

Snow Joy

PAGE 4

Coco Burkholder having
snowman fun in Great Falls.

Bicyclist Killed, Safety Questions

NEWS, PAGE 3

Cruelty Free

PAGE 5

CLASSIFIED, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY MEREDITH BARKER, DVM

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NEWS

Bicyclist and Pedestrian Killed in McLean as 2021 Closes

Separate crashes kill two vulnerable road users.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Matthew Jaeger, 33, of McLean, was struck and killed Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 29, at the intersection of Dolley Madison Boulevard (VA State Rt.123) and Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

Detectives with the Fairfax County Crash Reconstruction Unit determined that Jaeger was eastbound on Ingleside Avenue at the time of the crash.

The driver of a 2014 BMW 328xi traveling south on Dolley Madison Boulevard struck him in the road as he entered the intersection, according to police reports.

The driver of the BMW remained at the scene. At this time, it is believed that neither speed nor alcohol played a role in the crash, police said. Jaeger was transported to a hospital, where he died due to his injuries.

The crash investigation is ongoing, and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will review the findings.

Police were also still investigating a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred Thursday night, Dec. 30, 2021, on Chain Bridge Road, just south of Tysons Boulevard in McLean.

Detectives determined initially that the victim, Filadelfo Ramos Marquez, 74, of Annandale, was crossing in the 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road from west to east just south of Tysons Boulevard without using a crosswalk.

The driver of a 2010 Toyota Camry traveling south on Chain Bridge Road struck Ramos Marquez in the roadway. The driver remained on the scene. Marquez was taken to the hospital, where he died from his injuries.

Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factored in the crash, police said. This is the County's 14th pedestrian fatality in 2021.

Anyone with information about this crash should call FCPD's Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Anonymous tips can also be submitted to Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

Bike Advocates React

Cyclists and pedestrians continue to die or be injured on Fairfax County roads as they attempt to traverse the area without getting into a car, bus or train. In response to the death of a McLean bicyclist struck and killed



PHOTO BY ALEXIS GLENN

FABB conducted two ghost bike rides in 2021 for bicyclists killed on Fairfax County streets.

by a vehicle on Dec. 29, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Biking (FABB) released a statement on their Dec.30, 2022 blog beginning with condolences to the family and friends of Matthew Jaeger, 33, of McLean for their loss. Jaeger is the third bicyclist killed in Fairfax County in 2021.

The 2021 bicyclist and vehicle collision deaths of Ray Buza, 64, of Centreville, Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero, 24, of Alexandria, and Jaeger are the first bicycle fatalities in Fairfax County in more than five years. FCPD reports that the driver who struck and killed Buza was charged with infliction of injury on a vulnerable road user on June 3.

FABB's End of Year Review, dated Dec. 15, 2021, before Jaeger's death, said that the new laws that went into effect in July 2021 are not enough.

According to FABB, Jaeger's death occurred at a type of intersection they believe was "inadequately designed and dangerous." FABB called it, "emblematic of how many fatalities are the result of designs that undervalue the needs and rights of vulnerable road users."

Steve Ward of McLean is a FABB Board member. In an interview on Jan. 2, Ward said that even though FABB is a bicycle advocacy group, they increasingly emphasize the term vulnerable road users.

"One, it is in the law; and two, we are increasingly finding you can't separate bicyclists from pedestrians and from other people who move over the ground on wheels," Ward said.

According to the National Safety Council, "The term vulnerable road user (VRU) is used mainly to describe those unprotected by an outside shield, as they sustain a greater risk of injury in any collision with a vehicle and are therefore highly in need of protection against such collisions." The definition can include but is not limited to pedestrians, road workers, and people operating wheelchairs, personal mobility devices, electric scooters, and other nonmotorized vehicles. Motorcycle operators are also vulnerable road users.



GOOGLE MAPS

Intersection of Dolley Madison Blvd. (Rt.123) and Ingleside Avenue in McLean



"Ingleside Avenue is an important connection between downtown McLean (and a McDonalds) and the Dolley Madison Library, McLean Community Center, and surrounding residential areas," FABB said. Only a marked crosswalk crosses Rt. 123 at the Ingleside/Dolley Madison intersection. FABB urges bicyclists and walkers to use the nearby Elm Street crosswalk due to the current dangers of this intersection.

The first of FABB's major concerns with the intersection is that left-turn lanes in the south and northbound lanes have barriers leaving no travel lane across Dolley Madison due to left-turn lanes with barriers in both directions. Second, bicyclists approaching from the northwest must change lanes on Ingleside from right to left to reach the crosswalk.

FABB also says that Fairfax County should adopt "Vision Zero" similar to nearby jurisdictions, which recognizes that injuries and deaths among vulnerable road users can be avoided. Vision Zero policies aim to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to zero to improve everyone's access to safe, healthy, and equitable mobility.

According to the Vision Zero Network, the strategy first implemented in Sweden proved successful across Europe.

"For too long, we've considered traffic deaths and severe injuries to be inevitable side effects of modern life. While often referred to as 'accidents,' the reality is that we can prevent these tragedies by taking a proactive, preventative approach that prioritizes traffic safety as a public health issue," the policy information stated. The Vision Zero program is listed in 52 U.S. communities, including local jurisdictions Alexandria, Montgomery County, Md. and Washington, D.C.

FABB also urges state legislators to pass legislation allowing the use of crash reconstruction reports and evidence in court, making complete crash reports available to the public with redacted names and sensitive information for use in driver and rider education, and repealing Virginia's contributory negligence law.

FABB requests that VDOT install pedestrian-activated flashing yellow lights at the Ingleside Avenue crosswalk over Rt. 123 to alert drivers in both travel lanes of incoming pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. It is also necessary to place signage reminding drivers of the law requiring them to stop and yield right of way to pedestrians. Finally, FABB urges the FCPD to enforce the law more aggressively.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspapers mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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News



PHOTO BY JULIE RYAN

The Ryan kids enjoying football in the snow!
Emma Ryan, Connor Ryan and Aidan Ryan.



PHOTO BY JULIE RYAN

Emma Ryan and her golden retriever, Sadie, in the first snowfall of 2022

Let It Snow, Let It Snow

It was a beautiful day for the children of Great Falls, sledding, making snowballs and snowmen, and enjoying their pets and siblings. In Vienna, 7 inches of snow was recorded at the end of the storm.



PHOTO BY MEREDITH BARKER, DVM

Coco Burkholder having snowman fun in Great Falls.



PHOTO BY TIFFANY MARTIN

Carter Martin, age 9, enjoys the winter wonderland as the sun sets over Falcon Ridge in Great Falls.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN RUTKOWSKI

Sahaana Meka and Natalie Rutkowski taking an afternoon sledding break with their neighborhood buddies



PHOTO BY RACHAEL GEORGIOPOULOS

Ari Georgopoulos, 3, built his first snowman of the season and had his plastic bat ready to hit snowballs with Myles and Matijs Lobato - his favorite neighbors.

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Virginia Now More Humane for Animals

Cruelty free cosmetics law in effect Jan. 1, 2022.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Virginia became one of only eight states to prohibit testing of cosmetics, and cosmetic components, on animals when its humane cosmetic act went into effect on Jan. 1. The act also prohibits the sale within the Commonwealth of any cosmetic which was developed or manufactured using animal testing that was conducted on or after Jan. 1; enforcement of the sales provision begins July 1. Violations are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 and an additional \$1,000 for each day violations continue.

"Virginia is officially cruelty free. After years of advocating for this policy I am proud to say that all personal care products are made without harming animals," said Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33), sponsor of the bill, during the 2021 Virginia General Assembly session. Boysko and Del. Kaye Kory (D-38), sponsored the bills in the Senate (SB1379) and House (HB2250). Both worked over multiple years to pass humane testing legislation. Both were recognized as legislators of the month in March for their work by Cruelty Free International, a 100+ year old British organization which works to end animal experimen-



ALLISON LAWRENCE
Sen. Jennifer Boysko
(D-33)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Delegate Kaye Kory
(D-38)

tation worldwide.

In 2018, Boysko, then a delegate, also successfully introduced legislation which requires a manufacturer or contract testing facility to use an alternative test method to animal testing when available.

Under Virginia code, "cosmetic" means any product intended to be rubbed, poured, sprinkled, or sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body or any part thereof for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance, including, without limitation, personal hygiene products such as deodorant, shampoo, or conditioner.

Although Virginia is in the forefront of humane cosmetics legislation, there is no federal cruelty-free cosmetics law. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, introduced the first national humane cosmetics testing legislation in 2014; becoming the first U.S. official to receive the Lord Houghton Award from Cruelty Free International. That legislation did not pass. In 2021, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Moran's successor, U.S. Rep Donald Beyer introduced bills "to substantially restrict the use of animals testing for cosmetics." Neither bill has moved forward, leaving the U.S. behind other developed countries in instituting humane cosmetics practices. Over 40 countries worldwide have already ended the sale of new animal-tested cosmetics and rely on alternatives such as biochemical or cell based systems and computer modeling techniques instead.

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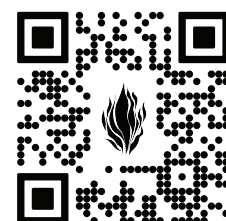
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Searching for Answers to Racism

Daryl Davis headlines McLean Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event.

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Headlining the McLean Community Center (MCC) Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday celebration is Daryl Davis, international recording artist, lecturer on race relations and author of "Klan-Destine Relationships." He will share his captivating journey to untangle racism and how some can hate, one civil conversation at a time.

"Years ago, I heard a couple of podcast episodes of "Love and Radio" featuring this amazing Black man — Daryl Davis — who had befriended and collected robes of KKK members. There's a documentary about him entitled 'Accidental Courtesy,' and that encapsulates the approach we could all use right now. It's the right time for Daryl Davis to be part of the MCC's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration to refocus us on civil dialogues," said Sarah Shallern Treff, director, performing arts, MCC.

"As a musician myself, something I love about Mr. Davis's experience is that it all started with music. Davis is an accomplished boogie-woogie pianist, and music is what helped break down barriers — it was while playing a gig that a KKK member approached Mr. Davis about his impressive piano playing, which in turn opened the door to civil discourse," added Shallern Treff.

For Daniel Phoenix Singh, MCC Executive Director, "MCC's tagline is the 'The center of it all,' and we take that as both a vision as well as a goal. To be a center of it all and a center for all is indeed what makes MCC such an amazing regional anchor. Being an anchor comes with the responsibility of stabilizing our community even amid strong crosswinds such as the multiple pandemics of COVID-19, racial tension, and dog whistles of white supremacy."



Daniel Phoenix Singh, Executive Director, McLean Community Center.

Where and When:

McLean Community Center's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration featuring Daryl Davis on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2 p.m. Event is at McLean Community Center, Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean, VA 22101, Tickets: \$10/\$5 MCC district residents. Visits www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-790-0123.

"We are committing to centering equity and justice in every single aspect of the work we do. We are not the experts, and we ask for and give ourselves permission to learn, fail, pick up, dust off and start over again as many times as it is needed," added Singh.

Inviting audiences to the Dr. King Holiday event with Daryl Davis, Singh said "I would say come with an open mind, realize that we are all in this together, and that we will get to the other side. Mr. Davis has modeled what listening and civil discourse looks like and he has used the arts as a path to humanize these conversations. Come be vulnerable with us, we promise you, we will all grow through this experience together."



Daryl Davis.

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No Car and No Computer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Due to circumstances beyond my control, for two days after the deer accident, I had no car and as it happened, no computer either. The no-car situation you regular readers know about from the previous edition's column: "Oh Deer." The no-computer element just occurred as machines, technology, almost anything I guess, eventually succumbs to old age/extended use. As a result of this dual inconvenience, I can't get anywhere, literally, and figuratively. Moreover, with these two losses, temporary though they may be, I've sort of lost my way. To invoke author Robert A. Heinlein: I'm a "stranger in a strange land."

Though I now have a courtesy rental car, I don't yet have a computer. It's being delivered later in the week by Amazon. It won't be an expense as it is being paid for my part-time employer. When the computer arrives, my brother's IT guy will come over and set it up. That means I won't have that problem to solve. As for the car, in five days or so, I was told, I'll learn whether my car can be repaired or if it will be declared a total loss. Soon thereafter I imagine, if the car is "totaled," I'll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company. Then the fun will begin.

If in fact, I receive a settlement check, since the car I was driving was a model year 2000 Honda Accord, unfortunately the amount will be nowhere near what I'll need to purchase a new car. The net effect will be an increase in my monthly car payment from zero dollars to likely multiple hundreds. Money, I don't really have and am not eager to spend. However, the new computer can't arrive quickly enough. And given the evolution in technology since I last bought a computer, 10 years ago at least, I can well imagine the improvement/benefit in my life it will provide. As for the improvement/benefits in my life a new car will provide? Not really important to me if it costs money, which it will. I am not looking to add another car with bells and whistles since I already have a new-ish car with all the bells and whistles already. I was not looking to whistle any more bells however. What I/we need is only one car payment. Which, for the past 13 years, since my mother passed away in 2008, and I inherited her car, I've had. And I've enjoyed every minute of it. Now, I'm afraid, the party is over.

Now this is where not having a working computer at home becomes a problem. I can't research a potential solution. Consequently, I'm stuck in a kind of limbo between the car I used to own and the car I'm about to own. Right now, I'm driving a rental car, a temporary solution. What I need is a permanent solution. Sure, I receive a daily newspaper and I do have a car to drive, but I'm not going to drive randomly around and/or trust the classified ads to direct me to a proper solution. What I need is a version of Indeed.

The conclusion: I need a computer before I need the car. In fact, it's very likely that if I'm told the Honda is totaled, having a new computer will provide me with the tools and information necessary to perhaps make an intelligent and acceptable decision. Acceptable meaning a moderate impact to our finances. For me, it's not so much about creature comforts as it is about this creature's comfort.

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

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