

# CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

## Tree Planting Ceremony Held in Herndon

NEWS, PAGE 8



In celebration of Arbor Day 2021, Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon, along with Chief Instructor Tony Breda of Heaven and Earth Aikido, plant the new Yoshino Cherry tree in the Town Square. Girl Scouts from Saint Joseph School Girl Scout Council of the Nation Capital Troop 2421, (from left) Josie, 12, of Herndon, Mairead M., 11, of Herndon, Mariana, 12, of Herndon and, Ainsley, 12, of Vienna look on.

## Running for Second in Command

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## A Primary Race to Watch: VA House District 86

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PHOTO BY MERGIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION COMMENTARY, PAGE 3 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN BIEN



Shiny cars showing off their engines during 2019's Casey's Automotive car show.



(From left) Bryan and Mary Jewett flank Jay Coakley at the Ellie's Hats booth.

# 'Family-Friendly Event with a Lot of Cool Cars'

## Casey's Car Show & Spring Fest raises money for Ellie's Hats.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Cool cars, tasty food, fun for all ages – and the chance to raise money for a good cause – that's Casey's Fourth Annual Car Show & Spring Fest. Hosted by Casey's Automotive owners Bryan and Mary Jewett outside their business at 4260-A Entre Court in Chantilly, it's set for Sunday, May 2, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Admission is free, parking is plentiful, and the festivities will also include children's games, a silent auction and professional Star Wars characters from the 501st Garrison Tyranus. Most of all, 100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to local nonprofit, Ellie's Hats, which provides hats to children with cancer, plus assistance to their families.

In 2013, P.E. teacher Jay Coakley began Ellie's Hats to cheer up one of his students, Ellie, then 5, newly diagnosed with leukemia. When she lost her hair from her treatments, she wore hats to school every day, so

Coakley organized a hat drive to get her more.

Realizing he could bring similar happiness to other young, cancer patients – plus raise awareness about the disease – he founded Ellie's Hats. The organization also gives hats and toys to the recipients' siblings and donates gas cards, gift certificates and money to their families to help them through difficult and expensive times. For more information, go to <https://ellieshats.org/>.

While the pandemic cancelled last year's car show, the one in 2019 raised \$8,000 for the cause, and event organizer Lauren Bien, Casey's Automotive marketing coordinator, hopes this year's show will raise even more. And she promises lots of fun for everyone.

"In 2019, we had about 100-150 cars," she said. "We get everything from American muscle cars to Army Jeeps, antique cars, old-school 1920s and 1930s vehicles, 1960s and 1970s classics like Mustangs and Corvettes, as well as fancy new cars like a 2021 Maserati. Motorcycles are welcome, too – whatever anyone wants to show off."

**THE REGISTRATION FEE** is a \$25 minimum donation to Ellie's Hats. Pre-register vehicles at <https://caseysautomotive.com/caseys-2021-car-show-spring-fest/>. Those doing so online by April 27 will get a swag bag includ-

ing a commemorative T-shirt in their size.

Several items will be available for attendees to bid on during the show's silent auction. They include a two-hour, professional, photo shoot with Marigold Bus & Booth; virtual, martial-arts classes for children or adults, courtesy of Tiger Den of Chantilly; and a set of four brand-new tires donated by Casey's Automotive. Auction items are still being accepted; any local businesses wanting to donate products or services for it may email [carshow@caseysautomotive.com](mailto:carshow@caseysautomotive.com).

And when attendees get hungry, food trucks will be there to fill the bill. Zainy's Flyin' Grill will offer its signature puffy tacos and other items, ResQ BBQ will provide barbecued dishes and sides, and Kona Ice will offer shaved-ice treats.

For the children, there'll be field games such as Jenga, cornhole and Connect 4, as well as two people making balloon animals to order. And bringing music to the day will be deejay Craig Wood of Perpetual Sound LLC.

A car-show contest will be held, as well. The spectators will vote on their favorite vehicles in various categories – for example, Best Muscle Car, Antique Car, Classic Car, etc. Winners will each receive a special trophy handcrafted and custom-welded by one of Casey's technicians, Jon Young.

All in all, said Bien, "It's a family-friendly

event with a lot of cool cars. People can also enjoy some delicious food and even dance. And it's all for a good cause – every dollar we take in goes to Ellie's Hats. Casey's does automotive repairs and maintenance, plus custom builds and upgrades. But Bryan and Mary Jewett want to give back to the community, as well."

"Upstairs in our Chantilly location is where Jay Coakley and his helpers box up the hats they send out to the children," continued Bien. "And he receives this space free of charge. It's of the utmost importance to us that we can raise some money for Ellie's Hats – and the more, the better."

**AS FOR COAKLEY**, he's delighted that the Jewetts and their business have done so much for Ellie's Hats. "We are so grateful for the support we have received from Casey's Automotive," he said. "Since the early days of Ellie's Hats, Bryan and Mary have supported us. They've raised over \$12,000 in the three previous car shows. All these shows have been fun for both car enthusiasts and families, and we hope everyone will join us for this upcoming one, as well."

An Ellie's Hats donation table will be at the event. However, people unable to attend, but still wishing to contribute, may do so at <https://ellieshats.org/>.

### AREA ROUNDUPS

#### Public Meeting for Braddock Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority is updating its master plan for Braddock Park at 13451 Braddock Road, bordering both Centreville High and Twin Lakes Golf Course. Virtual meeting will be held Monday, April 26, at 7 p.m., so members of the public may participate from their own homes. To watch, go to <https://publicinput.com/F231>, or listen by calling 855-925-2801 and entering the access code 8081.

The 61-acre, district park contains six natural-turf softball diamonds; one synthetic-turf rectangular field; a batting-cage area, picnic pavilion and restroom. During the meeting, Park Authority staff will present a draft design concept for Braddock Park incorporating recent, public-comment and survey results. Thirty days later, it'll prepare a draft Master Plan to share with the public in late summer.

#### Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, April 24

The national, DEA Drug Take-Back Day is this Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at local police stations. Bring unwanted, prescription and over-the-counter drugs to either the Fair Oaks District Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., or the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No needles or syringes are accepted, and I.D. is not required.

#### New Ramp from Route 28 South to I-66 East

Attention, drivers in Centreville: As of last weekend, the new ramp from Route 28 South to I-66 East is now open. Drivers on southbound Route 28 will stay to the left to access the ramp to I-66 East. Drivers on eastbound Braddock

Road traveling to I-66 East will be directed to continue farther south to the exit for Route 29 North, stay to the right to Route 28 North, and then continue staying to the right and follow the signs to I-66 East. The new Route 28 and I-66 Interchange will improve traffic flow on I-66 and Route 28 and provide access to and from the future I-66 Express Lanes.

#### Crime Solvers to Hold Shred Event

Fairfax County's Crime Solvers will hold a shred event for the public, Saturday, May 1, from 8:30 a.m.-noon. It will be outside the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Crime Solvers suggests a \$5, tax-deductible donation per bag/box. Papers are shredded on site. For more information, go to <http://fairfax-crimesolvers.org/shred-event.html>.

## A Primary Race to Watch: VA House District 86

### Early Voting for Democratic Party Primary begins April 23 in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**E**arly Voting at the Fairfax County Government Center for the Democratic Party Primary Election begins April 23. It runs through June 5, 2021. In Virginia House District 86, Del. Ibraheem Samirah gears up against challenger Irene Shin. Samirah won the special election on Feb. 19, 2019, to fill State Sen. Jennifer Boysko's former seat. House District 86 includes portions of Herndon and Reston in Fairfax County and portions of Loudoun County.

Del. Samirah, a dentist, said he is passionate about his job as a delegate and the responsibility as a progressive Democrat. Dedication is cemented in the hard-earned lessons brought up by his father, a political scientist-activist who was exiled for eleven years from the United States following 9-11 due to his faith and ethnic background. "But his passion and dedication were contagious," said Samirah. "You learn the government does have a lot of power to reverse course to fix things."

SAMIRAH has focused on healthcare and housing. He referenced several legislative



**Challenger:**  
Irene Shin



**Incumbent: Delegate**  
Ibraheem Samirah

actions he introduced and sponsored related to healthcare. He said constituents talk to him when he is out in the community door knocking or at events. He said they tell him about walking into a local hospital and leaving with a \$50,000 medical bill they can't pay except to sell their possessions and homes. "These are neighbors...who are being displaced...because they can't pay for health care."

Samirah said he sponsored VA HB 1479 in the 2020 session. It reduced the cost of pharmaceuticals on Medicaid and more.

Samirah discussed Virginia HB 42 in the

2020 session which he sponsored. The bill directed the Board of Medicine to annually issue a communication to every practitioner licensed by the Board who provides primary maternity obstetrical or gynecological health care services reiterating the standard of care pertaining to prenatal and postnatal depression. "It was incorporated into a bill alongside a Republican who was passionate about it as a pharmacist, and we passed the bill together," said Samirah.

HB 2002, introduced by Samirah, increases Medicaid coverage for a child whose parent is receiving child support in legal separation or divorce cases. The intake officer provides the practitioner information on the possible availability of medical assistance through the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security or other government-sponsored coverage.

"This is very wonky, nerdy stuff you get when you have a doctor in the legislature," Samirah said.

Samirah's second focus is the cost of housing. "People are paying very high rents in Herndon and Reston," he said. For the viability of the local community to continue access to amenities it has, it needs the success of properties and returning investments to owners.

CANDIDATE IRENE SHIN said she had spent most of her career dedicated to building a more inclusive and more accessible

democracy. The daughter of Korean immigrants, Shin said she learned her view of the world and how to interact through her small business immigrant family. For them, the cost of health care was out of reach and always paid out of pocket. When her father became ill, he went to Korea for treatment. "It was then I realized there was something wrong here. You shouldn't have to fly to a different country for healthcare," she said.

As an adult, Shin got her start as a community organizer in underserved and immigrant communities. "Helping get people registered to vote, explaining...participation in our democracy, and civic engagement. (They) are critical components of building a healthy democracy... a government that is fulfilling its role in serving our people," she said.

Shin said there are many languages spoken in Herndon and Reston. "How do we express the age-old problem of democratic politics? How do we engage a constituency that doesn't speak the language and that the Democratic Party is unwilling to invest in."

Shin said her top priorities as a delegate are implementing universal Pre-K across the Commonwealth and working toward paid family medical leave. As she talks with people in the community, Shin hears concerns about wanting development done intelligently, so it is transit-oriented. She also hears concerns about the value of preserving the local quality of life.

### COMMENTARY

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**W**hile public attention has been focused on the COVID-19 pandemic many missed the epidemic surge in gun violence that has been occurring in this country. In the last month there have been 45 mass shootings in the United States, and that is just counting incidents in which mass shootings are defined as four or more people who are shot, wounded, or killed. By that definition there have been 147 mass shootings already in 2021 compared with 600 in all of 2020 and 417 in 2019. We are on course to set another record for mass carnage involving guns.

Surprised that the numbers on gun violence are so high? Our attention has been transfixed on the COVID crisis that forced some news stories to the

## Epidemic Surge in Gun Violence



COURTESY PHOTO

**Del. Ken Plum's post: "Amazing turnout at the 100th monthly vigil and protest at the NRA. Thank you to all who attended. Enough is enough! We will not give up. Time for the US Congress to act!"**

back pages, and unfortunately the number of mass murders is becoming so common place that they do not receive the attention they once did. And for every news story on the front page about another mass murder there are dozens of stories buried in later pages of shootings of one, two, or three people including shootings in our community of

Reston. I share the concern of many that we are becoming immune to the bad news for it happens so frequently. We cannot let these mass shootings become the norm!

If you were wondering why flags were flown at half-mast in Virginia last Friday, it was to remember the 32 people who were murdered and the 17 wounded at Virginia Tech in

2007. At the time it set a record for the number of persons killed in a mass shooting. It has since been eclipsed by shootings in Las Vegas and Orlando. Sandy Hook had almost as many victims, but we need to remember that they were little children in an elementary school. Eight of the shootings with the highest number of casualties happened within the past ten years.

I term the problem we have with gun violence an epidemic in that it is a problem unique to us among the developed and wealthy countries of the world as opposed to a pandemic that might exist more widely. According to a study by the United Nations, there are 29.7 homicides by firearms per one million people in the United States compared to 1.4 in Australia, 1.9 in Germany, and 5.1 in Canada.

One reason for the number of deaths by guns in the United States

is their availability. The United States has more guns than people: 120.5 per 100 people. In comparison, the ratio of guns to people in Canada is 34.7 per 100, France and Germany are both 19.6, and Iraq is 19.4.

It is way past time to take action to end this epidemic. The Virginia General Assembly this year and last passed 20 different common-sense gun safety bills including my bill to require universal background checks for gun transfers that the Governor signed into law. Many of the features of these laws have been incorporated into a bill introduced in the United States Senate by Virginia Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. It comes as close as anything I have seen that will help end this epidemic. Join me in encouraging the Congress to pass it.

# Running for Second in Command

## Thirteen candidates are running for lieutenant governor in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he job of lieutenant governor is often overlooked, but it plays an important role in Virginia politics. Although many people view it as a stepping stone to running for governor, the lieutenant governor has a critical role in the day-to-day proceedings of the General Assembly.

He or she presides over the Senate, which often means making procedural rulings about whether motions can proceed or not. Perhaps more importantly, though, the lieutenant governor gets to break tie votes in a chamber where Democrats hold a two-vote majority. Because the chamber is home to some conservative-leaning Democrats, the lieutenant governor has many opportunities to step in and break a tie vote.

Earlier this month, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax broke a tie vote on legalizing marijuana after two Senate Democrats voted with Republicans. The next election for senators isn't until 2023, so the next lieutenant governor will walk into a Senate chamber where he or she could end up being a tie-breaking vote on almost any issue.

## Democratic Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Democrats will choose their nominee for lieutenant governor in a June 8 statewide primary. (Absentee voting begins April 23.) Seven candidates will be on the ballot. The seat will be open because incumbent Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax is running for governor.

**Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11)** was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013 to fill the seat vacated by Onzlee Ware. He's raised more money than any of the other Democrats in the race, and his campaign contributors include donations from the health-care sector, physicians, pharmacists and dentists. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as a Muslim has informed his view of politics.



Sam Rasoul

"Look, we've all had some vulnerable moments over the past several years," said Rasoul in a candidate forum. "And a big vulnerable moment for me was in December of 2015 when a then-candidate for president said people who worship like me are not

welcome in this country."

**Del. Hala Ayala (D-51)** was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2017, defeating incumbent Republican Rich Anderson. Campaign-finance records show she's received \$25,000 from the environmental group Clean Virginia, and she also was able to transfer \$60,000 from her House campaign. On the campaign trail, she talks about how being an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish has informed her view of politics.



Hala Ayala

"For a long time, I did not feel like politicians looked like me or had a lived experience like mine," said Ayala in a candidate forum. "My family struggled growing up, and I lost my father to gun violence.

**Norfolk City Councilwoman Andria McClellan** was first elected in 2016, and as an at-large member of the council represents more people than anybody else in the race. Her biggest contributor is the Norfolk-based PAC Access for Virginia. On the campaign trail, she talks about how her experience in local government would inform her performance as lieutenant governor.



Andria McClellan

"We need a statewide database of affordable housing, where people can search and find opportunities," said McClellan in a candidate forum. "It needs to be searchable and available for all throughout the commonwealth."

**Sean Perryman** is the former president of the Fairfax NAACP, a role that's put him at the center of the debate on ending qualified immunity and defelonizing drugs. A significant portion of his campaign contributions come from lawyers and lobbyists, and he's taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he's called for allowing incarcerated people to vote, abolishing qualified immunity for police and limiting campaign contributions.



Sean Perryman

"I don't think corporate donations are a problem. I think the problem is contribution limits," said Perryman in a candidate forum. "Whether you're getting \$100,000 from an LLC or from Joe Smith down the block, they are still having influence over you. And so we absolutely need to have limits on our contributions."

**Del. Mark Levine (D-45)** was first elected in 2015, filling a seat vacated by Democrat Rob Krupicka. Campaign-finance records show his largest donation is \$40,000 from

his House of Delegates campaign, and he also received \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he advocates for banning assault weapons, joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes.



Mark Levine

"I support no prison sentences for people who are addicted to drugs, period," said Levine in a candidate forum. "Because if you're an addict, you need help. You need health care. You don't need to go to prison."

**Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31)** was first elected in 2017, defeating Republican incumbent Scott Lingamfelter. Campaign-finance records show she's taken large campaign contributions from several unions, and she's also taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, she's styled herself as the Bernie Sanders candidate in the race who will abolish Virginia's so-called right-to-work law.



Elizabeth Guzman

"I'm ready to go to the Senate and to be the voice to educate the senators on how it's important to repeal the right to work," said Guzman in a candidate forum. "Repealing the right to work is providing workers a voice at the table, to fight for better equipment, to better their salary and for training purposes as well."

**Xavier Warren** is an NFL player agent and lobbyist for nonprofits. Campaign-finance records show he's taken money from people who work in sports management, and he received a \$10,000 in-kind contribution from communications firm Capture Create Media. On the campaign trail, he advocates for ending the cash-bail system and investing in solar farms.



Xavier Warren

"Virginia is in a covid crisis, a climate crisis and an economic crisis," said Warren in a candidate forum.

"I want to be the leader in technology, healthcare innovation and also clean energy and helping families to build generational wealth."

## Republican Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Republicans will choose their nominee in an unassembled convention on May 8, which

will be at 37 locations throughout Virginia. To vote in the convention, voters must register as delegates to the convention. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates from first to sixth, and if no one wins a majority on the first round the last-place candidate will be dropped.

**Former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40)** was first elected in a 2002 special election to fill the seat vacated by Jay O'Brien when he was elected to the state Senate. As a longtime member of the House, he served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus and was able to raise large amounts of money to help candidates across Virginia. On the campaign trail, his pitch to Republican delegates is that he's a Republican who has a history of winning in Northern Virginia, where he was reelected eight times before being unseated by Dan Helmer in 2019.



Tim Hugo

"You never thought a decade ago or 15 years ago that you would have Democrats talking casually about infanticide," said Hugo in a candidate forum. "You never thought you'd have Beto O'Rourke going door to door against us to talk about taking our guns, and you never thought you'd be talking about defunding the police. But that's what Democrats are doing now."

**Del. Glenn Davis (R-84)** is a former member of the Virginia Beach City Council who was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013. Campaign-finance records show he was able to transfer about \$350,000 from his House campaign account, giving him an early edge over other candidates. As a member of the House, he has a voting record that's a bit more moderate on issues involving gay rights and labor issues. On the campaign trail, he's positioning himself as a moderate alternative to the other candidates who are more closely aligned with former President Donald Trump.



Glenn Davis

"I want to go to the middle because the middle is where you win elections," said Davis in a candidate forum. "The middle is where a lot of Republicans have gotten way too uncomfortable being, and what's why we lose."

**Former Del. Winsome Sears (R-90)** served one term in the House of Delegates 20 years ago. Since that time, she waged an unsuccessful campaign in 2004 against Con-



Winsome Sears

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 5

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# Candidates

FROM PAGE 4

gressman Bobby Scott and an unsuccessful write-in candidacy in 2018 as an alternative to Corey Stewart, whom she called a “charlatan.” Sears has the endorsement of state Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11), and on the campaign trail she accuses Democrats of race baiting.

“They’re pitting the races against each other,” said Sears in a candidate forum. “You’re heard the constant Black, white, now it’s Asian. They’re speaking against Thomas Jefferson kids and their successes, and they want quotas.”



Lance Allen

Lance Allen is a first-time candidate who is trying to use his lack of political experience as an asset, framing his campaign as an attempt to do something about his frustration with politics. He doesn’t have any big name endorsements, and he hasn’t raised much money. But on the campaign trail, he’s trying to connect with voters by tapping into their frustration with Republican leadership in the General Assembly.

“We caved on issue after issue, and I’m tired of compromising my values just so we can have a little bit of power,” said Allen in a candidate forum. “It’s time to stand up and say the things we know as Republicans that we need to say.”

Puneet Ahluwalia is an activist who has been involved in Northern Virginia politics for years trying to build an immigrant base for the Republican Party. As a first-generation immigrant, he’s hoping his personal story might resonate with voters who want to expand the range of the party. On the campaign trail, he talks about how critical race theory is a threat to Virginia schools.

“All it does is teach children to divide, to hate, to see themselves as victims of oppressors,” said Ahluwalia in a video posted to YouTube. “It leads to lower achievement and more quotas. America can’t lead when we don’t even believe in our own values.”



Puneet Ahluwalia

Maeve Rigler is a lawyer who wanted to run as a Republican candidate against U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) but she was unsuccessful in securing the nomination in the convention. She’s now positioning herself as the candidate who will fight for election security, arguing that she’ll fight against voter fraud.

“We need a candidate who will stand up against voter fraud,” said Rigler in a YouTube video.

“The Democrats stole the election from the Republicans. I’ve been expecting Virginia Republicans to stand up and speak out while the Democrats keep spewing their socialist agenda, I’ve heard nothing but silence from Republicans.”



Maeve Rigler

## FRESHFARM Markets Open

Local FRESHFARM Markets are opened. Residents are encouraged to pre-order as much as possible, but grab-and-go and prepackaged options will be available for purchase at all of the markets listed below.

### Saturday Markets

Arlington, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. -- N Courthouse Rd. and 14th St N, Arlington

Oakton, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. -- 2854 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton.

### Sunday Market

Mosaic, 9 a.m - 2 p.m. -- 2910 District Ave., Fairfax

## CONNECTION

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 5th and 6th editions. Photo submissions are due by Sunday, May 2, 2021.

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### Obituary

**Joan E. Black (née Shrum), 77**, of Herndon, Virginia, died peacefully on March 27, 2021, at the AdventHealth hospital in Connerston, Florida. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Charles and Ruth Shrum. Joan proudly served as a cartographer for over 30 years with the Army Map Service, Defense Mapping Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Her interests included spending time with family, travel, reading, needlepoint, and making pancakes for her grandson. She is survived by her beloved husband of over 45 years, Rodney, their two children, a daughter-in-law, a grandson, her brother Gerald, and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was preceded in death by her sister Judith. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION



The Madison Warhawks win the VHSL Region 6D Championship and will face South County in the VHSL State Semifinals.

# Warhawks Beat Chargers, Win Region Championship

## Madison to host South County Saturday in the state semifinals.

The Chantilly Chargers (6-1) faced the Madison Warhawks (7-0) on Friday April 16 with the winner advancing to play in the VHSL Class 6 State semifinal game on Saturday, April 24. Chantilly arrived after defeating South Lakes 7-0, while Madison defeated

Wakefield 28-7. Chantilly and Madison competed in a regular season matchup in which Madison won 10-3, on March 26. This time in regional finals - Madison won 19-14. Warhawks will host defending state champions South County in the state semifinal.

— WILL PALENSCAR

Madison QB Connor Barry #5 prepares to hand the ball to a Madison running back.



Madison's Alex Ireige #1 looks for room to run.

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## Wanna Take A Chance?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sort of invoking Southwest Airlines here, but not exactly. What I am invoking are the incredible number of television and radio commercials for legal gambling sites and for car insurance. Both offer rewards while requiring payment upfront. In anecdotal fact, if it wasn't for these two entities advertising on television especially, and on radio to a lesser degree, the airwaves would be a lot less redundant. I'm so used to seeing Flo from Progressive, LiMu Emu and Doug from Liberty Mutual and all sorts of familiar characters from Geico that I am actually contemplating making an insurance inquiry. Together, these insurance companies in particular have combined to nearly beat me into insurance-quote submission. The last time I changed car insurance companies was after seeing a plane at the beach flying a banner for all of us who could see encouraging us to make a call. It was - for me, the last straw. I called the company the following week and was indeed rewarded for that call: hundreds in premium savings.

Likewise, DraftKings, Fanduel and BetMGM have combined to nearly entice me into entering their world of online, sportsbook betting. Unfortunately, I have a much better grasp of the jargon and issues addressed by car insurance advertisers (having been a Certified Financial Planner in my previous profession). With respect to the sportsbooks, even though I'm a long time "sports guy," and as such understand the nature and risks of anticipating a desired outcome, I've rarely ventured outside the lines. Those lines being an NFL most-winners pool held weekly in season at my wife Dina's former employer, a season-ending Super Bowl point-totals-at-end-of-each-quarter thing, and a yearly participation in the annual NCAA's "bracketology," (which I've actually won once).

But the modern sportsbook and even the individuals hired by the radio and television networks to discuss/albeit recommend the various "plays;" the over-under, the parlays and all the extra-special, apparent can't-miss,

opportunities for new/first-time bettors/gamblers hyped as if there really is nothing to lose by playing and only money to win, is all too much for me to process and understand. After listening to all the noise, I really feel a need to take a class to protect myself from simply losing/throwing money away because I think I understand, but likely understand very little of the actual risk/reward dynamic. Certainly, I can appreciate the excitement of winning money at the expense of others, but as most would attest, at the very least; expecting outcomes will satisfy your financial needs is a slippery slope at best and a rabbit hole at worst (why else the "If you become afflicted to gambling" advisories on all the advertisements).

The car insurance companies are certain we all want to save money on such necessary got-to-haves like car insurance. And the sportsbooks are betting (pun intended) that we all want to find free money and are not opposed to taking a chance to get it. A chance which if successful, might actually provide the extra money needed to pay their car insurance premiums. I fear however, that once dipping my wallet into the gambling waters, and win a little, but likely lose more, it might be difficult to extract myself from their figurative clutches. The car insurance companies are sort of the same. They entice us by advertising lower prices then hope to retain customers by offering various other incentives such as "accident forgiveness," "vanishing deductibles" and the like. In effect, they're both trying to bait us and hope we don't switch. Their motivation is quite similar: they want our money and they want us beholden to them. it's not ideal, but it sure is prevalent. In each instance, you're "betting" money on an outcome which is totally out of your control: predicting scores and predicting whether you'll have a car accident or not. Whose to know? Not me. In addition, I've grown weary - and skeptical of the never-ending pursuit of my dollars. Besides, I got out of the predicting business as soon as I received my "terminal" cancer diagnosis in late Feb., 2009.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

In celebration of Arbor Day 2021, Mayor Sheila Olem of the Town of Herndon, along with Chief Instructor Tony Breda of Heaven and Earth Aikido, plant the new Yoshino Cherry tree in the Town Square. Girl Scouts from Saint Joseph School Girl Scout Council of the Nation Capital Troop 2421, (from left) Josie, 12, of Herndon, Mairead M., 11, of Herndon, Mariana, 12, of Herndon and, Ainsley, 12, of Vienna look on.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

# Tree Planting Ceremony Held in Herndon

**Arbor Day Foundation Program recognizes the Town of Herndon as a Tree City USA community and recipient of the tree Growth Award.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon hosted its 32nd Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony on the Town Hall Square, Saturday, April 17. Mayor Sheila Olem, Community Forester John Dudzinsky, and guests participated. The ceremony celebrated the importance of the Town's urban tree canopy and the care it assumes to nurture it. "The Town did not get an opportunity to hold an Arbor Day Ceremony last year due to the COVID pandemic. It is nice to hold one this year," said Dudzinsky.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, trees tame stormwater and fight climate change. They are called the low-tech solution to energy problems. "I'm so excited to be here on the 32nd Anniversary of Herndon being named a Tree City USA and receiving the tree Growth Award," said Mayor Sheila Olem. She recognized Jim McGlone, Virginia Department of Forestry Urban Forest Conservationist who would present the recognitions, Brian Ericksen, owner of Heaven and Earth Aikido on Spring Street, who donated funds on behalf of the dojo to purchase a Yoshino Cherry tree to plant on Arbor Day 2021 and St. Joseph School Girl Scout Troop 2421, who provided support for the purchase of flowers to fill the tree's garden bed.

"Aikido is about self-defense but just as important to the art is giving to others and encouraging growth. It is in that spirit that the tree was given," said Erickson in a statement since he could not attend the ceremony. Tony Breda, Chief Instructor at Heaven and Earth Aikido, added, "We are glad that we were able to help make the Town more beautiful." The long-lasting tree is known for its exotic branching pattern and spring-time display of large, showy white blossoms with a touch of pink. The Arbor Day 2021 Yoshino Cherry tree will be approximately 40 feet tall with a branch spread of 25 to 40 feet at its mature height.

"One of the things that we are learning about having trees and having nature in our environment is that it helps reduce stress," said McGlone. The Town has been a certified Tree City USA Community for 32 consecutive years by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management. It maintains a tree



(From left) Virginia Department of Forestry Urban Forest Conservationist Jim McGlone, Town of Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem, and Town Forester John Dudzinsky unfurl the official 2021 Tree City USA flag, which the Town will proudly fly as it celebrates the importance of its urban tree canopy and improves the care of vital town trees.

department, has a community tree ordinance, spends at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrates Arbor Day, according to McGlone.

"It is my pleasure to recognize the Town of Herndon as Tree City USA," said McGlone,

The Town's first Arbor Day celebration took place on April 29, 1989, with the planting of a Ginkgo tree at Herndon High School. Dudzinsky noted that construction crews removed it during the recent Herndon High School renovation project. "That was the first tree I planted in Herndon," said Dudzinsky. "My second tree is still around, though."

# Best Bet: A Reservation

**Restaurant Review:  
Lazy Dog,  
Chantilly**

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A fake paw print on tables and at least one photo of a cheerful Retriever will beckon all the dog lovers in the Chantilly area. That destination? Lazy Dog restaurant, which on a recent Saturday night was brimming with folks eating, drinking, and being ultra-merry.

What is the big draw about this robust eatery? For one, it offers outdoor patio seating and indoor seating in a huge, barn-like setting that looks like it would fit well on a ranch. Tables, set apart because of the pandemic, are still numerous enough to pack the place.

But besides the overt merriness of Lazy Dog, the real pull is the extensive menu—and there is even a dog menu, believe it or not. The choices are so extensive that scanning through all the offerings can be mind-blowing. Listed as "lunch," though these are available apparently all day long, are such starters as Goat Cheese and Pepper Jelly or Jumbo Coconut Shrimp, hand-breaded and fried and served with sesame slaw.

Small plates, which likely serve as sides for meat or seafood entrées, include Bacon Candy (yum), Sweet Potato Tots, or Crispy Deviled Eggs that are lightly fried and sprinkled with smoked paprika, plus more.

Then onto the main meal. Diners can start with a bowl of Chicken Tortilla Soup that is loaded with shredded cheddar cheese and fried tortilla strips. Oddly, that is the only soup choice, but the menu offers so much more that that makes it OK. Assorted salads include Cobb salad; Tex-Mex with chicken, black beans, avocado, and BBQ sauce; and Seared Ahi Tuna, with greens and veggies, plus other salad choices.

Two other menu sections pre-entrées include Noodles, featuring Thai Noodles with shrimp and tofu; Fettuccine Alfredo; and Ham+Broccoli Mac N Cheese. The other is Bowls, basically Asian-inspired ways to spark steamed rice with a choice of meat and veggie toppings.

Tables, set apart because of the pandemic, are still numerous enough to pack the place.

On to the main deal: Sandwiches, with a choice of sides, include House Club or Grilled 5 Cheeses on sour dough toast, plus a choice of sides. Then the Burgers: outstanding is the BBQ Ranch burger, with smoked bacon and cheddar cheese with a chipotle ranch dressing—the choice of sides include yummy onion rings. Another must-have is the Black and Blue burger with blue cheese and smoked bacon.

Meat entrées include five chicken dishes, such as chicken pot pie or fried chicken. Five meat entrées include a Campfire Pot Roast or BBQ St. Louis-style Pork Ribs. And the two Meatless dishes Spaghetti Squash and Beet Balls or Nashville Hot Portobello Mushrooms of crispy portobello mushrooms. The five seafood entrées include Beer-Battered Fish and Chips, which is delicious; Fish Tacos; and Sesame Crusted Ahi tuna.

Should anyone have any room for a sweet ending to their Lazy Dog meal, the kitchen puts out a Butter Cake with a minted strawberry compote; chocolate brownie sundae; and a pineapple upside down cake, plus two more.

Lazy Dog also offers hefty take-out entrées and weekend brunch cocktails. As for cocktails and other beverages, the restaurant offers a lengthy, two-sided menu from wines, to draft beers to cocktails to sodas and natural drinks.

Note: best bet? make a reservation.

Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar, 14333 Newbrook Dr., Chantilly, VA. Phone: 571-616-9093. WWW.lazydogrestaurants.com. Check the website for hours.