

THE CONNECTION

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Happy New Year

PAGE 7

Woodson High School Orchestra provided music for the Chairman's New Year reception on Jan. 20 at the Government Center.

Adding Safety on Lee Chapel

PAGE 3

Luxury of Having a Helicopter

PAGE 4

Here Comes the Chocolate

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 5 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



Help Reduce Student Meal Debt

PAGE 8

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2204 Beacon Lane, Falls Church
***GORGEOUS & EXPANSIVE* 6BR/5.5 BA** home on 4 finished levels w/ over 6500 fin sq. ft at the end of cul-de-sac. This home features a spacious floor plan; sparkling hdwds; high ceilings; stone fireplace in family room; gourmet kitchen w/ large breakfast area & sunroom with a wall of windows. Primary BR suite with gas fireplace; large picture window, large luxury BA. Attractive fenced .36/ acre lot. **McLean HS pyramid!**

SOLD!



SOLD for...\$1,725,000

401 Meadow Lane, Falls Church City
***SPECTACULAR* 5BR/4.5 BA** Craftsman-style home built in 2014 in sought-after FCC location! This like-new custom luxury home features sparkling hdwd floors throughout the main level; stylish plantation shutters; modern gourmet island kitchen w/ granite countertops; fam room off the kit includes gas frpl w/ walkout to large screened-in porch. This gorgeous home is situated on a lovely, level, .27/acre lot. **Falls Church City Schools!**

SOLD!



SOLD for...\$1,035,000

19058 Coton Farm Court, Leesburg
***FABULOUS* 5BR/4.5 BA** colonial home on 3 expansive levels in sought-after **Lansdowne on the Potomac!** Over 5500 finished square feet; brand new Mirage hardwood flooring throughout the main level; inviting family room with coffered ceiling and fireplace off kitchen w/ breakfast bar and breakfast room; main level office/den; wonderful primary suite w/ luxury bath & walk-in; finished walkout LL with 5th BR and full bath!

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SOLD!



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McLean, 22101
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SOLD!



**1562 Forest Villa Lane
McLean, 22101
\$1,550,000**

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New Construction!



**1625 N. Albemarle Street
McLean, 22101
\$3,900,000**

SOLD!



**281 Gundry Drive
Falls Church, 22043
\$727,010**

SOLD!



**1930 Relda Court
Falls Church, 22043
\$1,220,000**

SOLD!



**1639 Macon Street
McLean, 22101
\$2,215,000**

SOLD!



**2050 Cherri Drive
Falls Church, 22043
\$585,000**

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!

NEWS

Meeting Scheduled to Address Changes for Lee Chapel Road

Public invited to participate in safety change process.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2023
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - Virtual
Town Hall on Safety of Lee Chapel Road
Virtual meeting
Event Contact: Dave Foreman, 703-451-8873, TTY 711
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81209224706>

One teen remains hospitalized from a crash that killed two others on Tuesday, Jan. 10, putting the spotlight on a hazardous spot along Lee Chapel Road in Fairfax Station. In response to the fatal accident, officials have stepped up with possible solutions to make this area safer and reduce the accidents, and the first step was the installa-

tion of optical speed bars that VDOT put into place to increase awareness.

These optical speed bars are a safety measure, but the officials and engineers are looking to do more in the near future to prevent fatalities like the two on Jan. 10. To hear more about the road proposals, tune into a virtual town hall on Monday, Jan. 30.



PHOTOS BY SPRINGFIELD SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY

On the approach to the hill, these optical speed bars were installed recently to create awareness.

Local Park and Rec Center Renamed

Lee District Park sheds the connection with the Confederates.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Crews were busy at the former Lee District Park, removing the “Lee” letters from buildings and putting up the new “Franconia” letters on the rec center building and the sign out at the park’s entrance on Telegraph Road.

The renaming was part of an area-wide effort to get rid of all the streets and places named after Confederates from the Civil War.

When this effort got started a few years ago, in connection with the George Floyd death in May 2020 that sparked unrest, it was

SEE REC CENTER RENAMED, PAGE 9



PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

The new sign out on the entrance from Telegraph Road.



New letters are laid out by the engineer.

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On Friday, Jan. 13, new letters go up at the rec center.

THE CONNECTION ♦ JANUARY 25-31, 2023 ♦ 3



Police and firefighters place a patient inside the helicopter.



Paramedics load an injured person onto the helicopter for transport.

Most Restricted Airspace in the World

Learning about the FCPD Helicopter Division.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Area residents often hear Fairfax County police helicopters overhead and wonder where they're going and why. PFC Jason Deal provided answers during a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

"I've been with the Police Department since 2014 – all of it at Sully," he said. "Since 2020, I've been in the Helicopter Division, and I love it. We have two Bell 429 helicopters and we respond to police missions including robberies and pursuits [of suspects]. We also respond when people need help; we search for critical missing persons – the elderly, persons with dementia, children, and people with special needs or who are endangered."

"We can fly day and night and in light rain," continued Deal. "We fly in the most restricted airspace in the world, where security clearance is needed. There are only 12 helicopter units like us that have EMS [Emergency Medical Services] capabilities."

The pilot and a police officer sit in an all-glass cockpit. And the helicopter contains two engines, so "If one engine goes out, we can keep flying, as long as we have fuel," said Deal. "We also have really good cameras; I can see people's hands while they're driving. We have better night vision than the military."

When looking for a person at night, they use a thermal-imaging camera. However, because of its heat signature – the visible representation of a person or object's exterior temperature – they don't see color – just black, white and gray.

Deal said a joystick helps him steer the camera to keep following a suspect. "We'll follow a pursuit to their end destination," he said. "And we can talk to other police jurisdictions in the Washington Metropolitan area, including State Police, while doing so."

During the day, the helicopter occupants can see 3 miles out and 1,000 feet down. "We have to be able to see at least a mile out

Fairfax County Police Helicopters Recent Missions

Date	Mission	Location
01/19/2023	Medevac	Prince William County
01/18/2023	Assault w/ Weapon	Prince William County
01/17/2023	Stolen Vehicle	Route 7/Baron Cameron Ave
01/17/2023	Burglary	8200 block Lorton Rd
01/16/2023	Stolen Vehicle	6200 block Little River Tpke
01/16/2023	Felony Larceny	8000 block Tysons Corner Ctr
01/14/2023	Attempted Carjacking	Dulles Airport
01/14/2023	Accident w/ Injury	Henderson Rd/Clifton Rd
01/13/2023	Critical Missing Adult	5500 block Cedar Brook Ct
01/12/2023	Arson	11800 block Sunrise Valley Dr

SOURCE: FCPD

and 800 feet down at night," said Deal. "And we don't fly in heavy rain or fog – that's a national standard."

The unit also does a great deal of rescue missions. For example, Deal recently found an elderly man lost on a walking trail in McLean. "With my night vision, I saw the light on his cell phone as he held it up to the sky," he said. "We do water rescues of boaters, too." But the helicopter units do more than searches.

"When there's a car crash, for example, we're often called because it's faster for us to reach and fly the patient out than a ground unit can," explained Deal. "We try to be up in the air within 3-5 minutes of receiving a call. And sometimes, we arrive on the scene before patrol. We do 40-60 Medevacs a year, flying critically injured people to a trauma or burn center."

"We'll go anywhere within reason. Fairfax County and Medevacs are our priorities, and then criminal calls. But we also responded to 9/11 and to the Navy Yard shooting. We post all our missions on the FCPD Helicopter Division Website."

He said police assigned to that division have to pass a year-long, paramedic class. "Then more training happens, quarterly and monthly," said Deal. "There's a lot of math



PFC Jason Deal at the CAC meeting.



A police officer inside an FCPD helicopter.

and calculations involved in determining how much medicine to administer to someone.

"We're trained on rapid-sequence intubation, so we can maintain someone's airway when they can't breathe on their own. We also have CPR training. We just take one patient at a time, and maybe a parent, depending on weight. We don't charge anything; a civilian helicopter would start at \$20,000 a trip."

Furthermore, said Deal, "We're the first police operation in the country that carries and administers blood. I was the first to use it – on a Prince William man who was shot five times and lived. We went a month without using it, and then we used it three times

in one weekend."

Another part of their job, he said, is troop transport. "We'll carry four to five police officers to get the SWAT [Special Weapons and Tactics] guys somewhere quick," he said. "And every year we fly in Santa to the Sully District Station." In addition, when their schedule permits, the helicopter units will also participate in community events, such as Touch-A-Truck and Centreville Day.

Besides his other duties, Deal teaches a Stop the Bleed course to recruits at the Police Department's Criminal Justice Academy. "It's especially important when people have been shot or stabbed," he said. "Paramedics are often the people giving aid between the police and fire departments' arrival on a scene."

Deal said four or five, full-time tactical paramedics trained to provide lifesaving care are available to assist the Police Department's SWAT and dive teams. They're also on hand at presidential inaugurations, in case they're needed. And every officer has two doses of Narcan to treat drug overdoses.

"We also have an extensive drone program that helps us find people, respond to crime scenes and map auto accidents," he added. "They can go where planes can't."

For more information about FCPD's Helicopter Division, go to <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/police/helicopterdivision/fairfax1>.

OPINION

Apples, Oranges, and Cherries

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Governor Glenn Youngkin came into office in Virginia at a difficult time for an aspiring politician who clearly has higher ambitions. Virginia has had a truly remarkable several years irrespective of the pandemic. How is a governor to show leadership if he leads a state that is doing well? The answer has unfolded over the past several months as the governor runs breathlessly to get ahead of where Virginia is among the states. He has had to employ some apples and oranges comparisons and some cherry picking to make himself relevant.

Cherry picking data includes picking numbers that make the Commonwealth look bad. In fact, nowhere mentioned in his use of facts and figures is the fact that Virginia has the 17th highest per capita gross domestic product at \$70,000 after a steady growth from \$60,282 in 2019. Virginia's per capita personal income in 2021 was \$66,305, the 12th highest in the nation. The governor proclaimed in his speech to the General Assembly earlier this year that "the people of Virginia are overtaxed." According to Census Department numbers, however, Virginia has the 43rd lowest state and local revenue as a percentage of personal income. Since 2004 Virginia has ranked among the lowest 25% of states for its state and local revenue as a percentage of personal income.

It is in the area of education that the governor stretches the limits on believability in his use of data. He has some limited hooks on which to build an argument for improving schools with the pan-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 9

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FESTIVAL

Fairfax City Paradise for Chocolate Lovers

Three-day festival of tasty treats is set for Feb. 3-5.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to life's pleasures, it's hard to beat chocolate. So it's no wonder that people near and far are excited about the return of Fairfax City's Chocolate Festival.

After a pandemic absence the past two years, this three-day extravaganza of chocolate delights will provide attendees with a delicious and delightful experience for the whole family. It's paradise for chocolate aficionados, plus an enjoyable way for visitors to see what Fairfax City has to offer.

The 29th annual Chocolate Lovers Festival kicks off Friday, Feb. 3, from 6-8 p.m., followed by more tasty treats Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Held in the City's Old Town area, it will feature chocolate in nearly every form imaginable – and not just cupcakes, candy, cookies, cakes, ice cream and fudge, but also chocolate fountains and even adult beverages flavored with chocolate.

"The Chocolate Lovers Festival in Fairfax City is a beloved community event that is back after a two-year hiatus," said City Mayor Catherine Read. "The timing so close to Valentine's Day is a great way to celebrate a chocolate-centered holiday."

"Since 1993, this has been a triumph of collaboration among local businesses, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Old Town Fairfax Business Assn., chocolatiers, and the city's Parks and Recreation Department," she continued. "There are activities for people of all ages to enjoy, and the weather looks promising."

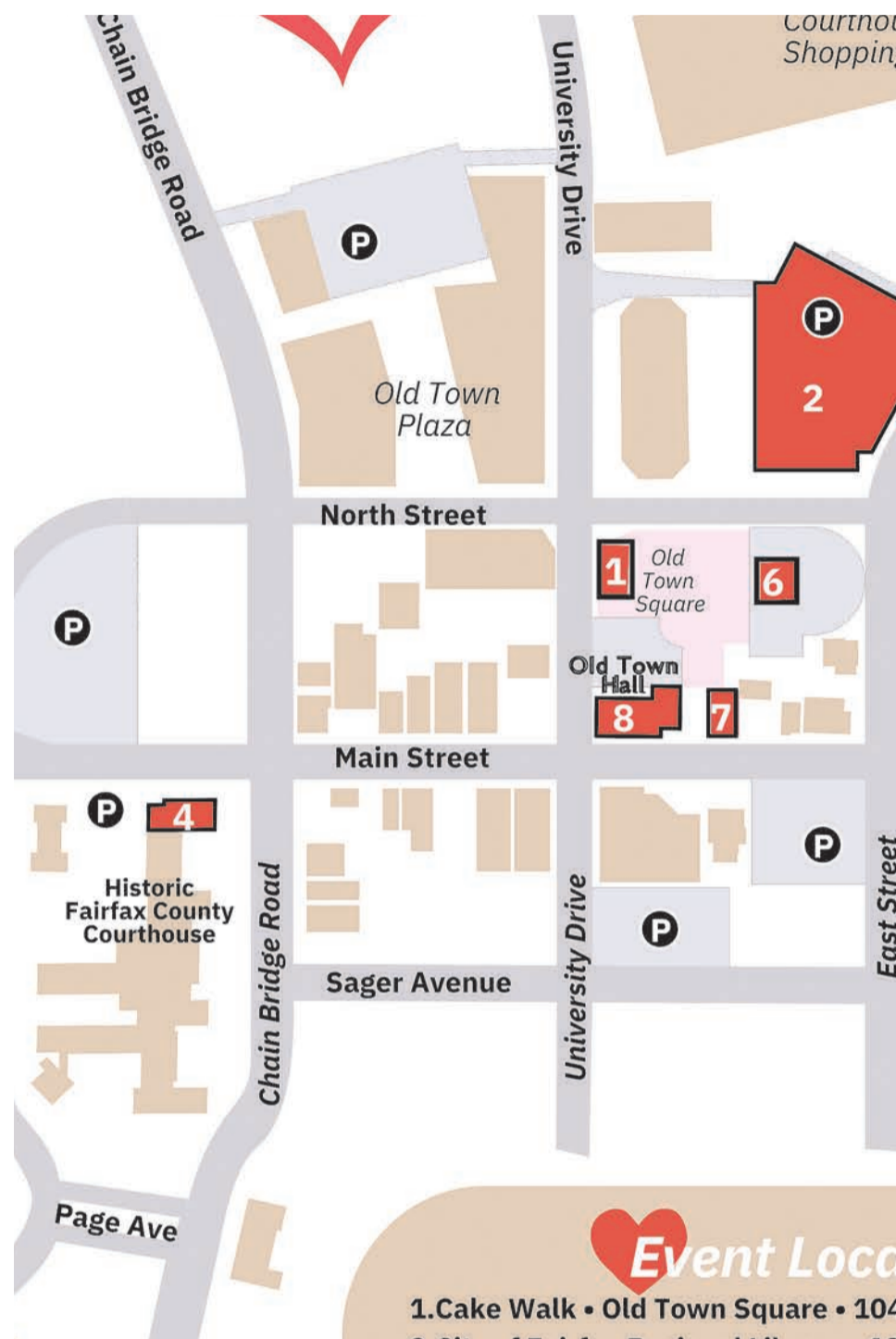
The signature event is the Taste of Chocolate, where attendees purchase samples of mouthwatering, chocolate treats from two floors of vendors in Old Town Hall. But that's not all. Throughout the festival, children and adults will enjoy a full slate of activities.

There'll be musical performances, cake walks, puppet shows, a balloon artist, Chocolate Capers mock trial, children's entertainer Groovy Nate, cupcake-decorating, make-and-take crafts, and history of chocolate tours, as well as open houses in historic buildings. (See the Schedule of Events for specific times, locations and other details).

All venues are handicap-accessible, and the Chocolate Express – sponsored by the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce – will provide free, fully accessible shuttle service between event locations. It'll run Feb. 4, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and Feb. 5, from noon-3 p.m. Only certified service animals are allowed inside any event site.

Liquid Chocolate

Featuring an intriguing assortment of chocolate libations, this year's chocolate fun



Event location map for 2023 Chocolate Festival.

begins Friday, Feb. 3, from 6-8 p.m., with Liquid Chocolate. It'll be held inside a heated tent on Old Town Square's upper parking lot, 3999 University Drive. And because it's so much fun, it'll return Saturday, Feb. 4, from 1-6 p.m.

There'll be beverages for all ages, ranging from offerings such as chocolate soda, hot chocolate and milkshakes for children to chocolate wines, chocolate beers and dessert wine pairings for adults. Admission is free; in past years, alcohol tastings have cost \$2 each, nonalcohol tastings, \$1 each.

Sponsored by HB Home Services, the participating businesses include MurLarkey Distillery, Inside Scoop, Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co., Scrummy Gorgeous, Fairfax Ace Hardware and The Wine House.

Taste of Chocolate

The festival's centerpiece, the Taste of Chocolate, will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 5,

from noon-4 p.m., in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Strollers may be left on the front porch; a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Sponsored by Sandy Springs Bank, admission to this event is free. Visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse vendors' tables to see the wide array of chocolate treats being offered. They purchase them with the pogs and may buy as many pogs as they want from roaming volunteers in red aprons.

There's always a wide variety of goodies includes chocolate candies, bars, brownies, cakes and fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries and ice cream. And one of the biggest hits each year are the chocolate fountains into which customers may dip bite-sized treats such as fruit, doughnut holes or marshmallows.

Among the vendors will be: Cameron's

SEE CHOCOLATE LOVERS, PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Cameron Reinecke with a chocolate-drenched marshmallow at a previous festival.



Ali Aldahy enjoying some chocolate ice cream at a past Taste of Chocolate.



Boyd Harrison and Brooke Tata of Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co. serving horchata chocolate stout at the last Liquid Chocolate event.

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NEW YEAR

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Those attending had an opportunity to speak with district supervisors and each other with food prepared by students from Reston's South Lake Culinary Academy.

McKay Thanks Fairfax County Residents

New Year's Reception Returns.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

After a multiple year hiatus, in late December, Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors Jeff McKay told residents in his newsletter to 'save the date' for a 2023 New Year Reception.

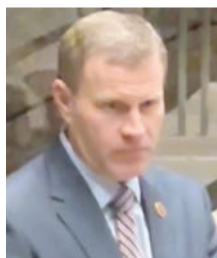
After continuing past Chairman Sharon Bulova's annual reception tradition in the year following his election, McKay was forced to forego the event during the pandemic years in the interest of health safety. Although the crowd may not have been as large this year, and many wore masks, clearly the traditional celebration is back and being enjoyed by many.

In a short program, McKay introduced his Board of Supervisor members and shared the microphone briefly with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. Connolly served as Providence District supervisor for nine years, prior to his service as Chairman from 2003 to 2007, until his 2008 election to Congress. Connolly said that "local government, to me, is the most important and accountable level of government there is, even though it gets none of the respect other levels get." He said he knows that people call their local officials to solve problems and lauded performance in the county.

McKay thanked "an incredible staff and an incredible cadre of elected people dedicated to public service, not self advancement." He offered that, "We should also be proud of the fact that we made the investments that made this a high quality community with the lowest crime rates of any jurisdiction



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, former county board chairman, spoke of the importance of local government



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay addressed residents at his New Year Reception on Jan. 20 at the Government Center auditorium

our size in America; the highest performing school system of any jurisdiction our size in America."

McKay made particular mention of county employees who continued to work through the pandemic ensuring on-going services. He credited first responders, people in the Health Department, those in Housing and Human Services, and the direct support given by community and medical nonprofits for getting the county through the pandemic as successfully as it did.

McKay defined the two things that have made the county strong. "One is investing in infrastructure. That means every aspect of our schools, public services, low crime, Human Services, library, parks; all the things that we need in Fairfax County to be successful." The second factor he described is a "very proud and inclusive, proudly international community. One that celebrates diversity every single day, this population and the talents of the people that live here."

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11th Annual McLean Chocolate Festival

Sunday, January 29, 2023

11 am - 5 pm

McLean Community Center



**\$2 admission (includes tote bag)
Admission for children 3 and under is free**

Taste the specialties of area chocolatiers and enjoy fun for the whole family. There will be live entertainment and a children's game room!



The McLean Chocolate Festival is a fundraiser for McLean Rotary, with proceeds benefiting many schools and local organizations.

Visit the website at: www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org



Teacher Wants to Erase Student Meal Debt

VA Bill H-1967: School meals; availability at no cost to the student.



Herndon Middle School, Fairfax County Public Schools.



Students in the lunch line.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Student meal debt is becoming a financial burden for some Fairfax County families who do not qualify for free meals. Just ask Gabe Segal, a Herndon Middle School special education teacher. As the school division approaches the halfway point of the school year, he is collaborating with the nonprofit Educate Fairfax to raise money to pay off the school's ballooning student meal debt.

"I want to pay this big debt off," said Segal. "I want local community organizations and businesses to help ... get it accomplished by the end of the year. It's only \$7,000," he said, noting that the total varies. Segal wants to "raise awareness and let people know that there is a problem."

Segal must be experiencing déjà vu. In 2020, when many families lost their jobs at the start of the pandemic, he helped pay off student accounts at his previous school, Sleepy Hollow in Falls Church. Sleepy Hollow, however, was a much smaller school with significantly less debt, \$600, according to Segal.

Students Eligible for Free Meals

According to Kathleen Miller, a spokesperson for FCPS, as of Oct. 31, 2021, approximately 31 percent of FCPS students qualified for free and reduced-price meals, a measure of poverty. The school board determines the prices for paid breakfast and lunch, and the federal government establishes the price of reduced-price meals.

FCPS households earning less than 130 percent of the poverty



Gabe Segal, Herndon Middle School teacher, FCPS.



Del. Michael P. Mullin (D-93).



Del. Danica A. Roem (D-13).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SCREENSHOT VIA TWITTER

level are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes ranging from 130 to 185 percent of the poverty line are eligible for reduced-price meals. Those students eligible for reduced-price meals receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.

Students at FCPS 34 schools who participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, implemented under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, signed by President Barack Obama, receive breakfast and lunch every day at no cost. Herndon Middle School does not fall into this category.

Additionally, children who are members of households receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, as well as those who are homeless, migrant, or runaway, may be eligible for free meals.

Fairfax County Public Schools charge student accounts from families earning more than the qualifying level the full rate for breakfast and lunch.

For an FCPS family, the SY2022-2023 breakfast and lunch meal prices with milk sold separately can quickly add up, impacting fam-

ily budgets.

A middle school student's lunch with milk costs \$4.10, which includes \$3.50 for the meal and 60 cents for the milk. That works out to \$41 per week for a family with two middle- or high-school-aged children. Each breakfast would be an additional \$1.75.

Educate Fairfax's executive director is Elizabeth Murphy. "Murphy works toe-to-toe with Fairfax County Food and Nutrition Services," Segal said. Educate Fairfax is a non-profit and one of its programs accepts donations to help offset or eliminate student lunch debt in the public school system.

Student meal debt soars in Fairfax County Public Schools and elsewhere. Why?

Far from being over, the pandemic's aftereffects continued to disrupt supply chains and drive inflation to its highest level in decades. While the pandemic was subsiding by August 2022, when FCPS opened its doors for the 2022-2023 school year, the household inflation rate had skyrocketed.

According to the US Congress Joint Economic Committee, it was 13.8 percent in Virginia, with a

monthly cost of \$734 and an annualized cost of \$8,807 per household.

Inflation affected not only those households that could get FRM, but also those whose students couldn't get FRM because their income was too high.

"I knew Herndon Middle was a unique school that had a lot of challenges," Segal said.

He pondered how many of his students are aware of their families' financial difficulties and the impact the cost of a school breakfast or lunch has on their budgets.

"Some of them are, and some aren't. I mean, they're middle schoolers ... It's honestly pretty split. People don't realize [educators] are the last resort for a lot of families who struggle to trust people, organizations, companies, and government."

To donate to Educate Fairfax, visit Erase Lunch Debt at <https://educatefairfax.org/our-impact/kids-in-need/understanding-school-lunch-debt-in-fairfax-county/>.

Stopping School Meal Debt

What can be done about student meal debt and to implement universal free school meals?

In 2021, California and Maine passed legislation requiring all students to receive free meals. Colorado has decided to join them. The DC Council is considering a new proposal for free school lunches.

Introduced by Virginia Del. Michael P. Mullin, House Bill 1967, School meals; availability at no cost to the student, if passed, could stop the rising student meal debt in Fairfax County and across the Commonwealth.

"Our former First Lady, Dorothy McAuliffe, I think, has said very aptly that students can't be hungry to learn if they're just plain hungry," Mullin said.

House Bill 1967 would, among other things, "make lunch and breakfast available to any student who requests it at no cost to the student." (Source: LIS > Bill Tracking > HB1967 > Session 2023.)

Mullin said that the experiences of three of his four young sons served as his inspiration. They were in the Newport News Public Schools when the division implemented free lunches and breakfast during the pandemic. He witnessed firsthand the progress and success many Newport News Public Schools students achieved because they had full tummies.

Mullin said that across the Commonwealth, this is something that the federal government puts in the vast majority of funds. State funds would be able to contribute the remaining funds, allowing the Commonwealth to pass a full funding bill. "It would be able to do just that, along with Budget Amendment Number 137, sponsored by Del. Danica A. Rome (D-13)," Mullin said.

"Let's reinstate universal free school meals, #Virginia," tweeted Roem. "When the federal government doesn't do its job, we have to do it in the states."

Mullin said that he believes the existence of school lunch debt is a "moral failing on the part of all of us in the General Assembly."

"We do not charge for the bus. We do not charge for the water fountain. We do not charge for chalk. We need not charge for school lunch," Mullin said.



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Crews were busy at the former Lee District Park, removing the “Lee” letters from buildings and putting up the new “Franconia” letters on the rec center building and the sign out at the park’s entrance on Telegraph Road.

Rec Center Renamed

FROM PAGE 3

a general sentiment to change the names of things that honored the Confederate side of the Civil War. Lee District and Lee District Park followed suit with that directive.

The county “Fairfax County Confederate Names Inventory Report,” was compiled by the History Commission in response to a June 23, 2020, directive from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The 536-page report was directed to design a “process that focuses on well-known Confederate officers and on locally well-known Confederates,” it said in the executive summary.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has many rules for statues and urges those advocating for removal of these monuments in

Virginia localities to allow for a legal and deliberative process, their website stated. But it does not include road names in the text.

The General Assembly of Virginia ruled on the renaming process as well in April 2020. Under Code 15.2-1812, they don’t just take it down, there has to be a procedure. “Prior to removing, relocating, contextualizing, or covering any such publicly owned monument or memorial, the local governing body shall publish notice of such intent in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality,” it said.

Before Lee District was officially renamed “Franconia District,” Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) held a meeting at the government center on Franconia Road to discuss the renaming process.

Plum

FROM PAGE 5

demic impacts having had a negative impact on school success in every state. However, he needs to consider where Virginia schools rank among independent sources. According to WalletHub.com, a company that specializes in complex statistical analyses, Virginia had the 4th best schools in the Nation in 2022 based on 32 key metrics they considered. Only Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey had better scores on quality and safety of schools than Virginia. Intelligent.com used key metrics related to performance, safety, community, investment, class size, and attendance for all 50 states and ranked Virginia 5th in academic performance and 6th overall of the best schools in the nation. Scholaroo.com used 42 key indicators to compare school sys-

tems across the country, and in their 2022 report they ranked Virginia as the 5th best among all the factors.

Throughout his speech the governor insisted that Virginia be compared with North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Texas. Virginia was 29th lowest among the states in state and local funding pre-k through 12 — certainly he does not want us to aspire to be like Georgia at 30th, Texas at 36th, Florida at 43rd, Tennessee at 44th, or North Carolina at 46th. Only South Carolina among his states for comparison exceeds Virginia.

The governor ended his speech with a higher calling: “This is our own moment to eternalize in the books of history how we lived up to the Spirit of Virginia.” We must not do it, however, by comparing apples and oranges or cherry picking the story of history. Or as some would say, with smoke and mirrors!

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The new Giant Foods is in the old K-Mart location.



Rumor: Renovated for a new Whole Foods?

Rumor Mill is Alive and Well in Springfield Plaza

Stores swapping locations and upgrades underway.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

It's an old-fashioned game of musical chairs in central Springfield, and the rumors are flying around that no one seems to be able to officially confirm. There is one fact though, the old Giant Food store in Springfield Plaza recently moved into the old K-mart space and is now an upgraded addition to this aging shopping center.

"This is nice," said one shopper going down the Giant aisle.

The other two parts of the equation in-

volve the Whole Foods which is in the Keene Mill Center about two miles west of Springfield Plaza, and the Trader Joe's which is now in a spot between Giant and the construction site. It may be going to the Whole Foods location in Keene Mill Center. The construction workers at the renovation site are tight lipped, and one employee in Trader Joe's isn't convinced. "No, we're not moving, to the best of my knowledge," he said.

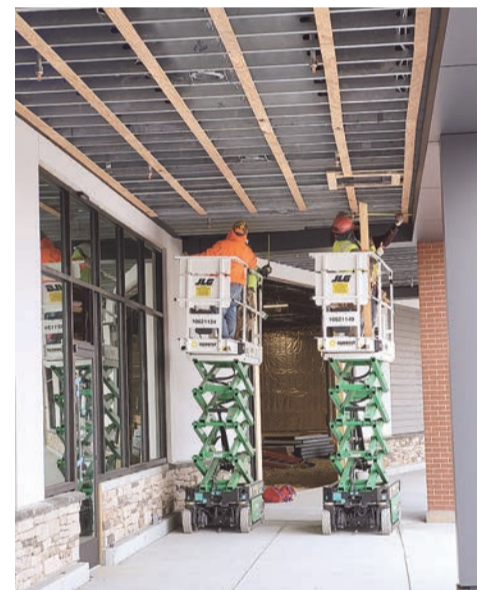
The Springfield Plaza shopping center is right in the middle of the Springfield Commercial Revitalization District on the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development website. It is one of 11 revitalization regions in the county. All this revitalization work aligns with the community's vision and improves the economic vitality, function, and appearance of those areas, the county revitalization office said.

Rumors have a way of getting a life of

their own though. Next door in the Verizon store, they've heard it too. "Rumored to be a Whole Foods and Trader Joe's is going to Whole Foods," a clerk said. A manager named "Brian," in one of the stores wants it to be over. "All that construction is getting in the way of walking and driving," he said.

When's this all going to happen? A staffer at the Treasure Trove store said they will be moving to another location in the same shopping center this winter. A pedestrian bridge is under construction to link the plaza with the new transportation center lot on the other side of Old Keene Mill Road and is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

East of I-95 near Kingstowne, a wooded lot is labeled as a "health care hub," by the revitalization officials. This is next to the existing Inova Healthplex, and it will include a hospital, an outpatient center and parking garage, the revitalization documents stated.



Workers handle the wiring on the plaza.

Fairfax City Paradise for Chocolate Lovers

FROM PAGE 6

Coffee and Chocolates, Capital Candy Jar, Capitol Chocolate Fountains, Chocolate Lover's Festival, Chouquette Chocolates, El Ceibo Bolivian Chocolate, Dilly Cakes, Great Harvest Bread, Le Papiyon Chocolateer, Mike's Fudge, Mochi Donut by Food Fest, Mother Clusters, Odyssey Chocolate, River-Sea Chocolates, SamiChakra LLC, Scrummy Gorgeous, Sugar Mama's, The Sweet Life Cakery and Tysons Creamery.

Chocolate Cookbooks, Souvenirs

Chocolate Lovers Festival Cookbooks (\$10) may be purchased at the Taste of Chocolate and at the Fairfax City Regional Library. Featured are recipes with chocolate as an ingredient in snacks, appetizers, main courses, soups, salads and, of course, desserts. Other festival souvenirs will include light-up pens, notepads, flashlights, blinking safety lights. Both long- and short-sleeved



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Boyd Harrison and Brooke Tata of Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co. serving horchata chocolate stout at the last Liquid Chocolate event.

commemorative T-shirts, ranging in price from \$5-\$15, will also be sold.

Grant Recipients

Each year, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee chooses one or more nonprofit, charitable organizations that contribute to the community and to the common good to receive part of the festival proceeds. This year's recipients are:

❖ SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax

SafeSpot supports child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse. Using a compassionate approach, the needs of these young and vulnerable children are placed above all others. Throughout the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment, Safespot provides no-cost services to children victims and their non-offending family members. All services are designed to reduce present trauma, better navigate the systems involved and promote healing.

❖ Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources

Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources is a private nonprofit committed to helping offenders who are, or have been, incarcerated and wish to assume productive roles in the community. Families of offenders are also assisted in various ways, as they cope with the crisis of arrest and incarceration.

❖ The Heart Leaf Center

The Heart Leaf Center is a nonprofit serving children and families affected by the mental-health crisis exacerbated by COVID-19. It provides high-quality, low-cost, play therapy for Northern Virginia children and families who, otherwise, could not afford the care they need. It specializes in child play therapy to help clients, ages 3-12, better express themselves and resolve their problems. The festival grant will fund these play-therapy services for low-income children and families.



Katie Wood as Elle, with her pink Vespa, in the Fairfax Academy's production of "Legally Blonde, the Musical."



From left are sorority girls Margo (Eva Jaber), Pilar (Woodson High's Haley Kim) and Elle (Katie Wood).

PHOTOS BY ONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fun, Feel-Good, Energetic

The Fairfax Academy presents 'Legally Blonde, the Musical.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When Erich DiCenzo came to Fairfax High as its theater director, 10 years ago, there were two shows he especially wanted to do, "9 to 5" and "Legally Blonde." He did "9 to 5" in 2013; and now – as head of the school's Musical Theatre & Actor's Studio – he's directing its upcoming production of "Legally Blonde, the Musical."

"I've always loved big, flashy musicals with strong messages," said DiCenzo. "Legally Blonde' is the perfect amount of camp while, at the same time, having depth and relevance in today's world."

Featuring a cast and crew of about 45, the story follows college student Elle Woods. She's determined to win back her boyfriend who got accepted to Harvard and then broke up with her because, in his eyes, she wasn't a serious person. She then attends Harvard, herself, to become a lawyer and prove him wrong; but ultimately, she discovers her own inner strength and worth without him.

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Feb. 3-4, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 5, at 2 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, Feb. 9-10, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 11, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$12 via [https // mtasacademy.weebly.com](https://mtasacademy.weebly.com). Infor-

mation about joining the Academy is also at that Website.

"I feel like the luckiest guy in the world to work with students from each of our Fairfax County high schools who come here with a passion and talent that spans beyond their years," said DiCenzo. "Their commitment to their craft, and their work ethic, are sure to make this production a standout. And we hope it'll shed more light on the Academy's Musical Theatre & Actor's Studio."

Portraying Elle is Centreville High senior Katie Wood. "She's a vibrant, bubbly, strong and independent woman," said Wood. "Initially, she wants to get her boyfriend back, but she later learns to trust that she can be her own person and doesn't need a man to define her."

"It's truly an explorative and thrilling role to play. Her brightness and journey to self-fulfillment inspire me to follow my own passion of a career in musical theater. And the joy of playing the lead is feeling the support from my fellow cast members."

Wood's favorite song is "What You Want," sung by nearly the entire cast. "It's a huge, ensemble number about Elle formulating her plan to go to Harvard," she said. "She's singing it with her best friends, and then she tells the Harvard admissions people why she should be accepted. And she does

it with a parade, instead of a written essay."

Wood said the audience will love "how passionate all the characters are and how unique their character portrayals come across. It's a feel-good show that will hopefully inspire others like it inspires me."

Fairfax High senior Jimmy Houck plays Prof. Callahan. "He has his law students help him defend a case in court," said Houck. "They're his intern team and help him do the prep work, and Elle and other main characters are part of the team. He's uptight, stoic, mean, cruel and insensitive – but also witty. He's just teaching to get ahead and takes pleasure in his students' suffering."

Houck enjoys showing new angles of the professor. "I get to be cruel and mean in a funny way, which people don't usually do," he said. "I love acting and playing a big, stereotypical character so different from myself."

He especially likes the song, "Blood in the Water," which he sings to introduce the professor to the audience on the first day of class at Harvard Law. "It's not like all the other happy, pop-type songs in the show," said Houck. "It's more of a ballad and is dark and brooding."

He said the audience "is going to be blown away by the dancing and choreography. It's sharp, synchronized and in-your-face. And people

will also love all the characters' funny, offbeat lines. I really think this show will be one to remember."

Cassidy Loria, an Oakton High junior, is an ensemble member who plays several small roles, including a member of Elle's Delta Nu sorority. "We're there for Elle on her journey," she said. Loria also portrays the store manager in the opening song, "Oh My God, You Guys."

In that number, Loria sells Elle's engagement dress to her, after a store clerk tried to make Elle buy a boring, inferior dress. "This has become a cult-classic, iconic role in this show that's very memorable," she said. "So it's exciting to add to that legacy."

As for the musical, itself, said Loria, "It's such a big, fun, energetic production that it's never dull. It's a girl-power show, and it's special to watch a group of girls supporting each other."

Portraying Margo, one of Elle's best friends, is Chantilly High junior Eva Jaber. "She's a little ditzy and a typical sorority girl, but there's more to her than meets the eye," said Jaber. "She cares a lot about her friends, and there's power in their unpredictability. You wouldn't expect people who present as shallow to actually achieve so much."

Calling it a fun part, Jaber said, "It's exciting to have a role that plays to stereotypes, but cool to

have the challenge to give depth to this character that people wouldn't ordinarily expect in this flashy show." Her favorite number is "So Much Better," sung by Elle. "Musically, it's an amazing end to act one," said Jaber. "In a show about chasing a man, this song is Elle realizing that she's so much more than that and doesn't have to depend on anyone."

Thrilled to be at the Fairfax Academy, Jaber said, "I always wanted to improve my dancing, and some friends had come here in the past and really loved it. They especially liked its workshops that give students individual attention and meet them at their particular talent level."

In addition, she explained, "There's no class like this in Fairfax County that builds such a supportive community. They build everyone up and celebrate their individual successes. And in such a competitive industry, having a space like that – where we can get together and work toward a common goal as one – is so powerful and is unique to this program."

It's no wonder then that DiCenzo is eager for the community to see his young thespians in action in this upcoming musical. "I'm excited to share the caliber of professionalism the students bring to the stage," he said. "We hope audiences will leave saying, 'I can't believe those were high-school students.'"

ENTERTAINMENT

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Old Firehouse Teacher Workday Trip

Main Event
Thursday, Jan 26, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

JAN 26

JAN 26

Presented by The Alden

Performing Arts Movie
Thursday, Jan 26, 1 p.m.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden

(the) Unruly Theatre Project
Friday, Jan 27, 7-8 p.m.
Free admission

JAN 27

Old Firehouse Teacher Workday Trip

Winter Adventures at WISP
Friday, Jan. 27, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$110/\$100 MCC district residents

JAN 27

Presented by The Alden

Foreign Language Film
Thursday, Feb. 2, 1 p.m.
Free admission

FEB 2

Old Firehouse Family Events

Family Fun Bingo
Friday, Feb. 3, 7-9:30 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

FEB 3

Presented by The Alden

Cahoots NI: "Danny Carmo's Mathematical Mysteries"
Friday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.
\$17/\$12 MCC district residents
\$15 seniors & students

FEB 10

Old Firehouse Center

Snack & Paint Night
Friday, Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m.
\$10 per person.
Preregistration is recommended.

FEB 10



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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FILE PHOTO FROM 2019 BY TOM MANGAN

The 2019 McLean Chocolate Festival drew record crowds. Here, Chesterbrook displays chocolate treats.

McLean Chocolate Festival, Sunday, Jan. 29

The 11th Annual McLean Chocolate Festival is Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Vendors will be selling all things chocolate in several rooms at the McLean Community Center. There will be a separate room where patrons can see a colonial America chocolate-making demonstration by American Heritage, a Mars Company. There is space throughout the building for patrons to eat their treats.

The festival is managed by the McLean Rotary Club, is a community and family-based event at the McLean Community Center.

Funds raised for the Rotary Club of McLean support local and international charitable and educational programs.

There is a children's game room staffed by the Keyettes Club from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. There will be free entertainment throughout the day. Patrons can also purchase raffle tickets for four chocolate baskets and a cultured pearl necklace with matching earrings.

The Rotary Club of McLean, an all-volunteer service organization, staffs the event.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU FEB. 5

"Women Playing Hamlet." 8 p.m.
At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A non-traditional look at one of Shakespeare's most revered works, presented in modern English, Women Playing Hamlet follows a young actress tackling the role of Hamlet in a comedic romp that examines gender norms, actors' egos, and Shakespeare. Women Playing Hamlet, by William Missouri Downs. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/women-playing-hamlet>



Silkroad Ensemble will appear at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax on Sunday, Jan 29.

NOW THRU FEB. 12

Winter Lantern Festival will debut a spectacular holiday light adventure at the Lerner Town Square, 8025 Galleria Drive in Tysons starting Dec. 16 through Feb. 12. Winter Lantern Festival will feature over 10,000-LED Chinese-inspired artisan lanterns, along with live performances and on-site food vendors. Guests will wander through a wonderland of light that includes Chinese myths, legends, and zodiacs. In addition, they will view handmade lanterns encompassing a world of ice, including displays of mammoths, polar bears, and penguins. There will also be interactive light swings, see-saws, and tunnels. Be prepared to indulge your friends, family, and yourself in photo opportunities. Hours are Fridays to Sundays from 5-10 p.m. Visit www.winterlanternfestival.com.

media artist, Joan Dreyer. While developing her MFA thesis at Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA, Joan began taking tools, techniques and imagery that have been historically considered "women's work" and transforming them into innovative, contemporary art that is responsive to the tone and tensions of our times. Created by combining fiber techniques with unexpected materials like X-rays, her work is a subtle art that asks questions about life, loss, symbolism, and the impact of war instead of providing one size fits all answers. The artist's work provides a space for the contemplation of life stages that we all encounter. The result is a body of work that allows for meaningful but also multiple interpretations by the viewer. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/score-mixed-media>

songs and animation from "Monty Python's Flying Circus." 8 p.m. on Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28, Feb. 3, 4; 2 p.m. on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Performing Arts Movie. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn a little about the performing arts through these one-hour (or so) documentaries. Join Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff for a discussion after.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

Celebrate the Lunar New Year. 5-6:30 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Commemorate the Lunar New Year with crafts, games, New Year's resolutions, traditional snacks, and a discussion about history and culture. The beginning of the year is determined by the Chinese lunar calendar and is associated with an animal sign according to the Chinese zodiac cycle. The sign for 2023, the rabbit, is a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity. Re-

JAN. 20-FEB. 5

Monty Python's Edukational Show. At Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Dept. of Parks and Recreation present Monty Python's Edukational Show, a collection of sketches,

NOW THRU APRIL 30

Score: Mixed Media Art. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Score explores 20 years of the work of Virginia-based mixed

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FROM PAGE 12

gional customs and traditions vary widely but share the same theme: seeing out the old year and welcoming in the luck and prosperity of a new year. Call 703-323-6600.

FRIDAY/JAN. 27

(the) Unruly Theatre Project. 7-8 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Come enjoy a night of laughs on us! (the) Unruly Improv is The Alden's professional teen improv company dedicated to bringing comedic performances to the community. In May 2022, UTP was named 1st place Champions at Improvicon of Northern Virginia!

SATURDAYS/JAN. 28 AND FEB. 4

Something Different. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Theatre, Vienna. Something Different is an exhilarating romp through fairytales and folklore from around the world. Fasten your seatbelts for an hour of high-energy children's theater with a crazy ensemble of actors dedicated to introducing youngsters to the theater. Whether you're 3 or 93, you're sure to enjoy the always entertaining and mostly fractured fairytales that will leave you laughing. This performance is suitable for ages 3 and older.

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

The Three Musketeers. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Escape into Alexandre Dumas's swash-buckling epic The Three Musketeers, performed by The Acting Company. Full of charm, wit, and swordplay, this world-premiere adaptation by Kirsten Childs follows D'Artagnan, who joins up with a band of noble Musketeers on a mission to root out the corruption of Cardinal Richelieu's spies and assassins.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Silkroad Ensemble. 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble, founded by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, debuts their newest program Uplifted Voices at the Center, as part of their multi-year participation as a Mason Artist-in-Residence. Championing women and non-binary members of the Silkroad Ensemble alongside special guest Tuscarora/Taino musician Pura Fé, Uplifted Voices weaves a musical tapestry connecting the sounds and rhythms of indigenous North America to the World.

FEB. 2-23

Glow Art classes. 9:30-10:15 a.m. Thursdays (4-week sessions). At Brown's Chapel, Reston. Kidcreate Studio is excited to partner with Reston Association to bring a FUN art class for your children. These projects will light up your child's world long after the lights go out at night. We will work with a variety of art supplies including clay, paint and many luminescent materials to create masterpieces that will glow in the dark. Come and create right along with your child.

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Black History Month Lecture Series. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Black History

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Stephanie Nakasian will appear at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Month is more than just a month-long observance at the Sully Historic Site. It's woven into the very history of the house and the people who lived there. In addition to the ongoing tours of the home and outbuildings, Sully Historic Site will welcome three guest speakers to the site during the month of February to share insightful and incredible stories honoring Black History Month.

(Virtual Lecture) Dr. Charles R. Drew: African American Pioneer in Blood Plasma

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, 3 p.m. Presenter: Cathleen Drew

Dr. Charles R. Drew was born and raised in Washington D.C. and Arlington; he became a pioneer in developing long-term storage for plasma. Learn about his incredible life that would help thousands from his grandniece, special guest speaker Cathleen Drew, a senior prevention program manager in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Community Outreach and Prevention Support Section. This online program is funded by the Sully Foundation Ltd. and will be a free virtual lecture.

(Virtual Lecture) Enslaved Resistance and Resilience in Fairfax County Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, 3 p.m. Presenter: Dr. Sheri Huerta

Across Northern Virginia, enslaved men, women and children challenged their enslavers and the bonds of enslavement through many forms of resistance. This presentation explores some of their stories and the impact of their resistance and resilience on anti-slavery activism. Presented by special guest speaker Dr. Sheri Huerta, an adjunct professor at George Mason University in the department of history and art history. This online program is funded by the Sully Foundation Ltd. and will be a free virtual lecture.

Lunch and Learn: 18th Century Health Care from Two Perspectives Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Presenter: Tory Cabrera

If you prefer a more hands-on experience and conversation, bring your lunch and join Tory Cabrera for an informal talk that includes displays and a Q&A, as we compare the health care methods, medicines and healing traditions employed by both the enslaved and free communities in the Federal period. Enrollment in this activity is \$8 per person.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 1

Tax Preparation and Filing Tips.

10-11:30 a.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. CPA George Kresslein will offer advice for preparing and filing your 2022 income taxes. He will highlight any changes from previous year filings and answer your questions. Sponsored by NARFE Chapter 11159.

Refreshments. You can also use ZOOM; contact doujones@verizon.net for link & password. Website: <http://narfe.org/chapter1159>

THURSDAY/FEB. 2

Hatha Yoga, All Levels. 10 a.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Hatha yoga includes asanas (poses), pranayama (breathwork) and meditation. The practice enhances flexibility of the muscles and spine while stimulating circulation, increasing sense of balance, and building strength. As with all yoga, this class will aid in relieving tension and stress and help increase focus as well as inducing calm in body and mind. All levels welcome. Modifications will be offered for different skill levels. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/aom-reservations>

FEB. 2-23

Open Life Drawing. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Life drawing and painting group, on the first four Thursdays of every month. Bring your own drawing and/or painting supplies- easel, stools, and tables are provided. The first four Thursdays of every month- on the fourth Thursday of the month the model will be clothed/costumed in long poses. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/visual-arts-classes>

FEB. 3-4

Mason Cabaret. Feb. 3-4 at 8 p.m.; Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Harris Theater, Fairfax. Conceived by Erin Gardiner and James Gardiner; Directed by Erin Gardiner and James Gardiner; and Musical Direction by Joe Walsh

FEB. 3 TO MARCH 10

Mindfulness with Shilpi. 12-1 p.m. At Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Easily drop down and settle into a deep state of relaxation without resistance. Begin the upward spiral of your own healing journey by coming into resonance and connecting with that innermost sanctuary within, that has the keys to issues you may be dealing with. Get in touch with your internal GPS that can help you navigate your life without getting distracted or deviated from your Path. Sponsored by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Adults. Website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10035131>

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

OnStage: Stephanie Nakasian. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Stephanie Nakasian known as one of the world's leading jazz singers, will take you on a fantasy swing

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Obituary

Obituary

David S. Bettwy, 91, long time resident of Great Falls, VA passed away January 3, 2023 with two of his loving daughters by his side. Born December 6, 1931 in Altoona, PA.

Dave worked for the federal government for 40 years. He retired as Deputy Chief of the Automated Production Technology Division at NIST (formerly NBS), prior to that he was with Harry Diamond Laboratories (HDL) of the Army Materiel Command for 25 years.

Dave's work in support of the Department of Defense (DoD) included responsibility for electromechanical R&D in the area of ordnance devices, configuration management of technical data package repositories, management of manufacturing facilities, and acquisition of production quantities of electronic fuzes for ordnance applications. At NIST he was involved with the planning and installation of the Center for Manufacturing Engineering's Automated Manufacturing Research Facility. Established in the early 1980's, the Center was one of the first robotic manufacturing facilities of its kind. In this role, Dave was a leader in demonstrating robotic manufacturing capabilities and providing a model for commercial industry around the globe. In the years prior to retirement, Dave was a principal coordinator and leader in the NIST technical support of the DoD Computer-aided Acquisition and Logistic Support (CALs) program. He was considered by some to be the Father of CALs. This program undertook the challenge of developing the standards for digitizing technical documents and drawings in the 1980's. In his role, Dave provided critical global leadership in coordinating and collaborating across Government and Industry to establishing Digital Document Management Systems and the underlying standards for digitizing technical documents and drawings. Dave was an active member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) throughout his career

Dave was a long-time parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena and was instrumental in the building committee working with Father Antons Justs and the Chancery of the Diocese of Arlington to construct this church in 1981.

Dave was a history buff and a student of local history in Fairfax County and the Village of Great Falls. Dave was an active member of the Great Falls Historical Society creating their website, compiling and digitizing vast collections of photos and oral history for the community, and serving on the Board. As a result of his tireless stewardship of the history of Great Falls, Dave was awarded both the 2013 Jean Tibbetts History Award and Distinguished Member Award.

Dave was preceded in death by his wife of 58 yrs, Jo Bettwy, his father Joseph, his mother Bertha, and his sister Donna B. Tinkler.

Dave is survived by his daughters Lynn (Rod) Buck, Gwen Bettwy, Sandra (Eric) Barnes, and his adored granddaughters, Alysha and Amy Buck, and Megan Barnes.

Private memorial will follow. Donations in his honor can be made to the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation. www.celebrategreatfalls.org

Legals

Legals

NOTICE TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE

Notification is hereby given that Metro City Bank, 5114 Buford Highway, Doraville, Georgia, has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 303.42 of the FDIC Regulations for permission to relocate a branch office of the bank from 5900 Centreville Crest Lane, Unit #B, Centreville, Fairfax County, Virginia 20121 to 5963 Centreville Crest Lane, Unit 12, Centreville, Virginia 20121. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the Atlanta Regional office, 10 Tenth Street, N.W., Suite 800, Atlanta, Georgia 30309 not later than February 13, 2023. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file at the Atlanta Regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application will be made available upon request.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

voyage, fresh and authentic that transcends the Great Ladies of Song in both tribute and originality. Joining Stephanie for this amazing experience will be a top flight trio of musicians: Robert Redd on piano, Paul Langosch on bass and Chuck Redd on drums and vibes. Visit the website:

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/stephanie-nakasian>

FEB. 4-5

Virginia Opera, Fellow Travelers. 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. In a commitment to share contemporary opera experiences with its audiences, Virginia Opera presents Fellow Travelers by New York-based composer Gregory Spears and librettist Greg Pierce. Set at the dawn of the Cold War, Fellow Travelers follows the blazingly idealistic Timothy Laughlin as he navigates through the intrigues of Washington, D.C. during the "Red Scare" of the 1950s.

SUNDAY/FEB. 5

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew will have HO gauge model trains running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 for special events). Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/FEB. 5

Lunar New Year Celebration. 1-4 p.m. At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Springfield Town Center is ringing in the year of the Rabbit through a new partnership with the Asian American Chamber of Commerce. The Center will be hosting a Lunar New Year Celebration on Sunday, February 5th from 1 - 4 p.m. in Grand Court on the Lower Level. Guests can enjoy traditional music and dance performances, festive displays, cultural activities, giveaways and more. Visit SpringfieldTownCenter.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

Trip to 1964: The Tribute to the Beatles. 6:15-11 p.m. Bus pick up at RA Headquarters, Reston. Join them for a trip to the Barns at Wolf Trap for this fun outing! Beatlemania is back at The Barns with the "best Beatles tribute on Earth" (Rolling Stone). Choosing songs from the pre-Sgt. Pepper era, 1964: The Tribute astonishingly recreates an early '60s live Beatles concert with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Virginia Polar Dip. 12 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. 1609 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Dock, Reston. Everyone is invited to join in the fun of a Lake Anne winter tradition in its final year. The 15th Freezin' for a Reason Virginia Polar Dip at Lake Anne Plaza begins at 12 PM with DJ music and family friendly activities. Registered participants can take a chilly full plunge or dunk their toes for a "Chicken Dip" to raise funds for Camp Sunshine and receive a commemorative "I DID IT" event shirt. Spectating is free. Check-in and on-site registration will start at noon and the Polar Dip begins at 2 PM. Online registration is open at freezinforareason.com.

COMMUNITY

Rotary Club of Great Falls Marks Giving Milestone

\$400K improves lives.

The Rotary Club of Great Falls and its foundation have reached a new level of giving.

"We are so fortunate to have a group of Rotarian Club members who focus on Service Above Self," said Dan Lundeen, the foundation's chair.

"This generosity, along with fundraisers and contributions from the public, has allowed our club's foundation to give over \$400,000 in donations to local, national, and international causes since our club was formed in 2011," Lundeen said.

The president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls is Michael Broyles. For him, the milestone represents who Rotarians are.

"If each of us gives just a little each month in money or time, it can add up to something meaningful. It helps provide food, clothing, medicine, clean water, education, and improves the quality of life for many," Broyles said.

Rotary made donations to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, Lift Me Up!, an equine-assisted facility in Great Falls, Meals for Heroes, which provided meals to local front-line workers during the pandemic, the Great Falls Grange Founda-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dan Lundeen, chair of the Rotary Club of Great Falls Foundation, and Michael Broyles, president of the Rotary Club of Great Falls

tion, Rise Against Hunger, which packages meals for worldwide distribution, the Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation, the Rotary Foundation, which supports Rotary International, and the Dixon Center for Military and Veteran Services. In addition to these sponsorships, the foundation annually awards several college scholarships to local students.

For more information on the club, go to www.rotarygreatfallsva.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Car Seat Inspections Jan. 26

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected this Thursday, Jan. 26, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat, themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Feb. 9, at the same place and time.

Opioid Awareness Meeting, Feb. 1

The Fairfax County Police Department has partnered with the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) to host an Opioid Awareness meeting Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 7:30-8:30

p.m. This in-person meeting will take place at the CIF office, 5944 Centreville Crest Lane in Centreville. (On the lower level of the Centreville Square Shopping Center).

This discussion will address how opioids are affecting Fairfax County and will explain what resources to combat them are available for the community. A Spanish interpreter will be present for translation. For more information, email FCPDSullyCPO@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Sock and Underwear Drive for Children

The Fairfax County Police Department is collecting socks and underwear for children in need until Monday, Feb. 6. A collection box is available 24/7 in the lobbies of the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly and the Fair Oaks Police Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Items may also be mailed to: FCPD c/o PFC Meg Hawkins, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, VA 20151. All donations should be new items only.

Bulova, Petersen Town Hall Meeting, Feb. 4

Del. David Bulova (D-37th) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34th) will hold a town hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9-11 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. It'll begin with an overview of the General Assembly session to date; then the floor will be open for questions and answers.

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POTOMAC ALMANAC CENTREVIEW

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 newspaper's 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.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Now What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After nearly seven weeks of life since my brother, Richard, died, Dec. 3rd, and after two weeks of Richard-centric columns, I suppose, content-wise, I should try to write about the present and not drone on about the past. I imagine it will be easier for you all to move forward than for me.

Nevertheless, let's call this week's column transitional: one foot still stuck in brotherly loss and the other foot trying to advance the conversation somehow. It's a process (the five stages), I know, and unfortunately there's very little one can do to speed it up. Unlike a DVR, there's no fast forward button. Nor is there a stop or a pause. There's just real time, and time doesn't get any slower than the excruciating minutes and hours waiting for scan results.

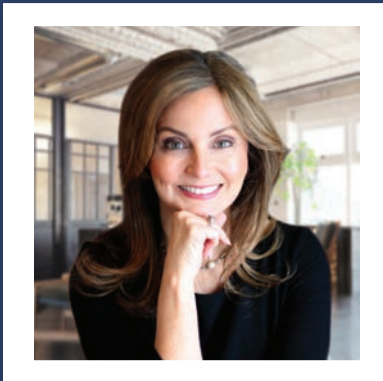
And since I have an MRI, this week focused on another part of my body other than my lungs (liver and kidney) due to some troubling lab work results in my most recent monthly blood draw, focusing forward might be prudent given my lung-cancer-changed-to-thyroid-cancer predicament. Scheduled then is an early morning MRI (my wife, Dina insisted on first available) at 7:45, an hour or so away, bed to check-in. Not ideal, exactly, but ... In addition to its early morning appointment, a Friday scan likely means we won't get results until Mon. or even Tues. This means we'll both have the weekend to stew in our anxiety juices and push back against the familiar demons. The waiting is like having insomnia, with sleepless nights and there's very little you can do about it. Time/getting results is totally out of your control. There's no magic pill, prescription or otherwise, to stop all the conversations that you're having with yourself. The only relief/rescue is receiving results, which I'm fond of saying, with which you can live. And any guarantees went out years ago when we first learned of my diagnosis.

And I'm sure you regular readers can certainly appreciate the anxiety/stress one endures waiting for test results from your doctor. Ordinarily then, for this very reason, I try not scheduling scans on Fridays. Moreover, having been down this rather bumpy road more than a few times in the last 14 years as a cancer patient, I've been there, and done that. And though I'm not particularly agitated by the delay in getting results (the cost of doing business, you might say), still, the experience is hardly for the faint of heart. Unfortunately, this is often the process/timeline for patients having scans, biopsies, lab work, et cetera, to learn/confirm their medical hopes and/or fears.

This week's scan process, now that I think of it, will be the first time having one without my brother being the recipient of my second call (my wife, Dina being the first). And it's this exact kind of circumstance where I feel his loss most deeply. It leads me back to the discomfort I'm feeling even though I'm going through a very familiar process. This time however, I'm going through it without my wingman (think of the difficulties Tom Cruise's character, "Maverick" experienced in the original "Top Gun" after "Goose," his "intercept officer," died in a "flight training accident"). It took Tom Cruise nearly the entire movie to finally "engage". After "Goose" died, "Maverick" (Tom Cruise) just wasn't himself. I'm still myself, but I'm not quite whole. I'm not exactly fragmented. I'm more scared that I'm Humpty Dumpty and I've had a "great fall" and that I won't be able to reassemble all the pieces, specifically the ones that existed in their entirety when my brother was alive and an integral part of Team Lourie. Losing a foundational piece of your emotional wherewithal is sobering, and I don't even drink. And I'm trying very hard not to start. Fighting/surviving cancer requires all hands to the pump. Losing an irreplaceable 'hand,' especially during a possible crisis/transformational moment (possibly more cancer detected) doesn't fill me with confidence. It's not exactly dread that I'm feeling, but's a long way from business as usual.

And 'business as usual' has kept me alive through my initial "13 months to two years" prognosis and through all the intervening years (nearly 14). My brother's support and encouragement were always the extreme positives amid a major negative (non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV). As a result, I feel a weakness in the force. And weakness in the face of cancer "ain't gonna" cut it.

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



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