

CONNECTION

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From left, are Sang Yi; Iraq War veterans Mike Fant and Mac McCarl; Vietnam War veteran Mike Semenec; Debbie Young, daughter of WWII Navy pilot Lehman Young; Korean War veteran Frank Spicer; and Joe Harmon.



Strauss and Moon Honored

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Honoring Veterans in Fairfax City

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From left, are Sang Yi; Iraq War veterans Mike Fant and Mac McCarl; Vietnam War veteran Mike Semenc; Debbie Young, daughter of WWII Navy pilot Lehman Young; Korean War veteran Frank Spicer; and Joe Harmon.



Singing patriotic songs are women's barbershop quartet, The Sound Advice. (From left) are Lori Greenlief, Bonnie Ashley, Carrie Bodoh and Beth Kimlick.

'We Have an Obligation to Care for Our Veterans'

Fairfax City residents, dignitaries, celebrate Veterans Day.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each year, members of VFW Post 8469 and American Legion Post 177 ask those attending Fairfax City's Veterans Day ceremony to remember U.S. veterans. But last Thursday, Nov. 11, they urged all Americans to take concrete action to make sure veterans get the support and care they need after returning home.

"When the nation calls its soldiers to war, it's asking them to destroy the enemy's homes and citizens – and then put its country back together again – and this affects them deeply," said VFW Post 8469 Commander Mac McCarl. "Over 30,000 veterans have taken their lives since 9/11 – twice the number of non-veterans.

"Exposure to toxic materials on the battlefield also continues to be a problem. I, myself, was downwind of burning oil fields and other toxic agents. So when a nation calls its citizens to arms – and they answer – there remains an expectation of well-funded programs to help them afterward. But this is still unfinished business."

Held this year at Old Town Square, Fairfax's ceremony drew its largest crowd ever – more than 200 residents. Dignitaries included U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly, Del. David Bulova (D-37th), Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34th), Del. Dan Helmer (D-40th),

Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and members of the City Council.

Noting that WWI was supposed to be "the war to end all wars" because of how devastating it was, Connolly said it was fought during a pandemic which eventually killed 50 million people. "Here we are again in the



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly

midst of another pandemic," he said. "And we have a sacred obligation to our veterans – not only to remember them, but to care for them."

Referencing recently deceased Georgia senator Max Cleland, Connolly said, "He lost two legs and one arm in Vietnam, and when he ran for reelection, his opponent called him unpatriotic. He lost and went back into PTSD, but he continued to champion the cause of veterans. So as we remember veterans today, let's remember that our veterans need binding up of their wounds. And let's remember the sacrifice, heroism and patriotism of Max Cleland and all the other veterans like him."

Petersen commented on the banners of eight Fairfax City veterans that were displayed during the ceremony and noted that he knew two of them. "Walt Potock served in the Air Force; and if you wanted to be elected here, you asked for his support," said Petersen. "Lou Frank joined the Marines at age 16, and his son and I were best friends. These men not only served in wartime but



Mac McCarl

came back and served in the community, and I thank them."

Bulova said, "We were able to have an election last week because of people who were willing to defend that right. Words seem wholly inadequate. Both my grandparents served in WWII, and my dad served in Vietnam in the '70s. Some 780,000 veterans live in Virginia now. Each of them put on that uniform, not knowing what they'd face or if they'd have to sacrifice their lives.

"So we want to do everything to help them when they come back. We need to make sure they can get the education and support to get good jobs, plus care for their physical- and mental-health issues. We must tell them we appreciate them and let our children know the pride we have in our veterans."

Helmer served in Iraq and Afghanistan and said his family includes immigrants and Holocaust survivors. "I'm proud of what our General Assembly did to make sure disabled veterans don't have to pay the car tax and how it's providing access to some services," he said. "But we have more policy work to



Jeff White

do."

"One in five veterans earns less than \$15 an hour," Helmer continued. "Too many veterans struggle to pay for prescription drugs, and we need to enable them to get the meds they need to be healthy. We face a veteran suicide crisis; 70 percent of veterans take their lives with firearms – and we need to make sure they don't have access to them."

Mayor Meyer said his father-in-law was an Air Force veteran who transported agent orange in Vietnam and now has bladder cancer. "All we want is for him to survive," said Meyer. "Without a citizenry willing to defend our freedoms, democracy can't survive. And we owe a great debt of gratitude to those citizens that this system has prevailed, and will, in the future."

"My family and I emigrated from South Korea when I was 5; and to me, the U.S. was a foreign country," said City Councilmember Sang Yi. "But my father said, 'You're so lucky to be here. You owe everything and you need

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



The American Legion Post 177 Color Guard.

‘We Have an Obligation to Care for Our Veterans’

FROM PAGE 3

to pay it back to this country.’ So at 18, I attended a federal service academy. We all had shaved heads and wore the same uniform, and then I felt I belonged – I was a part of America.”

“What an amazing country when we can honor those who serve in uniform,” said Yi. “This is the greatest country in the history of the world and serving in the military is one of the best things you can do for your country. To the veterans here, thank you for all you did and do and for inspiring the next generation of veterans.”

Councilmember Janice Miller said she’s grateful “for all our veterans and for the women who support them – the wives, mothers, sisters. Thank you for the sacrifices you make daily while our veterans take care of the rest of us.”

American Legion Post 177 Commander Jeff White said the ceremony’s organizers worked with Yi and Councilmember Joe Harmon to obtain the names and photos of the local veterans on the banners. The City’s Parks and Rec Department then did the banners’ photos and imaging. White also noted that many of those veterans’ families were at the ceremony. He then read each man’s name aloud and told where they served:

* Walt Potock, Air Force, Vietnam; Jeff Wolfhope, Navy, Lebanon/Grenada; Lehman Young, Navy, WWII; Avon Blevins, Army, WWII; Floyd Dey, Army, WWII; Rand Gaber, Coast Guard, Vietnam; Louis Frank, Marines, Vietnam; and Walter Sigirst, Army, WWII.

Next, White had their loved ones stand, as the crowd applauded. “Because of these men, our lives are free, our nation lives and the world survives,” said White. “Happy Veterans Day.” Then everyone stood for a moment of silence in their honor, as a bugler played “Taps.”

VFW Chaplain Marcus Kuiper gave the closing prayer: “God, we pray You bless our veterans and their families. We respect, thank and honor them, and we’re proud of them. Bless them with peace and happiness.”



Two of the banners honoring Fairfax City’s war veterans.



Some of the attendees before the ceremony started.

News Briefs

Lorton Pharmacy ‘Incorrectly Administered’ Children’s Vaccine

KC Pharmacy, a pharmacy in Lorton, incorrectly administered COVID-19 vaccine formulated for those 12 years and older to younger children aged 5 to 11 years old between Nov. 2 and Nov. 10, according to Fairfax County Health Department and the Virginia Department of Health.

Specifically, 0.1mL (10 µg) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 formulation designed for those 12 years and older was administered to 25 younger children.

Fairfax County Health Department reports that it has reached out to the families to alert them of the mis-dosing and provide guidance. Both the Virginia Department of Health and the Fairfax County Health Department recommend that these parents review guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the manufacturer (Pfizer) related to mis-dosing of COVID-19 vaccine. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus/vaccine/clinical-guidance>

Following review of the CDC guidance, parents are encouraged to contact their child’s pediatrician or health care provider to discuss options to complete the COVID-19 vaccine series.

KC Pharmacy, whose staff administered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination, has been removed from both state and federal COVID-19 vaccination programs, Fairfax County Health Department reports. The Health Department is now in possession of all remaining COVID-19 vaccine inventory from KC Pharmacy and the matter has been referred to the Virginia Board of Pharmacy for further investigation.

More information is available

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#Appendix-A

Families affected can contact the Health Department at 703-324-7404.

The Virginia Board of Pharmacy controls licensing. pharmdbd@dhp.virginia.gov or 804-367-4456

Fairfax Man Dies after Car Crash

A Fairfax man died Sunday morning, Nov. 14, from injuries sustained in a vehicle crash the previous night. Fairfax County police identified him as Andre Newman, 65. The incident occurred Saturday at 11:37 p.m. Newman was the driver and sole occupant of a 2012 Nissan Sentra traveling east on Georgetown Pike in McLean.

Police say the driver of a 2019 Range Rover was trying to turn left onto Langley Lane from westbound Georgetown Pike and turned in front of Newman. The result was a sideswipe crash, causing Newman’s vehicle to leave the road and come to a stop in a ditch.

The Range Rover driver, along with three juvenile passengers, weren’t injured and remained at the scene. Newman was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries and succumbed to them the next morning.

Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit don’t believe speed or alcohol are factors in the crash. The investigation remains active, and details of the investigation will be presented to the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

— BONNIE HOBBS

Fairfax Man Charged with Soliciting Minor Online

Fairfax County police arrested a 22-year-old man last Tuesday, Nov. 9, for allegedly soliciting a minor online. He is Joshua Shearin of Fairfax, and he’s now facing three felony charges.

Police say that, around 11 a.m. that day, Shearin directly messaged another user via a social-media dating app. However, unbeknownst to him, the person receiving his message was an undercover detective. The app uses geolocation technology to locate people in close proximity to the user.

According to police, Shearin reportedly exchanged several messages with the detective, who identified himself as a 14-year-old boy. Then, police report, “Shearin [allegedly] sent explicit pictures to the detective and discussed meeting the boy for a sexual encounter.”

Shearin chose a meeting location in Fairfax, and detectives found him there and took him into custody. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau’s Missing Person and Exploitation Squad charged Shearin with two counts of use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children and one count of attempted indecent liberties. He’s being held without bond at the Adult Detention Center.

Anyone with information about this event or who may have had inappropriate contact with Shearin is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

— BONNIE HOBBS



Michael McGrath, the director at the Noman M. Cole Plant explains the procedure.



Stainless steel is everywhere in the new building.



Laurel Xiao displays an award the Noman M. Cole Plant received for past achievements.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

South County Water Now Treated by UV Lights

UV physical disinfection system is good for the environment.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Millions of gallons of waste water go through the Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant in Lorton, and it now gets

treated with ultraviolet lights, saving money, wastewater and wildlife in Pohick Bay. The UV process is a physical disinfection system that generates photons that penetrate microbial DNA to deactivate bacteria and leave it unable to reproduce. This is an improved process from the old chemical (sodium hy-

pochlorite) disinfection system.

"This is the latest in our capital improvement project," said Michael McGrath, the director at the plant.

The water comes into the plant, gets zapped by the 1000-watt ultraviolet lights, and flows back through pipes that go under

Old Colchester Road, down Pohick Creek and eventually back into Pohick Bay. The water that flows into the bay is 99.999 percent germ free, McGrath said, and is compliant with the Clean Water Act.

SEE SOUTH COUNTY, PAGE 13

Now Welcoming Residents

We invite you to explore our newest community in beautiful Fairfax, VA. Schedule a tour and meet our experienced team of caregivers. You'll get a sneak peek of our community's amenities, activities, and dining program. We look forward to sharing our personalized approach to assisted living and memory care. We can't wait to welcome you home.

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- 30 minutes from Washington, DC and situated on Route 50 within easy reach of the shops, restaurants, historical attractions, and the natural beauty of the area



FAIRFAX

© 2021 Sunrise Senior Living. All our team members are following COVID-19 infection control protocols, including wearing a mask. Number of visitors allowed inside is limited, to maintain appropriate social distancing.



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Children's & Teens' Connection 2021

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3. This edition publishes Dec 15.

During December of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, families, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish every kind of artwork that can be submitted to us as a jpeg, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

Pandemic planning has made for a short deadline, and, like everything else, the 2021 Children's Connections will be different than in the past.

For 2021, please send a curated collection of art from your class. We will do our best, but we are unlikely to be able to print every item submitted. Please include the first and last name of the student with each submission.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they

can be sent through email. Writing should be submitted in .docx format or in google doc. If you are sharing a google doc with us, please turn on link sharing so that anyone with the link can edit the document and share with kimm.mary@gmail.com. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome. Holiday themes are also encouraged.

Short answers, 100-200 words on: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite ani-

mal or food or toy? Describe a good friend. Describe one of the best gifts you've ever given or received. Discuss a hobby or sport that you are involved in. Your opinion about any topic.

Poetry or other creative writing.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist or writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. The Children's & Teens' editions will publish on Dec. 15, 2021.

You can see the 2019 editions (pre-pandemic) by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Children's Edition. You may also see the 2020 editions at the bottom of this email.

Email submissions for the Children's Editions to kimm.mary@gmail.com.

For advertising, please email Debbie Funk at debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com.

MARY KIMM
EDITOR AND PUBLISH

Fairfax County Residents Are Employed Yet Struggle with the Cost of Living

BY ROSIE ALLEN-HERRING

Every two years, a grassroots research initiative takes place to help our region identify our ALICE -- an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed -- populations. ALICE represents the growing number of households in our communities that are employed but do not earn enough to afford basic necessities.

United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) announced Nov. 15-19, 2021, as ALICE Awareness Week. Here's why we all need to be aware of our ALICE neighbors and what they need to bridge their financial gap:

Based on 2018 ALICE reports for Fairfax County, 23 percent of households are ALICE -- five percent of households are at the pover-

ty threshold and earn \$26,500 or less (for a home of 4 persons). This means that a large percentage of Fairfax County ALICE households do not qualify for federal programs that could help alleviate the burden of some of their monthly expenses, such as food and health-care. <https://unitedwaynca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ALICE-In-Fairfax-County.pdf>

To further illustrate the financial struggle of an ALICE household, let's simulate a family of four and assume two adults are jointly earning the state average income of \$72,577 and supporting two children. According to the ALICE Household Survival Budget, a family of two adults and two children needs a total of \$123,984 minimum each year to cover the cost of food, childcare, healthcare, utilities, transportation and other incidentals.

By partnering with United Way NCA, non-profits, academic institutions, corporations, and other state organizations are using the ALICE data to stimulate meaningful discussion and inform strategies for positive change. Your United Way NCA is part of that change. We are using this data to inform our goals, strategies and programs that help create more equitable access to health, education, and economic opportunity. We hope to gain your support, partnerships and advocacy as we practice equity and as we look ahead. We believe that when none are ignored, all will thrive.

To learn more about ALICE, please visit www.unitedwaynca.org/ALICE.

Rosie Allen-Herring is president and CEO of the United Way of the National Capital Area

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

"Cherokee Ancestors." 7:30-9 p.m.

Virtual lecture by Kathie Forbes, citizen of the Cherokee Nation, sponsored by the Fairfax Genealogical Society (www.fxgs.org.) Learn about the history of the Cherokee and the resources to find and document a possible Cherokee ancestor. Venue: virtual: Use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82082791831?pwd=RHcw-d-2pNMENCaFdSVjgxK1lyRnpJUT09> Free and open to the public, but registration is required. Visit the

website: www.FairfaxGenealogicalSociety.org.

ONGOING

STEM Professionals Needed.

Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldr@aol.com.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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Culture Shock of Private School Competition

Those unaccustomed to hyper-competitive education feel intimidated by the admissions process.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

School tours, applications, teacher recommendations, test prep tutors and on campus visits. These are some of the topics of conversation in families who are in the midst of the independent school admissions process. For Sandy Adams, it conjures up memories of the time when her children had to adjust to a new academic environment. She and her family moved three times in six years, each time experiencing the shock of adapting to a new private school admissions process.

“During my children’s elementary, middle, and high school, I moved my three children into three private international schools in Europe and Asia,” said the Potomac mother of three adult children. “My top advice for parents is: Be open minded and flexible.”

Those who are new to the Washington region can be caught off guard by the hyper-competitive independent school admissions process here. Families who were accustomed to a laid-back environment where school choices are plentiful and acceptance rates are high can experience culture shock. There are strategies for navigating the process and snagging a seat in the private school of your choice, say local education consultants.

Perseverance and expectation management are the top coping mechanisms that education consultant Alex Ross believes will make the process less intimidating.

“For parents unaccustomed to the rigors and ultra-competitive environment of certain private schools, their knee jerk reaction when they’re being thrown into such an environment is to shut down,” said Ross, an education consultant who serves clients in Alexandria and Arlington. “They see nothing but the obstacles and throw up their hands, thinking their children will just have to settle for public school.”

To be truthful, though, the toughest school to get into in the region is a public school, Thomas Jefferson. And the social environment and whiff of celebrity in other public schools in Fairfax County, Arlington and Montgomery County can match many private schools. The list of super talented and now famous people who graduated from the public schools in those areas, or the Alexandria City High School, is daunting.

Still Ross believes that dedication and determination can increase the chances of being accepted to the school of your choice. “My best advice would be to stay the course and acknowledge the investment you’re



A private school graduation from before the pandemic.

making in your children,” he said. “Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends. Study after study shows that students coming out of private schools get admitted into more prestigious universities and ultimately are earning higher salaries.”

Self-acceptance is necessary when navigating an unfamiliar and daunting process. “You have to be comfortable with your child going to school where other students may be wealthier, more socially connected, or have celebrity parents,” said Great Falls education consultant Chris Perry. “If you are not comfortable, your child won’t be comfortable. If you are intimidated, your child will be intimidated. If you feel inferior, your child will feel inferior.”

Taking time to attend open house events or take a tour of a school can put families at ease, continued Perry. “Putting a positive spin on a big change can set your family up for success by making it an adventure, rather than just a stressful, arduous move across the country or to a hyper-competitive school,” he said.

For those who experience financial roadblocks, Ross says, “Don’t be shortsighted. Even though many people will tell you that you’re too late to the game to get in, there are always side doors. You never know where a well-timed donation, political favor, or act of volunteering might catapult your son or daughter into the admissions line.”

When selecting a school, the most important factors are finding an environment that is a good fit socially and academically, says Perry.

“The thing to ask yourself is, are you in love with the education your child will get at this school? If you are not, then you shouldn’t go,” And if you are truly in love with it, then nothing else, not money, not social status, not celebrity, should matter.”

“Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends.”

— Alex Ross

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTER SAID THAN DONE



Better Said Than Done founder Jessica Robinson



Diana Veiga will perform at Better Said Than Done's "Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace, and Gravy" at Fairfax's The Auld Shebeen on Nov 27, 2021.



Nick Baskerville will MC Better Said Than Done's "Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace, and Gravy" at Fairfax's The Auld Shebeen on Nov 27, 2021.

After Thanksgiving Day Treat

Better Said Than Done presents 'Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace, and Gravy'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Extending the Thanksgiving celebration into the Saturday evening, Northern Virginia's Better Said Than Done (BSTD) presents a story-telling event aimed at bringing amusement and insight. It is "Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace and Gravy." Providing audiences with an option, there is an opportunity to see the BSTD show either in-person or streaming.

"Thanksgiving is about gratitude, about being thankful. And those of us who have made it, almost to the other side of this pandemic, and can still be grateful have experienced a certain grace. And, of course, you can't have Thanksgiving without gravy," said BSTD founder Jessica Robinson of Fairfax.

"Thanksgiving is about gratitude, about being thankful," said Robinson. "And those of us who have made it almost to the other side of this pandemic and can still be grateful have experienced a certain grace. And, of course, you can't have Thanksgiving without gravy."

If you are not familiar with BSTD, it was founded a decade ago with a mission to perform true, personal stories in front of live audiences. As Robinson explained, "the stories are personal. About a personal experience. Sometimes perhaps a little enhanced. But real, with a beginning, middle and end

meant to entertain and enlighten." "Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace, and Gravy," Better Said Than Done will bring together diverse regional storytellers from Northern Virginia and beyond led by BSTD veteran Nick Baskerville who will MC.

Baskerville indicated that audiences can expect "a great atmosphere that allows stories of all emotional ranges to be told. For veteran story teller Veiga "Better Said Than Done shows are great because they always feature a diverse cast of people who tell compelling and memorable stories."

Sandra Hull of Arlington said, "I'm into gratitude these days. Gravy's good too. For example, people say "good gravy!" even when it's not Thanksgiving or even mealtime. I relish the opportunity to pour some gravy over my gratitude. Ironically, I don't like relish."

Where and When

Better Said Than Done presents "Thanksgiving: Stories of Gratitude, Grace, and Gravy," both live in-person and streaming on Nov 27, 2021 at 7 p.m. The live event is at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Rd (entrance on North Street), Fairfax, VA 22030. Doors open at 6 p.m. Live, in-person tickets are \$15. Details and tickets www.betersaidthandone.com. Tickets for virtual streaming on YouTube: \$5 minimum. For virtual tickets go to www.betersaidthandone.com. Note: To maintain social distancing, in-person tickets are limited. Better Said Than Done asks virtual viewers to double check registration and login to the virtual event a few minutes before show time to make sure you can gain entry. Any issues contact www.betersaidthandone.com before the virtual event.

What else might the audience expect at the BSTD post-Thanksgiving event? Dave Lawson suggested: "One story could be a non-stop laughs story and the next could be a harrowing story of adversity. Not to mention that any one story could contain each of those two things happening back and forth within the same ten minutes."

Local History Is a Spit Shined Classic Truck at Cardinal Shell

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Like a beacon in the night, everyone in Springfield or Burke has passed by the 1946 Chevrolet truck out in front of the Cardinal Plaza Shell on the corner of Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill Road. It screams "Springfield."

"It's an awesome old truck, something you notice when you drive by," said Suzanne Dixon, a customer at the station for the last eight years. "Really noticeable," she added.

The award-winning yellow and red truck is spit shined and custom painted, and has its own concrete platform to complete the custom look. Many have driven by, gawking, and people have stopped for pictures over the past few years. The truck is authentic and still runs when they need it to.

"It was in a handful of car shows,

said Dan Santano, who works at the station. "We had that platform built," he said.

One bypassing resident liked it so much, the special needs youngster drew a picture of the truck and showed the owners. They liked the picture and knew the truck was special to him. "We took him for a ride all around Springfield," Santano said.

Finding the truck could have been an episode of "American Pickers," with Frank and Mike rummaging around in abandoned barns. The original owner found it in a garage in Detroit, shipped it down and did "a complete restoration," Santano said.

It has an inline-six engine, and a simple interior like all the cars did in those days.

In 2016, the truck won the City of Fairfax Antique Car award, followed by the 42nd Edgar Rohr Car Meet award in 2017, and the Prince



The truck even has a custom platform outside the gas station.



No CD player, mood lights or cell phone holder needed.

William 77th Annual Car Pile Up award. All three of these trophies are displayed in the station.

They take care of it also, keeping



It almost seems like John-boy Walton could be driving it up to Ike Godsey's store on Walton's Mountain.



The truck's trophies are proudly displayed at the gas station.

it out of the extreme elements.

"In the winter time, we typically store it in one of our storage lots," Santano said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



The colors are similar to the Washington Football Team.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sports are a big part of Alexandra Charecky's life so far.

Local Teen To Spend Thanksgiving Differently This Year

Alexandra Charecky, 14, who was recently named Miss Springfield at the Virginia State Finals of the National American Miss Pageant, will be traveling to Orlando in November to compete at the National level pageant. Alexandra is a freshman with a 4.6 GPA at West Springfield High School. She is a competitive diver and former XCel Gymnastics State Champion in vault and silver medalist on the uneven bars. She is the reigning State/Region Champion in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Track & Field in Pole Vault and Javelin, and competed at the 2021 AAU Junior Olympics in Houston this summer. Despite all of these accolades, Alexandra says the accomplishment she is most proud of is winning the Spokesmodel competition at the State National American Miss pageant. Her speech, titled "Beacon of Hope & Healing," was the first time she was able to speak publicly about her non-profit organization which she established to help family members of military and first responders who are struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Substance Abuse. Alexandra's parents are both retired Air Force Officers, and her father who is 100% disabled, struggles with PTSD himself. Alexandra's own experiences were the impetus for her founding Beacon of Hope and Healing.

When a family member has PTSD or an addiction problem, the focus can be on that family member and getting them help. Alexandra feels that the family members are overlooked and may have men-

tal health issues as a result of their loved one's problems, such as depression, feelings of abandonment, and helplessness.

In order to build her network of available treatment options, Alexandra has been volunteering at various organizations, including Boulder Crest Foundation and Warrior Canine Connection. They offer military and first responder families treatment options such as animal therapy, gardening and family retreats. "Volunteering has been fun and rewarding. It has given me a better appreciation of what kind of resources are available to military families," said Alexandra. And competing in the American Miss pageant has given her the courage and ability to speak out.

In addition to the Spokesmodel competition, Alexandra will be competing for the title of All American Queen as well as participating in nine optional contests such as Runway and Top Model, Most Photogenic, and Actress. But it's not all about pretty dresses and crowns, NAM also encourages young girls to hone their Interview, public speaking and professional writing skills. So, while other "normal kids" are at home eating turkey and pie with family, Alexandra will once again be representing her organization and raising awareness for a cause that is near and dear to her heart when she steps out onto the stage at the National American Miss Pageant Thanksgiving week. To learn more about Alexandra and her non-profit, Beacon of Hope & Healing, see: www.beaconofhopeandhealing.org.

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12355	787	DRY VALLEY RD./ROUTE 787	MEADOW CREEK	10/28/2021
DINWIDDIE	6063	631	CLAIRBORNE RD.	HATCHER RUN	10/23/2021
CARROLL	4640	620	FOREST OAK RD./ROUTE 620	CROOKED CREEK	10/22/2021
SCOTT	16924	796	GILLENWATER LOOP	BIG MOCCASIN CREEK	10/20/2021
LUNENBURG	11609	626	DOUBLE BRIDGES RD.	LEDBETTER CREEK	10/12/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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'Bringing Holiday Magic to the Community'

Fairfax Ballet Co. presents the 'Nutcracker.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast of 53, the Fairfax Ballet Company presents the iconic "Nutcracker," Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 27-28, at 4 p.m., at Fairfax High. Joining its dancers are students from the Russell School of Ballet, plus special guest artists, to bring this holiday dream to life.

"Performing Thanksgiving weekend is a great start to the holidays and getting into the holiday spirit," said Andrea Cook, Fairfax Ballet's artistic director and choreographer. "It's a family-friendly production with attention paid to small, technical details, as well as to the costumes and set. And astute audience members will notice little hints of act two throughout the party scene in act one."

"We're excited to see the growth our dancers have shown during rehearsal, as well as our younger dancers stepping into more advanced roles," she continued. "And this year, we've redone our battle scene between the mice and soldiers and added more dancers as icicles in the 'Waltz of the Snowflakes.'"

In addition, the Land of the Sweets is now more diverse, inclusive and culturally sensitive. "We highlight the sweets, instead of the lands they've traditionally represented," said Cook. "We've renamed the sweets and removed some of previous 'Nutcrackers' cultural stereotypes."

Guest professional artists from Ballet Des Moines, husband and wife Logan and Amelia Hillman, will dance the roles of the Cavalier and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Logan performed with Fairfax Ballet as a young dancer so Cook's "thrilled that he's able to return as a principal dancer in this production."

George Mason University senior Carlos Martinez will portray both the Nutcracker Prince and the Soldier Doll.

As the Cavalier, Logan Hillman is the Sugar Plum Fairy's dance partner. "He's princely and elegant," said Hillman. "She has turns, big jumps and lifts, and I'm there to do the magic and help her look weightless. I'll enhance her moves so, for example, she can do more pirouettes with my help than on her own."

He said their dance at the end of the show "is a spectacle and should inspire the audience. She's in a beautiful tutu and I'm in a matching jacket and white tights. This dance is what everything else in the show has been building to, and that's why ballet schools bring in professional dancers to perform these two roles."

Dancing since age 10, this is Hillman's ninth year as a professional. "Ballet can be difficult, so it's challenging," he said. "It's easy to learn, but impossible to master. Originally, I was excited dancing onstage. But now, it's more important to me how the audience feels because of my performance."

"I love dancing this part because much of



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY KESTEL

Logan and Amelia Hillman will be the Cavalier and Sugar Plum Fairy. Here, they're performing for Ballet Des Moines.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX BALLET CO.

Fairfax Ballet performers dancing the Waltz of the Snowflakes during a previous show.

what I do is modern, contemporary dance. But this is classical ballet, and I get to show off my training." He said this production is visually appealing and is "the real 'Nutcracker' experience in all its elements. It's an annual tradition, and audiences will see new dancers, long-time professionals and maybe even future professionals."

The Sugar Plum Fairy is Clara's inspiration and the last person Clara visits on her journey. "In ballet, it's an iconic role – someone young ballerinas look up to," said Amelia Hillman, who'll dance this part. "She personifies such glamour, beauty and grace, and I try to bring that to the role. It's special because ballerinas do 'Nutcracker' their whole lives, and it's one of the first productions they see. And they make their way through the ranks of the roles over their career."

Now 27, Amelia Hillman has danced since age 9 and never tires of this show. "The music's beautiful; and every time we're onstage, there are new kids in the show and new people in the audience," she said. "And I love bringing that magic to the community. It's a pillar of the holiday; and for people seeing ballet for the first time, we want it to be a really positive experience."

She said dancers continue choosing their craft. "It's a part of myself I don't think I could be without," said Hillman. "It's a unique outlet for expression where I can continually grow. There are always new things to explore, and I love sharing what I have with the audience. Art enriches our lives; and when you leave the 'Nutcracker,' you feel lighthearted and uplifted."

Portraying Clara is Fairfax Ballet Company's Heather Qian. "Clara's 12 – young, innocent and a bit naïve," said Qian. "She's

To Go

Purchase tickets at <https://fairfaxnutcracker2021.bpt.me/>. Certain group discounts are available in advance; for more information, email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427. This show will also be performed, Dec. 18-19, with the Fairfax Symphony, at GMU's Center for the Arts. For ticket information, go to www.fairfaxballet.org.

imaginative and dreams the whole story. I'm super excited to play her – it was my dream role when I was younger, so it's a dream come true. The older girls who did it were so good, and I wanted to be just like them."

Her favorite number is "Arabian" because "the choreography is really cool – it's mesmerizing to watch." Qian said the audience will especially enjoy this show's dancing and see that "everybody's worked so hard and there are awesome people performing."

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

"Asian Futures, Without Asians." 2:30-4 p.m. Via Zoom. "Asian Futures, Without Asians" is a presentation by artist and curator Astria Suparak, which asks: "What does it mean when so many white filmmakers envision futures inflected by Asian culture, but devoid of actual Asian people?" Part critical analysis, part reflective essay and sprinkled throughout with humor, justified anger, and acerbic observations, this one-hour illustrated lecture examines over fifty years of American science fiction cinema through the lens of Asian appropriation and whitewashing. Visit the website: <https://vfs.gmu.edu/events/12434>

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Jazz Combos Concert. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Free. Performance by

Fairfax Ballet's Nicole Shortle is the Snow Queen. "She guides Clara through the Land of Snow, and it's as if everyone is dancing inside a snow globe," said Shortle. "I like the whole corps of dancers being together onstage. And I love the music because everything connects, even though some parts are slow, and others are loud and exciting. 'The Waltz of the Snowflakes' is one of my favorite parts of the show because it's so pretty. We all wear tiaras and snow is falling down."

Shortle said the show's seasonal aspect will appeal to audiences. "We all look forward to it every year and put forth our best efforts," she said. "The costumes are gorgeous, and the dancers plus the backstage crew make the magic happen. And this is our first, live show since the pandemic, so we're really excited."

For ticket information, go to www.fairfaxballet.org.

the Mason Jazz Combos, under the direction of jazz pianist, Wade Beach.

NOV. 19 TO DEC. 11

Moe's Pop Up. 4-8 p.m. At Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Moe's Tavern Pop Up is a ticketed, family-friendly fan experience running for a limited time on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 19 – Dec. 11. Adult tickets start at \$37; kids tickets are \$20. Dress in costume, load up the kids and head to the place where nobody knows your name for food, drink, photo ops and fun! Shoot some pool, try your hand with the Love Tester, sit in Moe's "office," write your punishment on the blackboard, and catch the crank phone calls. Visit the website: <https://moespopup.com/>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Fairfax County's History Shapes Us Today

BY GLENDA
C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County has a “storied history.” “The lives of those who came before us still affect us today,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly told attendees of the 17th Fairfax History Conference held online on Nov. 6.

The annual conference, titled “We Are Fairfax County,” was sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission, chaired by Cheryl Repetti. Vice-Chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge emceed the meeting, dedicated to late John Rutherford, a County Park Authority archaeologist who died on Oct. 4, 2021. The morning session examined the county’s Native American history; the afternoon, African American history, including the historic Gum Springs community in Mount Vernon.

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay opened the meeting, commenting that “our diversity is our greatest strength.” He cited the Board’s creation of an equity task force to evaluate “what systems are obstacles to equity and how structural racism has made some populations more vulnerable than others.” He also said that the county has created a Confederate Names Task Force to examine renaming of Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50).

“Symbols matter,” he said. “Our symbols and policies must make everyone feels welcome and heard.”

Native American Heritage

No one knows when the first Native Americans were in Fairfax, McKay said, but they were here 11,000 years ago.

When English soldier Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River’s shorelines in 1608, he encountered towns and villages. The English called the people they encountered the Dogue and drove them out of the region by 1675. Today’s Dogue Creek bears the tribe’s name.

Rose Powhatan, a Pamunkey/Tauxenent Native American historian, told conference attendees that Algonquin was the original language of Fairfax County and that her ancestors called the land “our fertile country.”

Too many people in the area talk about Native Americans in the past tense, a notion she called “a misconception,” adding, “We are still here. Although the English stole our fruit and cut down our trees, our roots are still here.”

She noted that there are 5,000-year-old petroglyphs at Great Falls. The site of today’s National Zoo in Washington, D.C.,

she said.

Her mother’s family was in the King William County Pamunkey tribe, part of the Powhatan Paramountcy of 32 Indian nations when the English arrived. The Pamunkey tribe became Virginia’s first federally-recognized tribe in 2016. The federal government recognized six more Virginia tribes in 2018.

Dr. Brad Hatch, a member of Virginia’s Pa-

1880s. Hatch teaches people how to make eel pots, to preserve this traditional craft of his people. Eel pots are “entangled with the Patowomeck identity,” he said.

He also described how Native Americans constructed and used carp pens, u-shaped structures of rough-cut lumber supported by rails and used to catch fish in tidal creeks, like Powell’s Creek in today’s Prince William

County, Aquia Creek in Stafford County and Potomac Creek in Stafford and King William Counties. They were in their heyday from the 1940s to the 1970s, he said. Chesapeake Bay watermen also used carp pens until around 1980. Anglers removed the trapped carp with a seine, a kind of net. Carp pens are gone, but they illustrate how indigenous people adapt to changing times, Hatch said. “Fishing connects all of us across cultures,” Hatch said. “Since time immemorial, we’ve relied on

waters of rivers and creeks. They shape our culture. We continue to be haunted by waters.”

Awards

The History Commission gave two distinguished service awards, one to Jeff Clark, Fairfax County Public Schools, who produced over 200 videos and other documents on the history of the county’s public schools.

Another award went to Maura Keaney, a Laurel Ridge Elementary School fifth-grade teacher, whose students prepared the successful nomination of a historical marker honoring Ona Judge, an enslaved African American woman who escaped from George and Martha Washington in Philadelphia in 1796 as they prepared to return to Virginia. Officials unveiled the new marker at Mount Vernon on Juneteenth, June 19, 2021.

Garvey-Hodge announced that the History Commission is developing a research inventory of materials on the histories of African American communities.

It will include buildings, cemeteries, street names, road markers, family records, oral histories and more.

The conference was the first of a four-part series chronicling the people who have called Fairfax County home.

Information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/about-us>



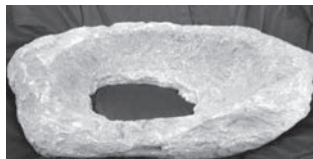
Patowomeck eel pot maker Brad Hatch making an eel pot in 2019.



Four eel pots made by Patowomeck eel pot maker Herman Green around 1940.



Patowomeck Waterman Arthur “Barefoot” Green’s Carp Pen, ca. 1960.



was once a part of quarry, she said, and her great-grandfather from Fairfax County worked there.

“Tauxenent was our main village,” Powhatan said, believed to be near the mouth of the Occoquan River. Today’s Tauxemont community in Mount Vernon was named after this village. The indigenous concept of homeland means “your village is looking out for you, a continuing tradition today,” she

tawomeck tribe and Dahlgren Naval Base’s cultural resource manager, described two traditional fishing crafts.

The first, eel pots, are woven, white oak, basket-type traps, 21 inches tall, eight inches at the base and six inches at the top. The smaller end has a wood cork and rope that attaches to a line with 50 or so pots. Native Americans dipped them in tar to blacken and preserve them and increase their appeal

“We are still here. Although the English stole our fruit and cut down our trees, our roots are still here.”

— Rose Powhatan, Pamunkey/Tauxenent Native American historian

said. John Smith did not venture very far beyond the Potomac River and visit inland villages. Today’s highways were preceded by waterways, “our ancient highway system,”

because eels are attracted to dark colors, Hatch said. Eels would swim into the baited pots and become captured. Records have documented use of these eel pots until the

'Puffs,' at Fairfax High School

BY WILSON WEINGAST
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL

A long time ago, a peculiar orphan boy is surprised when an owl delivers a note that reads, "You're a wizard." Soon this shy young man is whisked away to Magic School, where he and his two friends fight evil and try to save the wizarding world. **CAPPIES** Everybody knows this story of course: it is the story of Wayne.

Puffs, by Matt Cox, is a hilarious parody of JK Rowling's famous book series, Harry Potter. Puffs was originally written as a comedic bit for The People's Improv Theatre in New York City. After its initial debut, Cox developed his concept into a full-length show. Puffs is filled with jokes, slapstick, and subtle Easter eggs.

Fairfax High School's production of Puffs perfectly balanced Cox's exaggerated humor with nuanced emotions. The over-the-top character choices by each actor complemented the direction and blocking by Chris Whitney and student Director Elana Kaplan, enhancing the fun. Fairfax's talented ensemble of actors were not afraid to look goofy. By going all-in, Fairfax High School brought the show to another level.

Rather than following the life of The Boy Who Lived, Puffs followed the life of Wayne



'Puffs,' at Fairfax High School

(Hank Hawkins). After arriving at Magic School, Wayne was sorted into the Puff house where he quickly befriended Oliver (Trevor Sloan) and Megan (Madeleine Tyler). The Puffs had an odd reputation. They were ever the underdogs, constantly looked down upon by the other houses of the school. Puffs followed the travails of these friends over the next seven years during which they battled evil: evil professors, evil snakes, and an evil narrator (Daniel Todd)

who refused to give chocolate to the back of the audience. Then the stakes rose: housemate Cedric (Logan Baker) did something that no Puff had done before: be relevant. Cedric was chosen to represent the school at the Threewizard Tournament, with the small caveat that Harry (Carys Owen) joined him. Wayne and Cedric's friendship grew, which made Cedric's death at the end of the tournament heartbreaking. As emotions ran high, Wayne had to learn the true power of

love in order to defeat Mr. Voldy (Logan Baker) and avenge Cedric.

Two actors who stood out were Daniel Todd and Logan Baker. Todd, the Narrator, brought a cool arrogance to the character. Not afraid to break the fourth wall, Todd's narration kept the show progressing with the audience howling with laughter. Similarly, Baker's acting as both Cedric and Voldy was masterful. Baker leaned into both roles, playing them with exuberance and animation. Whether it was fighting a dragon or improvising a monologue about Legally Blonde, Baker undertook every challenge with ease.

In addition to the exceptional acting performances, Fairfax's tech was what truly made the show magical. The lighting, by Timothy Farmer, was outstanding. Farmer's constant use of gobos and gel effects for each spell was on a professional level. Farmer was able to perfectly time each cue, which brought the world of wizardry to life. Another design that captivated the audience was the set, by Isabella Heffron. Heffron's set was a two storied architectural masterpiece, using doors and other little features variably throughout the show.

Fairfax High School split from the Puffs in one notable way. While the Puffs were content to settle for third place, Fairfax was not. Fairfax High School went all in for first, creating a hilarious roller coaster for all to enjoy.

Strauss and Moon Honored

The contributions of two former Fairfax County School Board members were recognized at the School Board meeting on Nov. 11 when two school facilities were renamed in their honor.

The theater dressing rooms at McLean High School were renamed after Janie Strauss, a School Board member for the Dranesville District from 1993 to 2019, an avid former educator, and director of the nationally acclaimed Critics Awards Program for High School Theater, known as the Cappies. Her three children graduated from McLean where they were active in the arts and athletics. The McLean High School theater dressing rooms will be known as the "Janie Strauss Dressing Rooms."

"Janie Strauss has made education her life's work, as a teacher, through two decades of volunteer service, and as the longest serving woman on the FCPS School Board," said Tamara Derenak Kaufax, School Board member for the Lee District. "She is a model of stability and patience, is respectful and inclusive, energetic and strong, and a trusted counselor and friend."

Strauss served as the president of the Fairfax County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations and chair of its education and budget committees. She also served on many key education and youth-related committees, including the Fairfax County Public Schools Career and Technical Preparation Task Force, the Division Planning Committee, the Citizens Bond Committee, and the Fairfax Framework for Student Success.

"It has been my honor to serve the children and families of Fairfax County, and to have had the opportunity to be a proud

member of the School Board," said Strauss.

Ilryong Moon, an At-Large School Board member from 1995 to 2019, was honored with a resolution dedicating the main gym at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) in his name. The gym will now be known as "Ilryong Moon Gymnasium."

Moon's two sons attended TJHSST. He was appointed an At-Large member of the School Board in 1995 and in November of that year became the first Asian-American to be elected to a public office in Virginia.

"I truly appreciated that my time serving with Mr. Moon, after eight years of service together, he became such a wise counsel for me," said Meghan McLaughlin, School Board representative for the Braddock District. "One of the things that was so characteristic of Mr. Moon is, not only that he was known for his professionalism, but was the way he treated everyone with respect and dignity. One of the things he tried to teach me over and over again, was to show your praise in public and share your constructive feedback in private," added McLaughlin.

Moon served as chairman of the School Board in 2006, 2012, and 2013, and three terms as vice chairman in 2005, 2011, and 2018. He led the push by the School Board to require full-time certified athletic trainers at each high school, and also volunteered his time for the TJHSST athletic department, handling concessions, working the ticket booth, and serving as an announcer.

"Sports is a universal language. Sports can help our students and members of the community overcome whatever disability they may have. Sports can bring mankind together," said Moon



The new color scheme does not include much yellow like the other Fairfax Connector buses.

Fairfax Connector Bus Sporting a New Look in Springfield

Route 393 Passenger Alert

Beginning Monday, Nov. 15, customers riding Fairfax Connector Route 393 are seeing a different looking bus at their stop. These temporary buses are red and white with a Fairfax Connector logo decal on the front, back and both side of the vehicle. The operator wears a

Fairfax Connector uniform and the overhead signs will display the Route 393 information.

Bus route 393 links the Pentagon Metro Station with the Saratoga Park and Ride lot in Springfield. It makes stops at the Mark Center in Alexandria and the Backlick North Park and Ride lot. Questions? Call Fairfax Connector at 703-339-7200, TTY 703-339-1608.

South County Water Now Treated by UV Lights

FROM PAGE 5

Previously, the chemical disinfection system required 200 yearly tanker truck deliveries of chemicals, and \$750,000 annually in chemical costs eliminated with the new UV system. An existing large pump station associated with the old disinfection system is no longer needed either, so this saves about 846,000kWH of energy per year, saving greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 100 cars from the area roadways, Fairfax County said. The price tag of the new system is \$87 million.

The reclaimed water is not suitable for drinking but it doesn't go to waste. Some of the reclaimed water goes to water the Laurel Hill Golf Course and several little league fields in the area, McGrath said.

Water Activist

The Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant opened in 1970 and currently treats water for the southern part of Fairfax County. The Alex Renew water treatment plant in Alexandria also uses a UV system, and then other parts of Fairfax County get water treated at the Upper Occoquan Sewage plant, and Blue Plains plant in Washington, D.C.

This Fairfax plant was named after Noman Monroe Cole Jr., a nuclear engineer, civic activist and past chairman of the Virginia Water Control Board, who died in a ski accident



Dealing with ultraviolet lights requires special equipment.

in 1997. Locally, he was a driving force behind the 1971 Occoquan Watershed Policy and was involved with area sewage treatment plants. In recognition for his efforts to clean up the Potomac River, he received a 1974 "Man of the Year," award from the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and a 1975 "Save Our Stream," award from the Izaak Walton League.



Strict safety rules are important around the plant.

Clean Output Impacts Chesapeake Bay

Scientists at George Mason University have been conducting a study of Gunston Cove over the last 30 years, looking at the nutrient load flowing into the Potomac River watershed from the Noman M. Cole Plant. Although the flow of water through the plant has remained relatively consistent, the levels of phosphorus dropped significantly in the early 1980s, and the amount of nitrogen dropped significantly since 2000.

As a result of these actions at the plant has led to the increase in the amount of submerged aquatic vegetation in Gunston Cove which provides habitats for fish and the organisms they consume. With more vegetation, the overall diversity of the fish population increased, the report stated.

There has also been a significant decline in chlorine and ammonia from the plant, which has allowed fish to recolonize the tidal Pohick Creek. This area is used as a spawning ground by species such as chad. The improvement of water quality has contributed to positive changes in the Chesapeake Bay, GMU said.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

SATURDAY/NOV. 20
Vendor Fair and Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Christ Church, 7600 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Clifton Community Women's Club will be hosting a Vendor Fair and Marketplace. The fair will feature 20 local vendors including the Fairfax Station Railway which will be selling trains. Additional vendors will feature products related to beauty, fashion, toys, antiques, collectibles, food stuff, health, wellness, travel and finance. The Clifton Community Women's Club is a service organization that supports a multitude of community needs and the Charitable Trust distributions support four local scholarships to colleges and universities, donations to local food pantries, and various other charities.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20
Jazz 4 Justice. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Established in 2001 by Fairfax attorney Edward L. Weiner, and Founder of Mason Jazz Studies, Jim Carroll, Jazz4Justice is a concert presented by Legal Services of Northern Virginia and Mason Jazz Studies. Jazz4Justice is a unique event where attorneys, judges, students and members of the Northern Virginia community gather to celebrate their love of jazz.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20
Grocery Store Buy-Out. 9 to 11 a.m. At Giant at Springfield Plaza, 6364-A Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Join the Grocery Store Buy-Out to support our neighbors in need this Thanksgiving season. They will be "buying-out" Giant grocery at Springfield Plaza. All food donated will benefit Koinonia food bank's Thanksgiving Meals program and Key Middle School. Visit the website: lovenova.org

SUNDAY/NOV. 20
World Children's Day. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. At Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale. At the morning session, enjoy Russian folktales and crafts, or come in the afternoon for songs performed by Community Art for Everyone's (CAFÉ) children, honoring Korean culture. Naturalists will also offer a brief presentation on live reptiles in English and Spanish, plus international games and crafts. Call 703-941-1065.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20
History in Kitchen. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Virtual. This three-part series will illuminate what kinds of food were eaten by different people in colonial Virginia. Discover each week how to prepare a simple recipe. Every 45-minute session spotlights a dish eaten by one of the following groups: the Mason family, people enslaved at Gunston Hall, and the white laborers. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/history-in-the-kitchen/>

SUNDAY/NOV. 21
N Gauge Model Trains. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge Model Trains will be running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Children 4 and under and Museum members, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, special events, \$6; Seniors and military (active and retired) \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR; call 703-425-9225.

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OBITUARY

J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge

Political consultant dies at 83.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Kenny Klinge was just 26 years old when he began a career in Virginia politics as precinct captain for Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in 1964. He went on to help shape the political fortunes of many Republican candidates, including President Ronald Reagan. On Oct. 27, the man known as a patriarch in Virginia GOP politics, died at his retirement home in Basye, Va. He was 83.

"I had the opportunity to meet and begin my admiration for Kenny Klinge in 1976 when I was a green rookie chair of Young Virginians for Reagan," posted former Governor George Allen in an online tribute. "Kenny was always a steady, shrewd leader in any competitive and tense operation from Ronald Reagan's to my campaigns. He was a revered and loved person."

John Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge, was born in Arlington Aug. 4, 1938, to Henry John and Bernice Klinge. He developed a passion for politics and as an expert on transportation issues served as both a Special Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretary to two Secretaries of Transportation during the Reagan Administration.

Klinge is credited with the modern expansion of Reagan National Airport while serving on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the successful efforts to expand Metro Rail out the Dulles Corridor during his tenure as Chairman of the Dulles Corridor Task Force.

"Kenny had so much to offer," said Maj. Gen. Keith Meurlin, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. "He was a great Board Member at MWAA and I so much enjoyed the opportunity to work with him and accept his guidance and advice."

His transportation expertise was respected across party lines as then-governor Mark Warner appointed Klinge to chair the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in 2002.

Klinge served as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Virginia (1973-1975), Regional Political Director of Ronald Reagan campaigns (1976, 1980, and 1984), and National Political Director of the National Republican Campaign Committee (1987-1989).

As Executive Director of the RVP, he partnered with the late Dick Obenshain to lay the foundation for the electoral successes of Governors' Mills Godwin and John Dalton. He served as a senior leader for the winning campaigns of Governors' George Allen and Jim Gilmore, as well as Representative Tom Davis.

Prior to retiring to the Shenandoah Valley, Klinge and his wife Jean were longtime Al-



Political consultant J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge died Oct. 27 at the age of 83.



J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge speaks to a group of young Republicans as Ronald Reagan's Virginia Campaign Coordinator in March of 1976.

exandria residents with Jean running unsuccessfully for Alexandria City Council in the 1980s.

In retirement, Klinge volunteered as the Precinct Captain of the Orkney Precinct in Shenandoah County. He enjoyed playing golf, late night poker games and sharing his skills as a natural raconteur with family and friends.

Klinge is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jean Campbell Klinge; sons Michael (Shari) and John (Mel); broth-

ers, Charles (Georgia) and Jonathan (Connie); grandchildren, John Klinge (Kylie) and Holly (T.J.); great-grandchildren, Jackson, Spencer, and Lincoln; and stepdaughter, Kendra Cipollina. A celebration of life was held Nov. 4 in Basye, Va. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Orkney Spring Fire and Rescue Squad, 922 Orkney Grade PO Box 374 Basye, VA 22810.

"Kenny Klinge was a blessing in my life and for the advancement of freedom and opportunities for all," Allen added. "We will all miss Kenny's wisdom but will be grateful for his positive influences in our lives."

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"One-Hundred Seventy-Three Minutes"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's exactly how long the pre-recorded, artificially-computerized voice said I would have to wait on the phone if I wanted to speak with an actual person. For those of you arithmetically challenged, 173 minutes is almost three hours. Seeing no point in holding that long, I hung up the phone.. EZ-Pass of Maryland is not as easy as I had hoped. Sure the transponder on my car has changed the way I toll around. I only wish I had been earlier to the party. But I waited until the monthly fees were eliminated before I joined. Had I been more on the ball, I would have been sailing through toll plazas up-and-down the east coast years ago. Nevertheless, I'm in the game now (last few years) and enjoying modern technology as it simplifies and eases the occasionally arduous task of driving through tolls - yours truly now being for whom the bell now calculates.

However, I needed to contact the EZ-Pass offices to question a \$25 "replenishment"/charge/debit to my EZ-Pass account. My car/transponder had been sitting in my driveway for most of the last week, undriven by anyone anywhere near a toll. Yet there it was in my email: a courtesy email advising of the \$25 charge/debit to my account. I was curious; having been told recently by my wife, Dina, of an EZ-Pass audit which showed phantom-charges (charges for roads not driven). As a result, I thought I would pursue the questionable debit to my account with a real person. I googled the EZ-Pass phone number and naively called it thinking I might get some satisfaction/resolution. Neither of which I did, but I did get a subject for this week's column.

To be fair-ish, the message does refer the caller to the EZ-Pass website, but that requires the caller to know their account number and password, which of course, I don't. As the message continued however, it spoke to this very circumstance and advised that if one didn't know their account number/password, press #2 I think it was, and then hang on to speak with someone. That's when I heard the 173-minute warning shot fired across my brow. That's when whatever hope I had of a reasonable reconciliation ended. I couldn't justify/tolerate the time it would take to possibly reconcile/credit my account the \$25. I figured my time was more valuable than that so I hung up. Alas, poor Yurik. It was not to be or be at all. I can't think of a more efficient way to solve a dispute in your favor: making callers wait three hours on hold just to talk to a person who might credit back an unnecessary debit into their account. Hardly a guarantee. More likely a definite maybe.

In effect: there's no dispute. There's no discussion and there's no reconciliation. The money's gone and I have absolutely no way/recourse to "replenish" my bank account. Sure, I could call back when the message advises due "to extremely high call volume," but when would that be? Midnight probably, on a weekend. But guess what? There's nobody home at that time. Apparently, the only time to get through to someone is when there's nobody around to be gotten through to. Granted, it's only \$25, but I'm entitled/deserving of an explanation. If I thought of it, I could certainly get paranoid about computers having access to my bank account and/or credit card information. I realize it's the way of the world to provide this information to total strangers/computer programmers, but if I have no real way to settle a dispute of a charge/debit, it makes me rather nervous. Dollars could very well disappear in the interests of whomever has access to the account. If I can't talk to a human being - in less than three hours, then in point of fact, I have no recourse. And no recourse is hardly the stuff from which dreams are made. It's the complete opposite, actually. It's a nightmare, and one from which we might never wake up.

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



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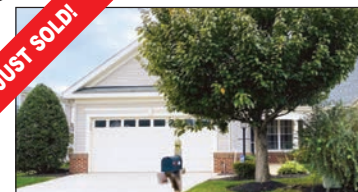


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