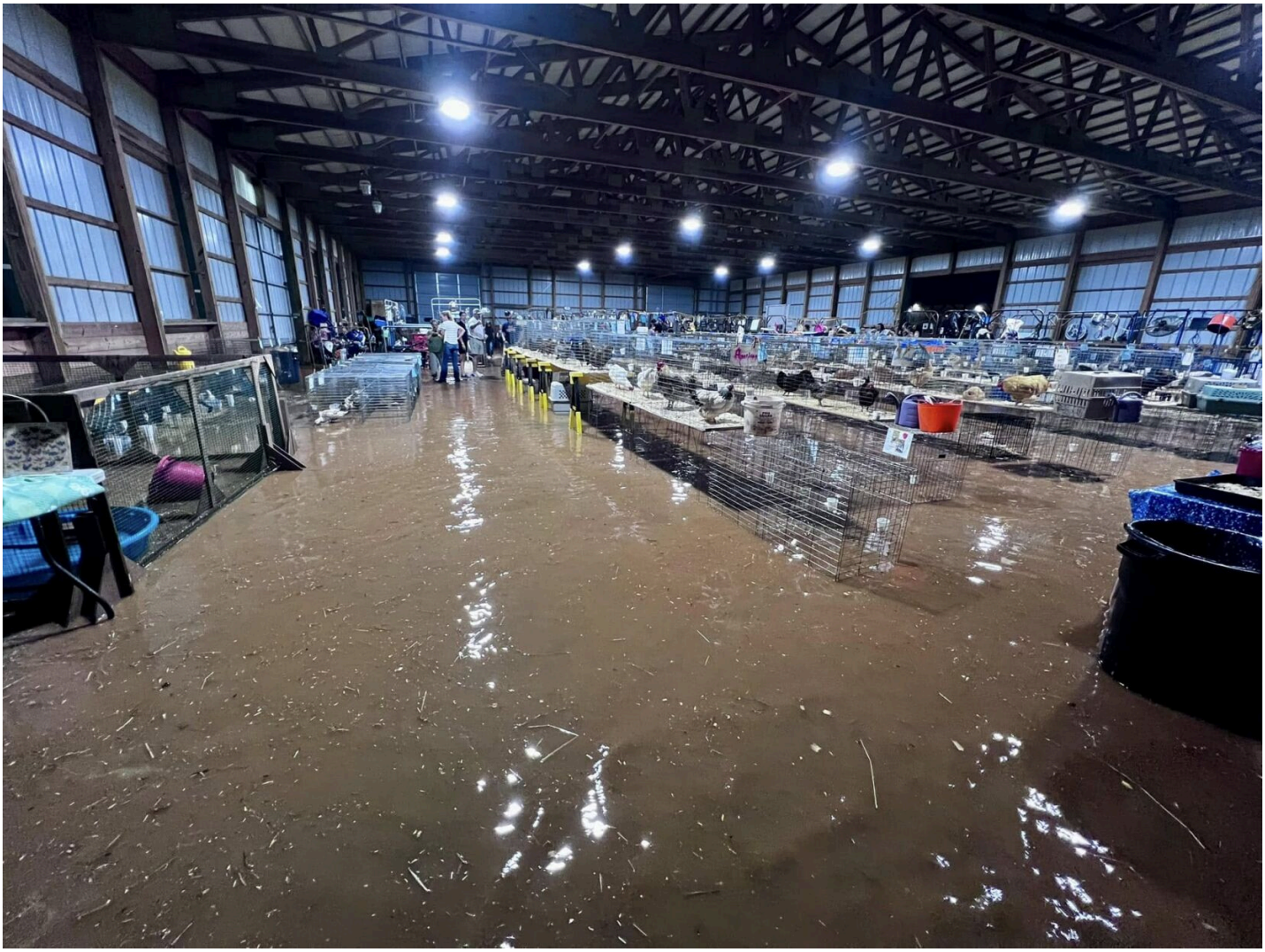
Town Manger Frank Cassidy said repeated storms take a toll on the town's infrastructure and staff.

“Because (the rain) is like every other day, we’re not getting a chance for things to settle down,” Cassidy said Friday as he and town staff prepped for another round of storms over the weekend. “There’s another **possible round today**.”

The town is already requesting residents who experienced damage due to flooding to file a report with the town’s emergency management department as officials gauge what type of assistance might be available.

The heavy rainfall also led to high water levels in some areas of the county. The Rappahannock River in Remington crested at 11.5 feet around midnight, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data. Cedar Run in Catlett crested at over 15 feet around 7 a.m and three hours later, 17 areas around the county were still experiencing high water levels, according to Guditus.

Both water levels in both waterways remained more than twice as high as before the storm more than 24 hours later. On Saturday, **five people were rescued from the Rappahannock River at Riverside Preserve**, a county park, after they tried to float the river and the strong current swept them away.



Water pooled inside the livestock barn at the Fauquier County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Submitted

Stacie Rapp, a Warrenton resident, was at the Fauquier County Fair Wednesday evening. She said she had checked her weather app on her phone beforehand and thought the rain wasn't going to start until later in the evening.

While she and her family were in the agriculture barn looking at the animals, they decided to hunker down until the lightning cleared.

About 20 minutes later, water began flooding the building from all sides, Rapp said.

"You had all the sheep, you had goats that were just standing in 2 inches of water," Rapp said by phone, "and kids were screaming and crying and not everybody had their parents there."

Rapp's husband carried out goats and sheep to try to get them to higher ground as the water in the barn reached six inches, she said.



Town officials are asking Warrenton residents to report flood damage

Once the rain started to let up, Rapp's family left the barn and began the trek to their car.

"I had to roll my pants legs up," Rapp said, "and we were probably in shin deep water trying to get to where my car was parked."

Despite the dramatic opening night – and a weekend of ongoing hazardous weather – the 75th annual event **continued without a hitch** through the weekend.

The fairgrounds lost some of its grass parking lots to mud though.

"If you're coming out, wear boots," Brenda Rich, fair board president, cautioned fairgoers last week.

Staff writers Meghan Mangrum and Kaitlyn Salazar contributed to this report.

*Reach Sarah Dolgin at **sdolgin@fauquier.com**. Reach Tate Hewitt at **thewitt@fauquier.com**.*

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Sarah Dolgin

Tate Hewitt

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