Noreen Allard is the first in line to vote in the Great Falls Citizens Association Election held on March 6, 2021, in the parking lot of the Great Falls Library.
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Supervisors Foust and Alcorn on Years 1 and 2: COVID-19

Changing the pandemic’s course through the lens of an equitable recovery.

By Mercia Hobson
THE CONNECTION

Year 1: Covid-19 comes to a close on March 10, 2021. In an interview with the Connection Newspapers on March 3, Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville District) and Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill District) discussed the County’s testing/vaccines and economics responses in Year 1 with lessons learned. The discussion that followed centered on County plans in Year 2: COVID-19 for equitable adaptive outreach and recovery institutions, assuming a reduction in caseload.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, “We are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction. We cannot say this loudly enough or clearly enough, or often enough. All countries can still change the course of this pandemic.”

Foust said the single most aggressive action the County took to change the course of the pandemic was an economic response, beginning with backing off from making new investments in the budget. The County put $52 million into a small business grant program (Fairfax RISE Grants). Next, tens of millions of dollars in federal funding helped people with their rent, utilities, and food (CARES Act). Foust said, “We invested in temporary housing for homeless people and people who needed to be isolated but didn’t have that opportunity given their crowded living situations.” The Fairfax County program is called the SF6 Mass Care Health and Human Services to provide Quarantine, Protection, Isolation/Decompression.

Alcorn said that these things would not have happened if Foust had not pushed the way he did. “Foust deserves the credit for exercising leadership on the board,” he said. Alcorn called for ongoing and future pandemic course corrections via Board Matters to update the current ones or present new ones. He referenced the need for improved transparency in real-time information for vaccines related to his Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Foust presented on Feb. 9, 2021.

Meanwhile, the staff had been directed to send registrants weekly texts and email updates to confirm their placement in the queue, progress made, and how many registrants were ahead. Alcorn said, “Not all of those items have been implemented.”

Alcorn said the County chose not to go with the statewide vaccination registration system because the County’s system was “demonstrated and proven.” He said no change to the state system should occur during the pandemic. The County might consider implementing it down the road, but it would have to provide functionality beyond what the County currently offered.

Foust added the County had a great Department of Information Technology, very consumer-friendly and easy to get hold of if there was a problem. Turning it over to the State of Virginia would have created a “somewhat impersonal arrangement.” “Knowing who to call is an awesome thing when you’re in an emergency,” Foust said.

Alcorn said they learned by experience when the State of Virginia would have created a “somewhat impersonal arrangement.” He referenced the need for improved transparency in real-time information for vaccines related to his Joint Board Matter with Supervisor Foust presented on Feb. 9, 2021.

At the height of the spring 2020 COVID-19 shut down, many small businesses and workers struggled to survive financially.

The Fairfax County COVID-19 Vulnerability Index by Zip Codes. The COVID Vulnerability Index shows five domains individually and as a composite index: Socioeconomic Status, Household Composition and Disability, Race/Ethnicity and Language, Housing and Transportation, and Health. Individual indicators were ranked into 5 classes using natural breaks and given a score of 1 - 5, with 5 being the most vulnerable (shown in dark blue).
What is ‘Fair’?

By Richawn Adkins Roane

Richawn Adkins Roane is an African-American daughter, sister, wife, and mother living in Great Falls. Ms. Roane works at the intersection of philanthropy, policy, and advocacy for economic, racial, and gender justice. She writes, tells stories, and leads philanthropy grantmaking at a national education-focused foundation based in Northern Virginia.

Q: Is it fair to make the admission process for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology more equitable?
A: Was it fair for “hard working, deserving children” to be deprived of a spot at TJ because their parents were unable to pay for expensive test preparation or a $100 application fee? Was it fair that some middle schools appeared to be feeders to TJ and others never had students admitted?
Q: Is it fair to cancel federal student loan debt and reduce the racial-wealth gap?
A: Was it fair for African Americans to be excluded from traditional means of wealth accumulation that enable white borrowers to take out fewer loans at lower dollar amounts? Is it fair for African Americans to be hindered in repaying these student loans by labor market racial discrimination?
Q: Is a Marshall Plan for Moms fair?
A: Was it fair that this country built free labor into its economic model from the beginning and has never valued caregiving for the essential work that it is? Is it fair that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted women?
Q: Is it fair for the “Women Best” to be the guidepost of our national economic reset?
A: Was it fair for too far too long, Black women have been the least, the last, and the lowest? Equity costs - and paying that price will not be fair, but it will be just.

And They Are Off!

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum

State Delegate (D-36)

Inevitably someone is going to refer to the nominating contests for candidates for the Virginia statewide offices and the House of Delegates as horse races—not because of the characteristics of any of the candidates but because of the crowded field of persons who are offering themselves for public office. Space limitations on this column will not permit me to list all the candidates for they are numerous. For whatever the reason, Virginia voters have more choices than ever. That is a good thing. Democracy has broken out in the Commonwealth.

Virginia election cycles do not parallel those of other states except for New Jersey where state elections are held in years other than those in which federal elections are held. This November Virginia will be electing a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and all one hundred seats of the House of Delegates.

That is the schedule for the general election. Before we get there, however, candidates must be chosen by the political parties. Democrats pick their candidates in primary elections this year on June 8, and Republicans use conventions to pick their candidates. What is amazing is the number of people who have shown up seeking the nominations. For the names of all persons who have declared themselves at the time of the writing of this column, go to https://www.vpap.org/elections/.

For governor, there will be five Democrats on the June 8 primary ballot from which voters can choose their candidate. Republicans will have seven candidates from which to choose in a convention-like process adapted for the pandemic to determine their candidate for governor to be on the ballot for the General Election on November 2.

At the same time and as part of the same process, the major political parties will pick their candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general. For lieutenant governor there are five Republicans and eight Democrats seeking their party’s nomination. For attorney general there are three Republicans and two Democrats seeking their party’s nomination. There may be independent candidates on the ballot in November, but they must qualify through another process.

In the House of Delegates races there are more challenges to incumbents and to open seats than I can remember. For Democrats who have a slight majority in the House of Delegates and who have been realizing amazing success in getting their legislative agenda passed, there are fourteen challenges to incumbents with many of them being Democratic progressives in Northern Virginia. On the Republican side there are contests for the House nominations in seven districts with a couple of the most conservative members being challenged for their nomination.

The past two legislative sessions the General Assembly passed and the Governor has signed many pieces of legislation to make voting easier and more accessible. There will be early voting this year with no-excuse absentee ballots, curbside voting, drop-boxes for ballot delivery, longer voting times. Voter registration is for life. There is no excuse for not voting. And for this year in particular, there is no lack of choice. The candidates are off and you get to decide who wins!
Planning Commission Recommends Denial of Flag Limitations

It's not a done deal.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The Fairfax County Planning Commission voted 11-0 to recommend denial to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to replace the current zoning ordinance establishing specific regulations for flags and flagpoles in the New and Modernized Zoning Ordinance (zMOD Updates) countywide. Mason District Commissioner Julie M. Strandlie was absent from the March 3 vote. The proposed regulations would include different standards appropriate to lots with single-family dwellings or manufactured homes and lots developed for multi-family or non-residential uses.

Commissioner Timothy J. Sargeant, Member at Large, introduced the motion regarding flags and flagpoles. He said the proposed regulations were intended to establish “reasonable limits” on the size and number of flags and flagpoles’ height. Sargeant recognized that the United States Supreme Court ruling of Reed versus Town of Gilbert, Arizona prevented regulation based on content and prohibited exempting the United States flag while regulating other types of flags.

Sargeant said, “There has been an exceptional number of public comments with concerns about this amendment, suggesting that at the least additional time is needed for consideration.” The current zoning regulation on flags and flagpoles is a maximum of three per lot. Sargeant recommended retaining the limit and not the adoption of additional limitations as recommended by Fairfax County staff.

The proposal limited flagpole height to 25 feet on single-family lots and 60 feet on all other lots. It limited single-family lots to no more than two flags.

“I felt it was a solution looking for a problem,” Commissioner John Ulfelder, Dranesville District, said. “I suspect, based on a lot of comments we’ve received, a lot of other people perceived it in the same way...if it ain’t broken, don’t fix it. I will heartily recommend denial for this proposal.”

Opponents of the measure came together in recent weeks to voice their concerns. The Fairfax County GOP organized a petition to the Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on Change.org to tell Fairfax County, no. “The American flag should never be restricted,” said Katherine Morgan of Fairfax, according to Change.org.

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) board expressed concerns about the regulations. In a Feb. 18 letter to Fairfax Planning Commission Chairman Peter Murphy, GFCA President Bill Canis wrote that the GFCA Board believed that the measure was overly restrictive in its scope.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield District) said in The Herrity Report, his weekly newsletter, “I will strongly oppose it if it comes before the Board of Supervisors.”

The March 3, 2021 Planning Commission Video with Linked Agenda can be found on the County website. Changes to regulations on flags and flagpoles will be considered part of the public hearing for zMOD before the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021.

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Great Falls Connection  March 10-16, 2021  5
**News**

**Drive-in-person Special Election Held in Great Falls**

Citizens Association members endorse two special questions.

**By Mercia Hobson**

The Connection

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), voting in the special drive-in-person election of the Executive Board and Officers held March 6, 2021, unanimously re-elected eight candidates and one new candidate. More than 90 percent of the voters endorsed two special questions. The GFCA Nominating Committee/Board and GFCA membership proposed the ballot of candidates. Ed Phillips, outgoing GFCA Vice President said that a quorum was required to make the results official.

James M. Trent, GFCA Treasurer and Chair of the Nominating Committee managed the election held in the Great Falls Library parking lot and reported the official outcomes.

Elected for one-year terms (3/21-6/22), Bill Canis won the President’s seat, Peter Falcone, the Vice President’s seat, and James Trent, the Treasurer’s seat. Elected to fill her first two-year Director term (3/21-6/23) is Suzanne Black. Re-elected Directors for two-year terms (3/21-6/23) are Ruth Carver, Jennifer Falcone, Gordon Harris, Scott Knight, and Ed Phillips. GFCA members voted on two special questions on the March 6 election ballot. Voting members endorsed Question 1, the requirement for in-person voting and protected the health of members. The Great Falls Citizens Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)4 organization that advocates solutions and government actions that benefit Great Falls. Their charter calls for GFCA to “serve as a community organization to promote all aspects of community interest accruing to a common good and, in general, to preserve the historic, low density, semi-rural character of Great Falls and its natural resources.”

A driver pulls up in her vehicle to the ballot box installed for the Great Falls Citizens Association drive-in-person election held March 6 in the Great Falls Library parking lot.

Open in the Winter

Shoppers make Great Falls Community Farmers Market a weekly event.

**By Mercia Hobson**

The Connection

Elizabeth and David Hunt of Great Falls stop by the March 6 Great Falls Community Farmers Market and look over what to purchase from vendor Rustiq Bakery & Cafe of Historic Savage Mill, Md. Jonathan Steidel assists them with their selections.

“I’ve come nearly every (market) day.”

— Jonathan Steidel
The Langley School Holds Drive Against Hunger

Drive fills a school bus with more than 2,000 food items.

As part of The Langley School’s culture of giving and commitment to service learning, the school typically hosts a Day of Giving each spring in which the entire school community comes together to pack meals for those in need. Although the pandemic has prevented an in-person Day of Giving this year, the Langley community found a new way to serve neighbors struggling with food insecurity.

For the past three weeks, Langley’s students, parents, and faculty/staff have participated in the “Give S.O.M.E. Love” food drive benefiting So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.), a Washington, DC-based service organization that supports those experiencing homelessness and poverty. Together, the Langley community raised more than $5,000 and collected more than 2,000 non-perishable food items to donate to S.O.M.E.

Donated items were loaded onto a Langley school bus, providing students with a visual representation of the collective impact small contributions can make. In addition to learning about the value of serving others, students also gained a deeper understanding of how food insecurity impacts many in their community.
Community Charity Champions Donates $1,000 to Cornerstones

Huckaby Briscoe Conroy (HBC) Group gives back to local charities.

Huckaby Briscoe Conroy (HBC) Group at Keller Williams McLean donated $1,000 as part of their Community Charity Champions (CCC) program to give back to local charity groups. Karen Briscoe, HBC Principal, and Jenny McClintock, VP represented the Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Group for the check presentation. Receiving the donation for Cornerstones was Ted Lewis, VP of Business & Community Impact and Adrian Chadwell, Manager, Corporate and Institutional Relations.

The check presentation took place at the Cornerstones offices located in Reston on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Conroy said for the team: “Thank you so much Adrian and Ted for such a warm welcome. I’m telling everyone about Cornerstones now! Looking forward to keeping in touch and participating in volunteer outreach opportunities.”

Community Charity Champions was organized by HBC Group in 2012 to support local charities and organizations. More than $100,000 has been raised over the last 9 years. Briscoe said, “Our mission at HBC Gives back to local charities.”
McLean Family Home

Sunny, free-flowing home created by removing walls and adding windows.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

A fter relocating to McLean from the West Coast and purchasing a home, the family knew that major changes were needed to accommodate their family, which includes two children. The couple enlisted the help of McLean based interior designer Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design. “The home had sharp angles that disrupted the flow and wasted space that could be used for storage,” said Morris.

One of the biggest priorities was to create a light-filled, family friendly kitchen. “Our main goal was to have an island to feed small children and a space where the family could eat dinner at the table,” said Morris.

“Our main goal was to have an island to feed small children and a space where the family could eat dinner at the table.”

— Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design

An architectural overhaul was needed to accomplish that goal. The new design includes a butler’s pantry and mudroom which allow for additional storage.

“The kitchen was bizarre and had a weird layout,” said architect Sydney Davenport Katz of BarnesVanze Architects Inc. “There was one large island with two different heights.”

“We regularized the shape of some of the spaces,” she continued. “There were a lot of angled and sloping surfaces that we were able to eliminate.”

Some of the kitchen cabinetry and part of a wall were removed. Floor to ceiling windows flood the room with sunlight. White cabinetry and marble countertops add to the space’s light and airy feel. Morris used a neutral color palette throughout the home, which now includes an exercise room and playroom.

The second floor also called for a design overhaul, says Morris. “The master bathroom had a lot of chopped spaces. It was a bizarre design.”

The original master bathroom had what Morris described as excessive storage space. Some of the closets were eliminated and the drop-in tub was replaced with a free-standing tub.

The home has five full bathrooms, two powder rooms, six bedrooms, including two guest rooms. The laundry room is located on the second floor.

“That project had such good energy,” said Morris. “I’ll always have great memories of it. There are just some projects in life that fall into place and this is one of them.”
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**THURSDAY/MARCH 11**

**Shape of the Region Conference. 12:30-2 p.m.**

Virtual. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is hosting its 2021 Shape of the Region Conference. The theme this year is: Co-Creating a New Northern Virginia: An Emerging Vision of a More Inclusive, Sustainable, and Equitable Region. This event will explore the collective efforts of Government, social, philanthropy, and private sector actors to bring more inclusivity, sustainability, and equity across our region. The event will feature brief stories and a panel discussion to highlight recent cross sector collaborations that have helped promote a more equitable and inclusive region. To register for this event, visit www.cfnova.org/shape-region.

**MCC GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS**

The filing deadline for the McLean Community Center’s (MCC) 2021 Governing Board elections is Friday, March 12, at 5 p.m. Residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A who are interested in running for a seat on the board can still enter the race. The all-volunteer Board sets policy and provides general oversight for MCC facilities, which include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Center. All residents of the Center’s tax district are eligible to run for a seat on the 11-member board. Candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 (ten) tax district residents to have their names placed on the election ballot. Nominating petition forms are available at the Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. Residents who would prefer to not enter the center can call 703-744-9348, to arrange for an MCC staff member to deliver a candidate packet to them in the MCC parking lot.

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Adult board members serve three-year terms. Youth members serve one-year terms. Adult candidates must be at least 18 years old as of McLean Day on Saturday, May 15. Youth candidates must be 15 to 17 years old as of McLean Day. One youth member who lives within the McLean High School boundary area will be elected; one youth member who lives within the Langley High School boundary area will be elected. Youth candidates are not required to attend either school; however, they must reside within the boundary areas served by one of the schools as defined by Fairfax County Public Schools. Visit the webpage: https://bit.ly/2MYdJJN, or contact Executive Assistant Holly Novak at 703-744-9348 or holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.
Obituary

Herbert Lain Holt
March 25, 1904 – February 13, 2021

It is with great joy for the long and wonderful life he lived that we announce the passing of Herbert Lain Holt (Bill) on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at sundown in Carlsbad, California, 86 years after he was born just 10 days prior to his passing. Herb kept his vassal Parkinson’s Disease and never complained. Our hero lived his last breath peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. We could not have asked for more for our beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, coach and friend.

Herbert was born in 1904 to Otis Etridge Holt and Martha Louise Holt (nee McDaniel) in Gibson County, Tennessee. A proud join of Trench, Herbert attended Trench Elementary and Middle School, and played quarterback and was captain of the football team for Peabody High School. During his high school tenure, Herb was the distinction of being voted football captain of the “Big Ten” on all ten western Tennessee high school coaches’ ballots. In baseball, Herb served as captain of the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams. Aside from sports, Herb exhibited leadership as the senior class president. Herb also played baseball for the Humboldt, Tennessee American Legion. Because of Herb’s outstanding athletic performance, he was honored in 2006 to be induced into the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. Known as “Bill” Tinkham, he was honored in 2020 to be induced into the Peabody High School Football Hall of Fame.

Herb graduated high school in 1922, and attended Murray State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship where he played quarterback for the Racers and was co-captain of the team. He was the student body vice president and president of the Methodist Student Union. At Murray, Herb met the love of his life, Celia Maurelle Kirksey of Paducah, Kentucky, and they married over the winter break of their senior year in 1955. They recently celebrated 65 years of happily ever after.

After graduating from Murray State in 1957, Herb then earned his Master’s Degree in Secondary Education Administration over the summers while he worked as head football coach and head basketball coach for three years in McKeena, Tennessee. Herb then accepted an offer to teach and coach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, Coach Holt drew out the best from students and players and touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of students and their parents for 40 years. Herb taught physical education and English at Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, where he was also the assistant football coach and the junior varsity baseball coach. When T.C. Williams high school opened, he served as head football coach and the junior varsity baseball coach. After three years, Herb was appointed athletic director, and later became assistant principal. Coach Holt was at T.C. Williams High School fortifying good health during the time of the story “Remember the Titans.” Coach Holt also will be remembered for his dedication to students at George Washington Middle School. Upon retirement from T.C. Williams in 1997, he was named “MacDaddy of the Senior Class” by the seniors.

Herb and Maurelle raised their son and daughter in Springfield and West Springfield, Virginia. Herb continued to coach kids’ baseball after retirement for the Springfield Babe Ruth League. He proudly served as the Membership Chairman, Vice President and President of the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA).

A natural at sports, he turned his love of sports toward golf and enjoyed golf outings and trips with his son and friends. Herb never once met a stranger and was known for his get-up-and-go, tenacity and his fun-loving spirit. Genuine interested in people, Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kind spirit hitchhiking a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a lifeguard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave the family lots of swim and beach fun-loving spirit. Genuinely interested in people, Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kind spirit hitchhiking a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a lifeguard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave the family lots of swim and beach fun.

Pecan shore days with fondness and stories, trips to music festivals and country fairs, football and baseball games, amusement parks, long country drives and especially family and friends. He loved bluegrass, spaghetti, Westerns, Burt Reynolds comedies, ice cream, and U.S. historical fiction novels in no particular order. He was cool, calm and collected and supported and loved us dearly, always encouraging our independence and best selves while also being available to catch up should we fall. Herb and Maurelle moved to Carlsbad, California to be with daughter and family and were able to enjoy lots of family celebrations together.

Pecadiseased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN), Herbert is survived by his wife, Emeritus Professor Emeritus of the Department of English at George Washington University, Dr. Celia Maurelle Kirksey Holt (Carlsbad, CA), his children Lauren Maurelle Holt (currently Poulsbo, WA, engaged to Darrin Cripe), Alexander Lain Holt (current Santa Barbara, CA), and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Audrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown Carlin, Pat Brown (Bathurst, Canada) and A战国 Davis, and great-grandchildren John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sitter in law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane La O, nephews Samuel Kirksey (Ogla), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 80 working years as tireless coach and teacher there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generous spirit. Herbert made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

A celebration of life will be held when people can safely gather. Please sign the guest book and leave comments at www.accuraciesmanagement.com/obituary. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a scholarship fund in Herb’s name for young college-bound athletes at Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA) at NVADACA.org or PO Box 305, Burke, VA 22009.

The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.

Herbert was predeceased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN). Herb is survived by his wife, Emeritus Professor Emeritus of the Department of English at George Washington University, Dr. Celia Maurelle Kirksey Holt (Carlsbad, CA), his children Lauren Maurelle Holt (currently Poulsbo, WA, engaged to Darrin Cripe), Alexander Lain Holt (current Santa Barbara, CA), and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Audrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown Carlin, Pat Brown (Bathurst, Canada) and A战国 Davis, and great-grandchildren John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sitter in law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane La O, nephews Samuel Kirksey (Ogla), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 80 working years as tireless coach and teacher there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generous spirit. Herbert made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

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The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.
Dianne Van Volkenburg and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.

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