

THE CONNECTION

McLean ♦ Vienna ♦ Oakton ♦ Great Falls ♦ Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
OPINION, PAGE 11 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

Fairfax Health District celebrated hundreds of those who helped respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency from January 2020 to December 2021 at the Public Health Partner Recognition Event on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023.

Pandemic Heroes of Fairfax County

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Women in Law Enforcement

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Reston Wegmans Opens, B&N Coming

PAGE 6

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JD Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

Per MLS

For Sale!



Offered for...\$1,799,900

2220 Grayson Place, Falls Church
Gorgeous 6BR/5.5 BA Colonial home on 3 finished levels in sought-after Westhampton location! Only a half mile to the **West Falls Church Metro!** Private cul-de-sac plus near half acre lot with huge fenced-in backyard! This stunning home features sparkling hwd floors; dramatic foyer w/curved stairs that overlooks 2-lvl light/bright family room.. Main level BR suite w/ full bath; gourmet island kitchen; huge primary bedroom with sitting room; LL guest suite w/ kitchen & tons of light! **Haycock, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

For Sale!

New Construction!



Offered for...\$3,900,000

1625 N. Albemarle Street, McLean
By Premier/Award Winning modern home builder **TriCrest Homes**. Sited on a premium near-half acre lot in one of McLean's most sought-after neighborhoods—**Chesterbrook Woods!** This to-be-built, spectacular, modern home feature 6BRS/5.5 baths on 3 spacious finished levels; dramatic walls of glass with natural light and creative architectural features. The builder is now in the design phase, so plans, specifications and finishes can be tailored to the homeowner.
Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2022

SOLD!



SOLD for...\$1,795,000

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 hwd; 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!**

SOLD!



**1819 Deer Drive
McLean, 22101
\$1,072,500**

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



**401 Meadow Lane
Falls Church 22042
\$1,725,000**

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!

Recognizing Covid Heroes

Fairfax County Health Department celebrates partners who rose to pandemic's many challenges.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As the world enters the fourth year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Public Health Emergency of International Concern remains, according to a statement by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on Monday, Jan. 30.

Still, in Fairfax County, it is time to recognize and commend hundreds of people, civic and community groups, businesses, and others who helped respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency from January 2020 to December 2021 through partnerships with the Fairfax County Health Department.

These efforts helped steer the pandemic response in communities toward higher levels of immunity, lowering virus-related deaths.

The county's health department held its Public Health System Partner Recognition on Saturday, Feb. 4. To accommodate the many honorees, the department had three program seatings at the Fairfax County Government Center from 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Public health is what we, as a community, do together to create the conditions where everyone can be healthy and safe," said Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay. "The emergency response was defined by more than COVID tests and vaccines. It was defined by our humanity."

After three years of pandemic challenges, there is much for which to be thankful, says Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, the director of health for Fairfax County Health Department. "The gift of life, the gift of family and friends we can lean on, and the gift of our local public health system partners. ... [They] rose above their own needs and concerns to assist the health department in responding to the worst public health crisis of our lifetime," Addo-Ayensu said.

The department honored faith-based organizations like the All



Celebrating those who helped the Fairfax Health District respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency from January 2020 to December 2021 at the Public Health Partner Recognition Event.



Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu hold the proclamation for the Fairfax County Health Department.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Allyson Pearce, marketing and community relations specialist with the Fairfax County Health Department.

Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Chùa Hoa Nghiêm, Durga Temple, and McLean Baptist Church. By opening their doors and sharing clinics for testing, health, safety, and vaccine equity, the organizations frequently served as pillars for public health

SEE FAIRFAX COUNTY, PAGE 14



Performance by Sentimiento Peruano, U.S.A.

Meet Sully Police Commander, Capt. Rachel Levy

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Raised in a military family, Rachel Levy spent most of her life in Northern Virginia. She intended to follow in her father's footsteps, careerwise – and for a while, she did.

"I'd planned to be an Army soldier like my dad," she said. "For eight years, I served in Motor Transportation and was also in the Army Reserves."

Ultimately, though, Levy took a different path. In 2005, she joined the Fairfax County Police Department, and she's now commander of the Sully District Station.

"A friend attended the county's Criminal Justice Academy to join the Sheriff's Office and had a good experience, so I decided to apply," explained Levy. "And a friend in another state had become a police officer, and that opened my eyes to it as a career."

Graduating from the Academy in 2006, she was first assigned to the Franconia Station as a patrol officer and later, the shopping center officer at Springfield Mall. "Part of the Criminal Investigations Section is retail theft and fraud," said Levy. "We apprehended people and did the investigations."

At Franconia, "We were always busy and handled a variety of calls," she said. "I liked the station and the people." Staying until 2014, she was promoted to sergeant and sent to the Mason District Station as a patrol supervisor.

"Mason's also a busy station with great people, so it was a wonderful learning experience as a new supervisor," said Levy. Then in 2016, she went to the Massey Building in Fairfax to work in the Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau, Investigations Division. While there, she was promoted to second lieutenant.

That division investigates cases of alleged wrongdoing by officers and professional staff members and also does internal investigations. "It's a necessary job, and I learned a lot," said Levy. "It's a position you're chosen for. I learned how the department works and its internal polices and did lots of writing. You're finding facts to see if department policy wasn't followed properly. It's also about clearing [innocent] officers."

There until 2018, Levy was next selected for the Major Crimes Bureau, Child Abuse Squad. "These can be hard cases to investigate, and you're dealing with kids – an extremely vulnerable population," she explained. "And you really have to take care of your detectives because of what they're dealing with." Levy was a supervisor; but after four months, she was promoted that December to first lieutenant and reassigned to Franconia.

But this time, she returned as assistant commander. "I was happy to go there," she said. "I knew the station, its commander, and many of the officers and supervisors there, and was comfortable with them."

She assisted the commander in running the station's every-day functions. "You do a little of everything, both administrative and operational," said Levy. "And you stand in, in the captain's absence. It's a team."

Throughout her police career, she tried to glean as much knowledge as she could in every position she held. Franconia, especially, yielded that opportunity because it was always bustling with activity and a variety of cases. "It was also my first assignment as a commander, and I worked under a very good captain," said Levy.

"It teaches you how to run a station efficiently and effectively and be a good leader," she continued. "You're responsible for a lot of personnel, and it prepares you to run your own station. It's like running your own police department."

Then in February 2020, Levy was chosen assistant commander of the department's Personnel Resources Division (PRD) at county police headquarters. She was responsible for the recruitment, background investigation and hiring of all new police officers. Her duties also included dealing with their job applications and polygraph tests.

"If they look like a good candidate, you assign them to a background investigator or detective who later make reports and recommendations, and I'd review these reports," said Levy. "I wouldn't have picked that job for myself. But it opened my eyes to a whole other side of the department I wouldn't have otherwise known."

Around June 2020, her commander there was reassigned, and Levy became acting Personnel Resources Division commander. Later that summer, she was promoted to captain and became the commander. "It was a similar job, but I was the final reviewing authority," she said. "The lieutenant and captain work together and offer positions in the upcoming police-academy class to qualified applicants. And once they graduate, we offer them jobs."

However, in the national unrest following George Floyd's death – as well as that of other individuals across the country at the hands of police – getting people to become police officers became a hard sell. "It was a challenging time for police departments nationwide because of COVID, plus overall media portrayal of the police," said Levy. "Applicant numbers dropped significantly, after already doing so in the few years prior."

Furthermore, she added, "A new generation entering the workforce wants different things. So, as PRD commander, I had to figure out what to do about it. I saw that some of our hiring processes were a little outdated – for example, using paper instead of digital files."

"So I worked to streamline things; I brought in software that conducts the background investigations more efficiently and in a shorter period. At the same time, I launched the first, independent, recruitment Website – joinfcpd.org – for the Police Department dedicated only to recruiting."

Then in summer 2021, said Levy, "We looked at getting the FCPD brand to be the employer of choice. My team used a variety of advertising methods, such as Zoom career and hiring fairs; and later, we did it in person at various events. We had to be creative with how, where and what we advertised."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Capt. Rachel Levy is the Sully District Police Station commander.

"You Need Everyone's Support to Be Successful"
— Capt. Rachel Levy

Ultimately, she found a company specializing in police-department recruitment and branding. It produced videos for FCPD, further developed its Web page and did digital marketing and advertising.

"The other big thing I was able to do as PRD commander that summer was bring the 30x30 initiative to the department," said Levy. The goal is to have 30 percent of recruits by 2030 be women. "It's a nationwide program; just 12 percent of police nationwide are women. FCPD is higher than that and is working to increase it."

The Website is 30x30initiative.org. Levy said Police Chief Kevin Davis is a "huge proponent" of it. "We also have a program to hire minorities," said Levy. "We want our police department to mirror our community, so we also do lots of recruitment in Fairfax County, which is a melting pot – and that also attracted me to this department."

As an agency, she said, "We're looking at well-rounded individuals and also those speaking different languages. We're trying to recruit veterans, too, and people with valuable skills, such as communication ability, compassion and empathy. Psychology majors are also important. Then they all go through the academy."

During her own career, said Levy, "I had a team of people working with me, and supportive commanders. Policing is a team sport – you need the support of everyone to be successful."

She also helps command the department's Search and Rescue team. And last spring, she took the reins of the Sully District Station after its previous leader retired. "I always wanted to be a district station commander; and thankfully, the chief picked me to come here."

"It's great commanding a patrol station – it's the backbone of the police department," continued Levy. "I came here to work hard, and I've received a warm reception. I hadn't worked on this side of the county before, so I had to learn about Sully and its neighborhoods. There are lots of excellent police officers and supervisors here; my priority is taking care of my officers' wellbeing and making sure our patrols are well-staffed."

She said they're here "to fight crime effectively and serve the community. I added another officer to our Neighborhood Patrol unit, for four people total, plus an officer dedicated full time to traffic enforcement and safety – which is also a community priority."

Levy and Lt. Matt Dehler, the station's assistant commander, also participate in Commanders in the Community, making it easier for residents to connect with them at places near their homes. They meet informally at, for example, local coffee shops where people ask them questions and discuss what's happening in the district.

Overall, said Levy, her job's both challenging and fulfilling. "It's busy because a patrol station operates 24/7," she said. "The best part is working with such dedicated officers and with the community. Seeing people do good police work and grow in their careers is very rewarding."

ROUNDUPS

Car Seat Inspections, Feb. 9

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Feb. 9, 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. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Feb. 23, at the same place and time.

Stuff the Bus for WFCM's Food Pantry

As the cold, winter months settle in, many people in Fairfax County continue to experience hunger. But area residents can help support nonprofit Western Fairfax Christian Ministry (WFCM) by participating in an upcoming Stuff the Bus event. It's slated for Saturday, Feb. 11, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Walmart at 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive in Chantilly. Cash contributions, as well as food, will be collected for WFCM's food pantry that serves local individuals and families in need.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

VALENTINES



COURTESY E. SCHAIBLE

City of Fairfax Police Chief Erin Schaible and her husband of 24 years



COURTESY S. KINCAID

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and her husband of 19 years, in dress uniforms of their respective law enforcement organizations



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION

Valentine's Day cards and flowers are a tradition for many area couples

Law Enforcement Women Celebrate Valentine's Day

Non-traditional job holders enjoy traditional celebrations.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

For women finding the balance between societal expectations of women, especially those working in non-traditional jobs, remains a challenge.

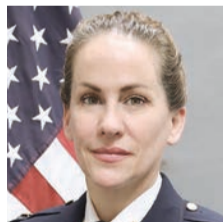
A nontraditional work role, by gender, is defined by the U.S. Department of Labor as one in which "fewer than 25% of the workers in that field are made up of that gender." Low percentages of women are commonplace in science, technology, engineering and math, as well as hands-on skilled trades. Over 100 occupations fall into the non-traditional category for women, including police officer.

It was more than a century ago that the first female professional police officer was appointed in the Chicago Police Department in 1891. Still today women hold only 12 percent of police jobs (2018).

Northern Virginia has many examples of women who have successfully navigated the demands of the non-traditional professions, while maintaining supportive and loving personal family relationships.

Captain Lori LaBarca

Meet Captain Lori LaBarca, currently commander of Fairfax County's Mason District police station. LaBarca has held various command positions within the county police department at the station command level and for the animal protection police unit. Married six-and-a-half years now, she waited to marry until a bit later in life, as many professional women do. She met her husband, who is now a retired police officer, at work. They were friends for several years before romance blossomed. She describes them "as two home bodies".



COURTESY FCPD

Capt Lori LaBarca, commander, Mason District Station

So Valentine's Day will likely be cards and flowers. There also will be chocolate; LaBarca loves chocolate. But no extravagant gifts. They may go out to dinner after the crowds of Valentine's Day are gone, as a less stressful option than dining out on that day. She cooks for the two often, which she enjoys; he washes her car. They enjoy the relaxation of cross country road trips together.

Her tip for a successful relationship? "Pick your battles.", she says. "Getting married later in life, we are both set in our ways, so we do things differently. But there's enough stress at work. If I fold clothes one way, and he folds them another, I'm just glad he folds them."

Chief Erin Schaible

Meet Chief Erin Schaible, Police Chief for the City of Fairfax Police Department, who is observing the fourth anniversary of her appointment to the position in February 2019. She comes from a family background in law enforcement, after her own brief stint after college in New York City's fashion industry. Most recently she had served as deputy chief of patrol in the Fairfax County Police Department, before becoming Fairfax City's first female chief.

She will soon celebrate her 24th wedding anniversary. She's married to a retired Fairfax County police officer; a former captain with the SWAT team. They met as young officers on different shifts at the Mason District Station. They usually celebrate Valentine's Day in a quiet way. She praises him as a "great cook who is wonderful with flavors." She particularly enjoys his steak with mushrooms, and his potato pancakes, but enjoys having him surprise her with new recipes.



COURTESY E. SCHAIBLE

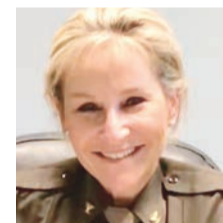
Chief Erin Schaible, the first woman appointed as City of Fairfax Police Chief, behind the chief's desk

Her tip for a successful relationship? "Being patient and trying your best to communicate. To take a step back [during disagreements] in case one's had a bad day; especially important in law enforcement."

Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid

Meet the first woman to lead the Fairfax County Sheriff's office in its 280 year history, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. An elected official, Kincaid first won the seat to fill a partial term and has been reelected to two four-year terms since, in 2015 and 2019. She is planning to run for re-election this November. A 35 year veteran of the force, she joined the department as a Deputy after college, rising to the rank of captain before her election to Sheriff in 2013. During her tenure, she spearheaded adoption of the county's Diversion First initiative to offer alternatives to incarceration for low level offenses, to individuals with mental illness or developmental disabilities. A program Kincaid started in 2018, called Striving to Achieve Recovery (STAR), allows those in jail, with addiction, access to a peer-led therapeutic community to affect recovery.

Kincaid has been married for 19 years. She met her husband in jail. That statement begs further explanation. Now a captain in the Virginia State Police, her now husband was a sergeant when they met as she worked the jail's booking desk. He drew her attention as she noticed the handsome sergeant entering to log an arrest. They talked and he would eventually ask her out for Valentine's Day. It took some time as they got to know each other, and as he helped her to care for her ailing mother. Eventually, she married



SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, the first and only female sheriff in Fairfax County's 281 year history

him as her best friend, she said, "knowing we could be together through thick and thin, and not get tired of each other."

Kincaid explained for them, Valentine's Day will be "a very nice dinner out; doing something special, although every day is a celebration." She describes her husband "as a card guy since day one; he picks the best, and gets flowers." He's been supportive of her plunge into painting, started during COVID 19 isolation. He hung Kincaid's first painting, titled "Guardian Angel" in his office.

Her tip for a successful relationship, "be true to yourself, marry someone who treats his mother well, and who you can trust; who you'd enjoy growing old with, who you can collaborate with, and always find common ground when you disagree."

All three of these successful officers credit organizations such as the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE), Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement (MAAWLE), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) with promoting the ideals and principles of women executives in law enforcement. Their missions to educate and train aspiring women, in leadership, management, and administration; and to encourage women in the field and foster effective law enforcement, is helping to build the percentage of women choosing the law enforcement field.

Women and men with interest in pursuing a career in Fairfax County law enforcement can find information on available jobs at JoinFCPD@fairfaxcounty.gov. FCPD is currently hiring for the 2023 police academy with a starting base salary of \$56,697, plus a \$15,000 sign-on bonus.

For information about deputy sheriff hiring, see <https://fcsocareers.org>; beginning salaries \$55,323 - \$70,607 with \$15,000 hiring bonus.

For information about City of Fairfax law enforcement hiring, see <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/our-department/career-opportunities>; starting salary range: \$63,196.00 - \$106,187.00.

Wegmans, Reston Opens “Caring company with a passion for food.”



Shoppers use the self-checkout.



Amanda Fawcett, one of the newly hired employees at Wegmans Reston, shows off the white chocolate dipped strawberries adorned with chocolate curls.

ships to groups in the Reston area even before opening.

Speziale oversees local giving. This spring, five graduating seniors from South Lakes and Herndon high schools will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship grant as a symbolic nod to Wegmans' Employee Scholarship Program. The store is donating \$1,000 to the food pantry at South Lakes High School.

The store has sponsored and participated in several community events already. “We were part of the annual Reston community yard sale. ... We had a booth at the Reston Walk to End Alzheimer's, and our employees handed out bananas and water. Our recruiters quickly developed a relationship with the Reston YMCA, and they've been a great partner ever since,” Sullivan said. Wegmans Reston donates healthy fresh food to Food for Others daily and has donated \$10,000 to Food for Others to expand its “My Market” facility, where clients in need can shop for food.

Wegmans Shoppers Club and app sign-ups are available at <https://www.wegmans.com/reston>.

Halley Rise is billed as “Reston's new curated city,” consisting of eight blocks that are pedestrian-focused with sustainable practices and steps from the Reston Town Center Station on the Silver Line. It offers workforce-dwelling units and is expected to hold self-driving cars in partnership with Optimus Ride.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Feb. 1, the new Wegmans, Reston, at 11950 Hopper Street, held its grand opening. With its “passion for food,” the 85,000-square-foot store with parking underneath is the anchor tenant for the Halley Rise project.

Katie Sullivan is the Wegmans, Reston store manager, and Amber Speziale is the service manager.

The hiring office opened ten months ago and recruited 425 full-time and part-time employees. According to Marcie Rivera, public relations at Wegmans Food Markets, customer service roles started at \$15 to \$16 per hour, and entry-level management roles began at \$20 to \$21.

Newsweek's America's Best Retailers 2022 ranked Wegmans Food Markets as the best supermarket. At Wegmans, Reston, shoppers browse hundreds of organic fruits

and vegetables.

The seafood department receives fish daily from the east coast, national, and international ports. Wegmans sources artisan cheeses, which are then ripened and enhanced in cheese caves. Executive chef Vinny Tacci and his 95-person culinary staff prepare restaurant food, including fresh sushi, pizza, wings, hot soup, made-to-order salads, and subs.

Wegmans' tagline is “We are a caring company with a passion for

food.”

Its interests are aligned between a highly-ranked supermarket experience that generates an economic benefit and context-based social benefits for its employees and the community. According to Riveria, the corporation provides scholarships of \$8,000 to part-time employees and \$16,000 to full-time employees (and management interns). Wegmans, Reston donated nearly \$20,000 last year through contributions and event sponsor-

Barnes & Noble, Reston Plans to Open Late Spring or Early Summer

Book lovers delight, continue to shop at small, local bookstores too.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Barnes & Noble announced on Tuesday, Feb. 7, that its newest store will open in late spring or early summer at 11816 Spectrum Center in Reston. This is where Office Depot was formerly located and the site is next door to the Harris Teeter grocery store. The new Barnes & Noble will occupy a 28,000-square-foot space and house a Barnes & Noble Café.

“This will be the largest new store we've opened in the last 10 years. We do so with a brand-new design,” said a Barnes & Noble spokesperson.

“We are so excited about bringing a fantastic bookstore back to Reston. Our booksellers are hard at work curating the right assortment for our Reston customers,” she said.

Nothing beats the experience of browsing a bookstore in person. Customers are drawn to the glossy book covers with their

eye-catching large text and images. It entices them to take the books off the shelves, read the inside jacket, and add them to the shopping bag.

Barnes & Noble will be a major tenant in the Spectrum shopping center. “Spectrum is such an important part of Reston Town Center, and Barnes & Noble was a beloved store years ago,” said Reston Town Center Association executive director Robert Goudie. “I know that residents will be just delighted to see it returning, great credit to Lerner, and maybe it's a hopeful sign that rumors of the book's demise have been greatly exaggerated,” said Goudie.

Barnes & Noble CEO James Daunt had a similar thought. “The tide has turned for real booksellers, with both Barnes & Noble and independent booksellers opening new stores at an unprecedented rate after well over a decade of declining numbers,” said Daunt. “The return of Barnes & Noble to Reston exemplifies this success.”

“It will be dramatic to build across 28,000



The new Barnes & Noble, Reston, plans to open its doors in late spring or early summer of this year, in the space formerly occupied by Office Depot at 11816 Spectrum Center.

square feet in our new Reston store,” says Amy Fitzgerald, vice president of Stores at Barnes & Noble.

Customers can stay up-to-date on the opening by following the handle @bnrestonva on social media.

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

Coffee with a Cop on Feb. 11

Area residents are invited to join their local police officers and neighbors for Coffee with a Cop, this Saturday, Feb. 11, from 8-10 a.m., at the Starbucks in the Colonnade at Union Mill shopping center, 5748 Union Mill Road in Clifton. Ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers of the Sully District. There's no agenda – just coffee and friendly conversation.

Hyundai Steering-Wheel Lock Distribution

In response to increasing thefts targeting Hyundai vehicles, the Sully District Police Station has partnered with Hyundai Motor America to distribute free steering-wheel locks to local residents who own or lease certain 2011-2021 Hyundai models with "steel turnkey" ignitions. Vehicles with push-button starts are not affected.

The distribution is set for Monday, Feb. 13, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., inside the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. People must bring their vehicle's registration card to receive a wheel lock. They're being offered on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

ton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

LOOKING FOR

SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Bray-

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www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com

CHOCOLATE LOVERS

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Marquette Ellis of The Capital Candy Jar serves up chocolate treats.



Eating truffles together are Teddy Koplitz, 11, and his mom, Susi Brittain.



From left are Brandi Lovett, Cameron Graham and Taylor Howe of Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates.

Did Someone Say Chocolate? Mmmm, Yes, Indeed!

Fairfax City's 29th annual Chocolate Lovers Festival was Feb. 3-5. These photos are from the Taste of Chocolate in Old Town Hall.



Winnie and Robert Kang enjoy a chocolate-covered Rice Krispie treat and banana.



Catherine Ahearn and Sam Darlo sell artisan ice cream from Tysons Creamery.



Sarah Dwyer and Matt Salazar of Chouquette Chocolates.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Leon Cui, 2-1/2, licks the chocolate off his lips from a strawberry that was covered in chocolate.



Savoring a chocolate cupcake is Dominik Radwanski, 5.



Sarisa Vingpravat of Donut Chew selling colorful mochi doughnuts.



Derleine Wanzer with a chocolate-drenched strawberry from Capitol Chocolate Fountains.



Johnny Epps of Odyssey Chocolate tells a customer about bean-to-bar chocolates.
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Mary Ann McKenzie Turns 100

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Mary Ann McKenzie never imagined she'd live to be 100. On Saturday, Feb. 4, McLean's newest centenarian celebrated the occasion with family and neighbors in her home of nearly 65 years.

"What pleased me most was the response from so many people, even those I didn't know, who sent me birthday wishes," said McKenzie. "A representative from Veterans Affairs came by and delivered a medallion from the VA director. The local neighborhood group responded in great numbers."

Born Feb. 6, 1923, McKenzie came to the Washington area from a small town in Pennsylvania during World War II after graduating from high school and eventually settled in McLean.

In the days leading up to the gathering, McKenzie, a Marine Corps veteran staff sergeant, had been preparing meals to freeze to have on hand for when her sons Bruce and Greg, as well as loved ones, including her 16-year-old granddaughter, arrived.

According to neighbor and friend Jack Tarr, cars lined up outside McKenzie's house Saturday afternoon as friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate her birthday. Inside, the home was packed and cheerful. Four of McKenzie's Marine friends from later years were there, along with her son, Gregg, still bleary-

eyed from his long journey from New Zealand. One friend brought a large cardboard card with Happy 100th and room for everyone to add a note.

According to McKenzie, there is no secret to longevity, but there is to a life well-lived. "Just live day by day," she explained.

McKenzie said that while she may not be able to walk as well as she once did and is slightly hard of hearing, her days are complete, and her lifestyle is active. Tarr described McKenzie as "very sharp and talkative ... and monitors her emails." She is a confident computer user who enjoys socializing and shopping online.

"I don't know what I would do without a computer to get groceries delivered. I don't have to go anywhere anymore... I use my computer to go to my garden meeting and if I want to go to Sunday School or church I can Zoom," McKenzie explained.

McKenzie is known for her volunteer history. She served as the Lewinsville Senior Center Advisory Council president for ten years. "Their bylaws say two years but nobody wanted the job and I did it by default." At her church, McKenzie cooked Tuesday evenings for the Bailey Crossroad Shelter, and she volunteered as a corresponding secretary and membership chairman at a local pool.

"I don't have any terminal illnesses and I feel good," McKenzie said. "After 100 years, I had a wonderful day at my first and only birthday party."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mary Ann McKenzie of McLean turns 100.

Liquid Chocolate for Children and Adults

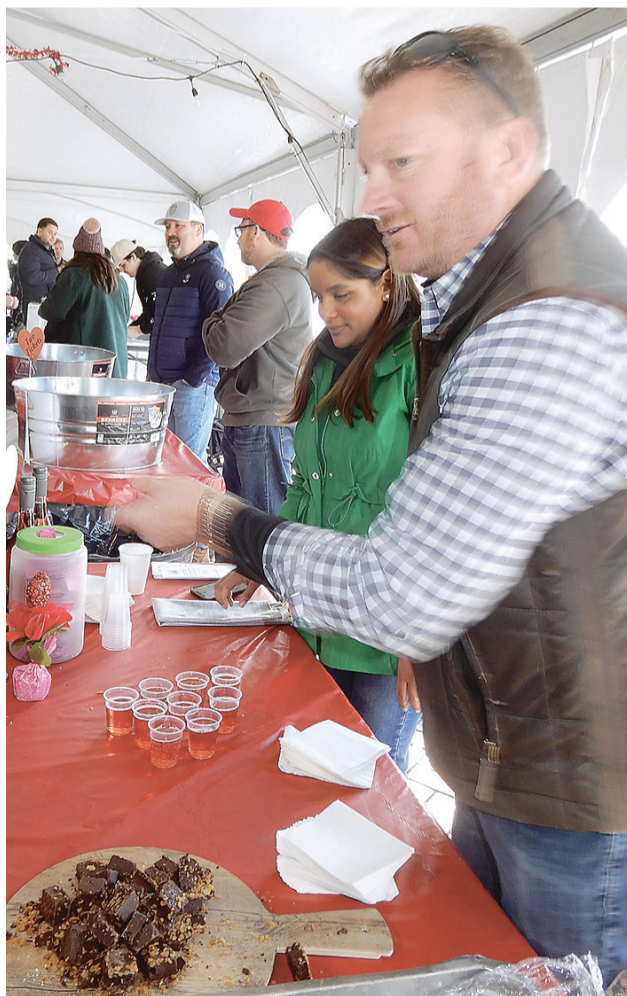
The Liquid Chocolate event was a popular part of Fairfax City's Chocolate Festival.



From left, Jessica Ostrowski-Wright and Anh Pham enjoy, respectively, a chocolate hazelnut truffle drink and a cherry chocolate stout beer.



From left, brothers Ayan and Sohal Sudheer with, respectively, a hot chocolate bomb drink and chocolate soda.



Dinah Herring (green coat) and Michael Pearce of The Wine House serve a pairing of Brachetto wine and dark chocolate Feuillantine crisp.



From left, Megan Esguerra and Lauri Vargas of Fairfax Ace Hardware offer chocolate soda.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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Legislative Crossover

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



Yesterday, Feb. 7, 2023, was legislative crossover — the date by which both houses of the General Assembly must have completed work on their own legislation by midnight. Nearly half of the bills introduced will have been defeated by their respective houses, and the remaining bills face the scrutiny of the other legislative body. It is virtually impossible to define simply where the legislature will end up on controversial issues for the 100 House members with two-year terms have very different views on issues than the 40 Senate members with four-year terms and vice versa. This legislative year is complicated by the fact that all 140 seats of the General Assembly are up for election in November and the two houses are controlled by different political parties: Republicans in the House and Democrats in the Senate. For a bill to become a law it must be passed by both houses in identical form.

With all the caveats listed above, I can report that there is a great deal of chaos in the General Assembly this week that is likely to continue until adjournment on Feb. 25. At this point it appears that the gun safety laws that the Democrats put into place two years ago are safe. There have been more than a dozen bills introduced by the Republicans to roll back those safeguards, but the ones introduced

in the Senate have been defeated, and the Republican bills that passed the House will be defeated in the Senate. The same is true for the Republican bills passed in the House to roll back the advances in making it easier to vote that the Democrats made while in the majority. The Senate will preserve them by voting them down.

There have been numerous rallies about women's reproductive rights from both sides of the issue, but the Republican leadership has not been willing to have a vote on abortion-related issues with an election coming up in November and their party with such a slim margin in just

one house of the Assembly.

The Governor has played little role in the hard issues, no doubt fearing a backlash that could negatively impact his presidential ambitions. He seems content to pick on school boards about minor issues such as when schools send letters to students who did not qualify for a National Merit Scholarship but were to be commended for taking the test.

Passing revisions to the biennium budget presents major challenges for the House and Senate since the Governor continues to press for tax reductions in the face of huge needs in education and mental health. Likewise the differences between environmentalist and climate change advocates and some of the business community are major and will not be resolved until the end of the session.

I wish I could be more definitive on the final outcome of the legislative session, but I fear that no one will know until the end of the session that is merely weeks away. In the meantime, check on the progress of bills of interest to you at <https://legiscan.com/VA>

Catching up on Reston, Winter 2023

JOHN LOVAAS



Happy Valentine's Day to one and all! I guess I'm just an aging romantic at heart because Valentine's Day has always been big for me. I buy cards for the women in my life, and a box of her special favorites from Chesapeake Chocolates for my bride.

Meanwhile, the Reston Association is gearing up for its annual Board of Directors election. Ballots for this election will be mailed out o/a March 1 and are due back at the end of the month. This election is major. Five of nine board seats are on the ballot instead of the usual three. There are eight candidates vying for three at-large openings of different terms. Four of them are candidates for the at-large director for a full three-year term. One old timer, land-use attorney John Farrell; golf course advocate Margaret Perry; and two bright, shiny newcomers Jeff Spurrier and Gene Zapfel. The at-large seat for a two-year term attracted two newcomers, Trevor Grywatch and Jalal Mapar. The at-large seat with just one-year remaining also drew two hats in the ring, surprisingly one of them by steadfast Treasurer and budget

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

watchdog Bob Petrine, the other by newcomer Michael Brandland. If it were up to me, Bob Petrine would stay at least three more years. He's a thorough, hardworking, and trustworthy keeper of the till. Travis Johnson, a promising businessman currently filling the remaining weeks of an at-large seat, is the lone candidate for the Hunters Woods/Dogwood seat (once filled by yours truly). Michael Collins, the incumbent Apartment Owner's Director, is the only candidate for this post elected by the handful of owners of Reston apartment complexes, with a nod from Hunter Mill Supervisor. Collins is a former liaison with Reston for Congressman Gerry Connolly.

The Draft Reston Comprehensive Plan, in the works for about 2 ½ years is still out for community comment. Typical for Fairfax County productions it is a tome, but it was done with Supervisor Alcorn's oversight with a considerable amount of community input. Being a Reston product, it has some bells and whistles not found in other community comp. Plans ... including sections on equity, the environment,

community health and more. Google "Reston Draft Comprehensive Plan" and scroll through the lengthy table of contents to pick what you really might want to read. County Planning staff needed considerable time to review it and try to figure out how all the bells and whistles might actually function as they try to implement this Plan!

Good news over here in Lake Anne. The Lake Anne Condo Association reformist Board of Directors is making progress restoring order and stabilizing Association finances. It has begun to address overdue infrastructure fixes as well as sprucing up appearances of Condo property. It has also made consistency and transparency its modus operandi.

One recent, unusually positive development, is an offer of a voluntary contribution of funding for repaving a couple of sections of Condo-owned access roadways also used by some residents of the neighboring townhouse Cluster Association. The cluster association's voluntary contribution should enable Lake Anne to accelerate the whole, long overdue roadway and parking lot redo that will add to the appearance and value of the heart of Reston. Founder Bob Simon, who lived in a condo on floor 13 of the Heron House apartment tower, would have approved.

Mount Vernon District 36th Annual Town Meeting

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host the 36th Annual Town Meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023
7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 a.m. - Speakers, Audience Q&A's and Virtual Tour

Noon – 1:30 p.m. – Taste of Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon High School, Entrance 4, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309 and Virtual Live Stream

Supervisor Dan Storck invites

all to join him for the 36th Annual Town Meeting. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and question community leaders, as well as be inspired to engage in the Mount Vernon community. Highlights include an Exhibit Hall with over 50 community groups and county agencies, audience question and answer sessions and a "virtual tour" with Supervisor Dan Storck.

Additional speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill,

County Police Chief Kevin Davis, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid, Special Guest Congressman Gerry Connolly and remarks by Congressman Don Beyer. More than 300 attendees are anticipated at this major annual event.

Join us to find out why We Are The One!

The Mount Vernon Children's Business Fair will be joining the Town Meeting with young entre-

preneurs showing off their very own start-up businesses and displaying their wares from 9 a.m. – noon at this one-day marketplace. Back this year is the Taste of Mount Vernon featuring tastings from our local restaurants. #MVTownMeeting

The Town Meeting will also be live streamed on [fairfaxcounty.gov/cable](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable), Channel 16, Cox HD 1016, YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN2VlK-buPbOJeR_B39GX0_w) and Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck/>).

The Chicken or the Egg? Is raising your own an eggcellent idea?

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Almost as perplexing as the ancient chicken/egg question, (Which came first?) is the question of how to deal with the sudden soaring price of eggs. Once an inexpensive source of protein, northern Virginia consumers are feeling the shock of price tags far higher than any chicken could manage to fly. By the way, for the average chicken, that's 10 feet, for a distance of 50 feet. This is one easy inexpensive meal that seems to have 'flown the coop' just as gas prices were showing a downward trend. Consumers are experiencing eggflation.

For those considering saving money by eliminating the middleman and keeping their own birds, we share a few kernels of information for you to peck at to avoid common missteps.

First, check your zoning laws. In Fairfax County (per ordinance section 4102.7 J), keeping fowl is permitted only on lots of at least two acres. If you're still reading, and not one of the many eliminated by zoning restrictions, then the ordinance provides for one "ani-

mal unit" per acre. An animal unit is a count of 32 birds for chickens, 16 ducks, 8 turkeys, or 2 ostriches or emus. One should consider that the initial price of ostriches and emus might deter the whole savings plan idea. Emu chicks go for \$1,000, and adults up to \$40,000 depending on their age and breeding status. Emus make Ostriches appear a real bargain, however, with Ostrich chicks selling for a mere \$525, and adults between \$7,500 and \$10,000, according to "The Hip Chick." But think of the size of the eggs.

Check in with the Hip Chick for tips on how to keep your peacocks cool in summer. By the way, that's an egg laying fowl missing from the county's flyer on keeping animals. Perhaps considered an exotic animal?

If you stick with the traditional chicken egg, you will need three to five chickens to produce a dozen weeks per week. While baby chicks recently sold for \$3-\$5, a laying hen was in the \$20-\$50 dollar range. That was before the same avian flu that is impacting egg prices, so current prices for fowl can be expected to rise too. Then one must factor in the cost of bird

housing and food, and plan on a time investment for coop cleaning. We note that "dirty bird" is a common expression. And for comparison, note that at \$6 a dozen, a dozen a week will set you back \$312. It's estimated to cost roughly \$500 per year to raise enough chickens to produce a dozen eggs per week. Given that a chicken coop can cost hundreds of dollars and more, we don't know how eggsactly the \$500 figure is calculated.

Considering a rooster? He's banned by Fairfax County code except "in conjunction with agriculture on lots of seven acres or larger." Not difficult to reason why. These boys are legendary for their voices; loud enough to serve as alarm clocks for blocks. But don't despair his loss unless you hoped to grow a flock and want cute baby chicks pecking around your backyard. The eggcellent news is that hens will lay eggs with or without a rooster. Without the rooster, one can collect laid eggs daily and store them in a cool place until used. And sleep until breakfast time.

Don't forget that you will need to protect your hens from predation by a range of foes including foxes, hawks, raccoons and even



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Consumers see egg prices soar.

eagles. The occasional black snake has been known to eat a nest full of eggs.

If you are still considering raising chickens, and it is a fun though not inexpensive hobby, there are many, many chicken breeds to choose from. Some of the best layers have interesting names, such as Bovans Browns, Hylines, Aus-

tralorps, Leghorns, Orpingtons, and Rhode Island Reds. Some hens lay as many as 300 eggs, or about 25 dozen, in a year. Others are bred for attributes beyond egg laying such as: hardiness, size, egg color, demeanor and docility, exotic plumage, and color. Egg colors can present a rainbow from white to blue to chocolate.

Korean War Veteran Visits Burke CAP Cadets Schwartz, Lam honored for excellence.

BY CADET SENIOR AIRMAN DENNIS CHORIYEV AND CADET SENIOR AIRMAN HEIDI LUU
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Korean War veteran Col. Warren Wiedhahn joined the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air patrol to speak about his experiences and present a cadet with his Civil Air Patrol achievement award.

Wiedhahn is a Marine Corps Veteran who fought in the Korean War from his initial landing in Busan to eventually fighting in the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. At the time, Wiedhahn was a Private First Class and 19 years old when he first landed at Busan. He recounted the weather causing many casualties during the fight around Busan, which would be a common theme during the entire war.

During the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, the 1st Marine Division was surrounded on all sides by Chinese soldiers. Wiedhahn saw brutal action for the next two weeks as ammunition, rations and water were scarce due to the brutal cold and lack of supplies. The prospects of the Marines changed however as supplies began being airdropped by the recently established Air Force.



Korean War veteran Colonel Warren Wiedhahn, right, presents Cadet Second Lieutenant Yacov Schwartz with the Mitchell Award for excellence in leadership of the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

As Wiedhahn stated, "Beans, bullets, and bandages," were crucial to keeping the Marines fighting valiantly. The Air Force C-119s airdropped lifesaving supplies and a portable Treadway bridge. A short dirt runway, carved out of the snow and ice, was constructed by US soldiers during the battle so C-47s could land and evacuate wounded. The portable Treadway bridge allowed the Marines to create an exit from the enemy encirclement.

Eventually, the 1st Marine Division was capable of "advancing in a different direction," as the division commander Oliver P. Smith would state during the battle, and escape to the port of Hungnam.

Wiedhahn stood in front of the squadron to present the Mitchell Award to Cadet Second Lieutenant Yacov Schwartz. The Mitchell Award is a milestone achievement for cadets that marks their first step into the officer ranks, an elevated



Colonel Elizabeth Sydow, left, presents Cadet Captain William Lam the Earhart Award for his outstanding leadership as cadet commander of the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

level of responsibility and commitment to the squadron and Civil Air Patrol as a whole. Cadet Schwartz earned that achievement because of his performance and drive to excel.

Virginia Wing Commander Col. Elizabeth Sydow awarded the Earhart Award to Cadet Captain William Lam. The Earhart Award is another milestone achievement, like the Mitchell Award, and it reflects gained knowledge and skill



BY CADET CAPTAIN WILLIAM LAM

Korean War veteran Colonel Warren Wiedhahn speaks to members of the Burke Composite Squadron about how the Air Force helped save many service members during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir.

of a senior cadet leader. Only 3 percent of cadets in Civil Air Patrol have earned the achievement. Cadet Lam serves as the cadet commander, leading over 70 cadets in the squadron.

Sydow also presented the squadron with the Quality Cadet Unit Award and the Aerospace Education Achievement Award earned in 2022 for demonstrated excellence in the cadet program and aerospace education.

For more information on the Burke Composite Squadron, visit <https://vawg.cap.gov/units/Burke>
www.connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

More on Spring Street and Herndon Parkway

The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a “pardon our dust” meeting Monday night, Feb. 13 at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon, VA 20170 on the work underway in the area of Spring Street and Herndon Parkway to improve safety and operations for drivers and safety, accessibility and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. A presentation on the Spring Street Widening project’s construction will begin at 7 p.m.

The improvements include widening about a quarter-mile of Spring Street from just west of Herndon Parkway to Fairfax County Parkway to allow for additional through and turn lanes. Additional turn lanes on Herndon Parkway are also being constructed at the Spring Street intersection.

The project also includes a new sidewalk and eight-foot-wide cycle track along northbound Herndon Parkway that will eventually connect the new Herndon Metro station

to the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. A cycle track combines the user experience of a separated path with the on-street infrastructure of a conventional bike lane.

Other pedestrian improvements include a new sidewalk along eastbound Spring Street from Sunset Park Drive to Fairfax County Parkway, enhancing existing sidewalks on both sides of Spring Street and replacing the sidewalk along southbound Herndon Parkway.

Within the project limits, Spring Street averages about 32,000 vehicles a day and Herndon Parkway averages about 15,000.

The \$22.6 million project is financed with federal, state (including Smart Scale and Revenue Sharing funding) and local funding.

The project is scheduled for completion in late 2024. For more information, view the project webpage https://www.virginia.gov/projects/northernvirginia/e_spring_st.asp

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors

provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19



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Come visit Lorton's Attic, a thrift store run by the Lorton Community Action Center.



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Our donation hours can be found at lortonaction.org/lortons-attic

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Fairfax County Health Department Celebrates Partners who Rose to Pandemic's Many Challenges

FROM PAGE 3
initiatives.

Community organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Chi Beta Omega Chapter, Cornerstones, and Fundación los Niños de Maria provided essential resources for those in isolation or quarantine, including those of the county's most underserved populations. Their staff and volunteers helped connect neighbors to resources and slowed the spread of COVID in Fairfax.

"They rose to the challenge during COVID-19," said Allyson Pearce, community relations specialist with the Fairfax County Health Department. Pearce shared two stories about people who provided health information, advocated for vaccines, and supported the needs of their employees. They are, she says, "true influencers," ordinary people to whom others pay attention.

Chef Latino is a restaurant with a food truck that frequently visits construction sites. "They loaded up their truck with information about the COVID-19 vaccine and health and safety, and as you were getting your order, you received information," Pearce said.

"Maid Bright in Herndon is amazing. You can imagine how much off a cliff that business fell [in the first part of the pandemic]. He did not fire anybody ... but shifted everybody around so they could earn something," Pearce said.

Pearce discussed vaccine apprehension and how the owner of Maid Bright contact-

SEE RECOGNIZING COVID, PAGE 15



Fairfax County Board Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully).



Sharon Arndt, director of the Community Health Development Division at the Fairfax County Health Department moderated the recognition ceremony. Arndt led the development and implementation of a COVID-19 vaccine equity strategy to reach populations at high risk for contracting the virus and experiencing worse health outcomes.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



August of 2021, Jessica Gutierrez-Lugo (third from left) is a Community Organizer with Opportunity Neighborhoods. Pictured with youth at the Berkdale Apartments in Herndon, where in partnership with nonprofit Cornerstones, Family Fun Day included the opportunity for a Pfizer vaccine, bringing the immunization to the doorsteps of community members.



Tony Bell, W.J. Williams Jr. and Maurice Cogdell of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. At the height of COVID-19, the fraternity held learning circles including talks about the importance of vaccines. "It was good to get everybody in the room and see the lights go on. ... 'I thought this, but now I realize I need to change my thinking,'" said Maurice Cogwell.



Durga Temple Mere Apne Seniors Group, Fairfax Station. Sapna Rohatgi and Dilpreet (Preeti) Singh started Zoom gatherings during COVID and reached out to their senior community offering entertainment and educational programs "because they were getting lonely sitting at home."

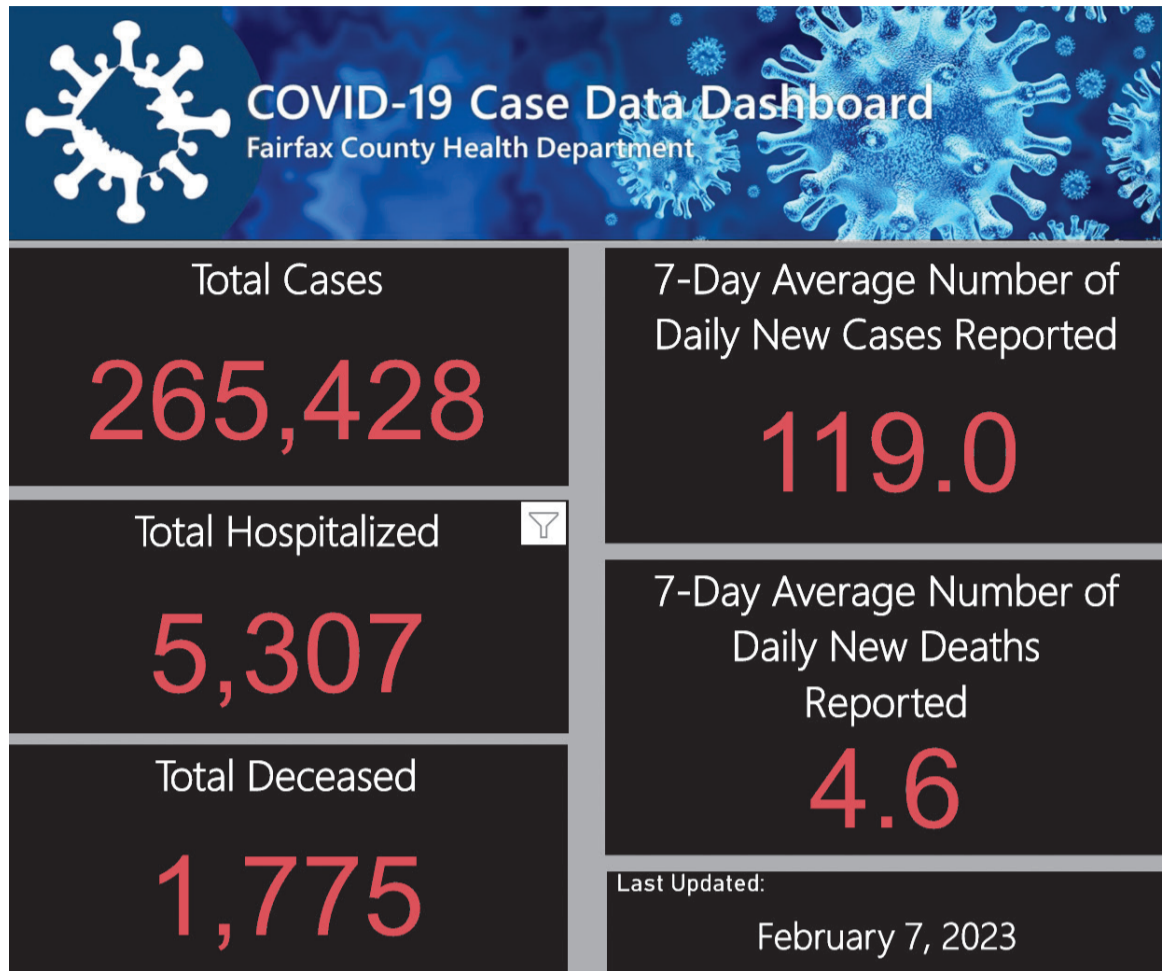


PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON HOSPITAL CENTER

January 2021-Christine Knoell, RN (left), vaccinates Dr. Kathleen Sachse during the first days of the Reston Hospital Center Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine effort for healthcare providers.

COVID snapshot on Feb. 7, 2023.

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

Recognizing Covid Heroes

FROM PAGE I4

ed the health department, which dispatched a health educator. She and other Latinos on the department team sat with the employees and answered questions in their native language.

“It’s the most basic level of community health efforts, in my opinion. That resulted in us bringing vaccines into that business. ... They got so comfortable they brought their families, so it became a community,” said Pearce.

Sully Supervisor Kathy L. Smith presented a resolution from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to Addo-Ayensu on behalf of all county residents. It expressed gratitude for the “unified, collaborative, and unprecedented efforts of these partners that undoubtedly spared illnesses and deaths in our communities.” The resolution recognized the partners “who, despite their own struggles and fears, showed leadership and truly embody our goal of healing health as a human.”

“By working together, we created safer, healthier, more resilient people, families, businesses, organizations, and institutions that will serve to benefit our community for years to come,” Smith read.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, the Case Data Dashboard that provides information about COVID-19 in the Fairfax Health District, which includes Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and Falls Church City, reported the 7-day average number of daily new deaths was 3.7, the 7-day average number of daily new cases was 127, the total number of cases during the pandemic was 265,225, the total number of hospitalized individuals was 5,306, and the total number of deaths was 1,769.

For the week of Jan. 27, 2023, the Fairfax County Health Department reported five new COVID-19 out-



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Maria Keating holds her daughter Charlotte, 18 months. Keating is an employee at Best Health Care Services, LLC, in Burke. “Our most challenging aspect was ensuring we had enough PPE for staff working with the elderly and finding caregivers who felt comfortable putting themselves at risk,” Keating said.

breaks in school and childcare settings, one in congregate care, and one in “other,” defined as places such as county facilities, business workplaces, restaurants, retail and the like.



November 2021, food distribution boxes to be filled at St. John Neumann Church in Reston organized by Cornerstones.



PHOTO BY MERCEDES MARQUES FEUDMAN

A Really Big Show ... Feb. 6 - March 6

At Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne
Acrylic and collage artworks by Livingston Rodgers
Reception: Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Livingston Rodgers, a Reston resident for 20 years, presents an eclectic exhibit of "Really Big" paintings this February in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne. From the 13th floor of her Reston Town Center condo, Livingston paints life not only how she sees it but how she imagines it. She has traveled and lived in many places including Los Angeles, Atlanta and Memphis. <https://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/event-detail/2023/02/02/default-calendar/really-big-show>

Great Falls Youth Habitat Grant

The Great Falls Garden Club is sponsoring a \$150 Youth Native Habitat Garden Grant to be awarded to a student in Grade 5 - Grade 11 who lives in the 22066 zip code.

Currently the Great Falls Garden Club maintains two garden sites at the Great Falls Library and one garden, The Blue Star Memorial Garden, at the Village Center in Great Falls. One garden at the library lines the walkway along the library's path to Georgetown Pike, and the other is the Meadow visible from the Pike. Beyond their aesthetics, the gardens also attract many pollinators when in bloom.

To further the idea of planting native habitat gardens that provide shelter and food for animals, birds and insects, for the second year the Garden Club is offering a \$150 grant to a Great Falls student in Grade 5 - Grade 11 to create their own Native Habitat Garden.

All interested individuals can find information about the grant by visiting the Great Falls Library where there is a display with lots of helpful resources.

In addition, the Grant Application and additional information can be found on the Garden Club's website www.gfgardenclub.org

In addition, on Saturday, March 11 from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. in the Great Falls Library, there will be a workshop on how to plant and maintain a native habitat garden to be presented by Garden Club member, Meghan M. McGinty, PhD, Botanist and Ecologist. All ages are invited to attend this free and very informative event. No registration is needed.

The Grant Application must be postmarked by April 15, 2023. All applications should be sent to the following address:

Youth Native Habit Garden Grant Chair, PO Box 1412, Great Falls, VA 22066.

Low Cost Pet Clinics

Dates: Feb. 19, April 23, May 28, Sept. 10, Oct. 22, Dec. 3
All clinics are held
9 a.m. - 12 p.m..

Services are first come, first served. The clinic is limited to the first 150 pets in line. We recommend arriving early; the line will be cut off after 150 pets.

There is NO pre-registration or appointment required - all paperwork will be completed at each clinic.

Cash only - no check or credit card - and payment is due at the time of service, \$20 for each service; Rabies Vaccination: \$20; Distemper Vaccination: \$20; Microchip: \$20

Dogs and cats may be vaccinated at the clinics.

Dogs must be on fixed (not flexi/extendable) leashes; cats must be

in carriers.

Dog licenses may be purchased onsite in the Animal Shelter.

In order to receive a 3-year rabies vaccination and/or 1- or 3-year distemper vaccination, proof of prior vaccinations are required and paper or electronic copies must be presented at the clinic. No prior medical records are needed for microchips, 1-year rabies vaccinations, or initial 28-day distemper vaccinations.

Pets will be vaccinated in a secure room at the clinic location. Pets will remain with owners in line. Once a pet has been checked in, a staff member will bring the pet to be vaccinated and/or microchipped and will return the pet to the owner once the vaccines and/or microchip has been administered.

Stuff the Bus, Feed Hungry Families

Stuff the Bus happens around the county and is an important event for area nonprofits to restock depleted food pantries to keep feeding hungry people. You can donate food and/or make cash contributions.

Fairfax Walmart, 11181 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22003
Benefitting Britepaths, <https://britepaths.org/>

Stuff the Bus Springfield (Braddock District)

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152
Benefitting Ecumenical Community Helping Others ECHO, <https://www.echo-inc.org/>

Stuff the Bus Kingstowne, Franconia District

Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Kingstowne Walmart, 5885 Kingstowne Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22315
Benefitting Koinonia, <http://www.koinoniacares.org/>

Stuff the Bus McLean
Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
McLean Giant, 1454 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101
Benefitting Share of McLean, <https://www.shareofmclean.org/>

Stuff the Bus Oakton

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Oakton Giant, 2932 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, VA 22124
Benefitting Food for Others, <https://foodforothers.org/>

Stuff the Bus Chantilly (Sully District)

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Chantilly Walmart, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151
Benefitting Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, <https://www.wfcmv.org/>

Stuff the Bus Fairfax (Braddock District)

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Native ground covers replace lawn along a high-use path.



Native plants create beauty and habitat in containers.

HABITAT GARDENS DESIGNED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEGHAN M. MCGINTY, PHD

Free Clinics with Cultivate Nature

Join botanist and ecologist Meghan M. McGinty, PhD. Learn how to cultivate wildlife habitat anywhere. Help save biodiversity and create your own Homegrown National Park.

Dates and topics

Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am

March 30 - Replace your lawn with cardboard mulching and native ground covers.

April 6 - Restore native habitat by replacing invasive plants commonly found in nurseries.

April 13 - High wildlife-value trees and shrubs to plant today.

April 20 - Habitat gardens for containers.

April 27 - Make more of what you already have by propagating the natives on your property.

All clinics located in Great Falls, Va. Specific public location will be sent via email to registrants one week before each clinic.

Please register via email with name and dates to cultivatnature@gmail.com

All details will be sent via email.

ENTERTAINMENT

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 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>

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

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

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 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

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The Virginia Polar Dip will take place on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 in Lake Anne, Reston.

distracted or deviated from your Path. Sponsored by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Adults. Website:

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10035131>

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.

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

"Danny Carmo's Mathematical Mysteries." 6 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden in McLean presents Northern Ireland's award-winning children theater company Cahoots NI's production of "Danny Carmo's Mathematical Mysteries," an inspirational and educational show for the whole family. Tickets are \$17 for the general public; \$12 for tax district residents and \$15 for seniors and students. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

Snack & Paint Night. 7-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks or want to get your hands dirty with some paint, come on down to the Old Firehouse for Snack & Paint Night! Led by a professional art teacher, this activity encourages families to work together to create their own masterpieces while having tons of fun. All materials and snacks are included in the fee.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Sweet Honey in the Rock. 7 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, McLean. This concert is the first stop on the group's three-year, 50th anniversary celebration tour. Tickets are \$45 for the general public, \$30



Danny Carmo's Mathematical Mysteries will be presented on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 at the McLean Community Center.

for MCC tax district residents and \$35 for students and seniors. The Alden is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, Va. 22101. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come on out to this free event to view beautiful works of art including glass, ceramics, paintings, photography, textiles, jewelry and more. Talented artists will be there to chat about their works and processes. Galleries, gift shop, and the Lucy Burns Museum will be open extended hours. While you're on campus, learn more about the Workhouse programs - swing by the Art of Movement, Building 11, to chat with instructors about classes in Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Qigong, RowFit and Belly Dancing. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/>

[second-saturday-art-walk-feb-2023](https://www.workhousearts.org/military-in-the-arts-initiative)

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Origami Swans WMAI. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Create Origami swans, hearts and butterflies with a variety of colorful and patterned origami paper! This workshop is designed to be fun-filled, art-making, experiences for the whole family.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Join the talented Art Instructors as they guide you through mixed media exercises where you'll create a unique work-of-art by the completion of the workshop. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/military-in-the-arts-initiative>

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. In celebration of Black History Month, violinist Rachel Barton Pine makes her FSO debut to perform the recently rediscovered Florence Price Violin Concerto No. 2.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

2023 CBA Ping Pong Tournament. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Come join your neighbors for some midwinter fun and exercise. No fee to enter. To register, visit <https://C25K.redpodium.com/clifton-annual-ping-pong-tournament>

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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Violinist Rachel Barton Pine. 8 p.m. Fairfax Symphony Orchestra at GMU Center for the Arts. Florence Price: Violin Concerto No. 2; Sarasate: Fantasy on Bizet's "Carmen"; Rachel Barton Pine, violin; Dvořák: Symphony No. 7; Pre-concert discussion - 7 p.m. Enhance your FSO experience by joining Maestro Chris Zimmerman and violinist Rachel Barton Pine for fascinating insights behind the music you will hear.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Munich Symphony Orchestra. 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Featuring Robert McDuffie, violin.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Tabletop (T-TRAK) Model Trains will be on display and 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. Museum members and children under 4, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special occasions; Seniors and military (active and retired), \$4.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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Obituary

Obituary

Announcements



Willis Harkness White, humble leader and treasured family member passed away peacefully in the company of family January 24, 2023 in Boulder, CO.

Willis was born in Rhode Island in 1938. He grew up in Arnold Mills, RI as the oldest of three children.

Will studied Geology at Wesleyan University, CT and Oregon State University. In 1964, he married Maura Haehlen and had three children, Juliana, Daniel, and Amy.

Will worked for AMAX mining company and the family spent their early years in Idaho Springs, CO. Will served on the city council, was a member of First Presbyterian-United Methodist Church, and was active with Underhill Museum. In 1984, he began work with the US Geological Survey. Work took him and the family to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Anchorage, AK, and Reston, VA.

Will retired in Herndon, VA where he faithfully dedicated his time to the church, sang in a barbershop quartet, and developed his passion for genealogy. He enjoyed leading family reunions, hiking, working with the church's food pantry, riding his bike, and walking. Will is survived by his wife, son, daughters, and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, we encourage those who are interested, to contribute to a cause that supports Will's passions: Idaho Springs Historical Society, Community of Faith UMC memorial fund in Herndon VA, or just offer a smile to someone who needs one.

Giant Annual Book Sale

Beth El Hebrew Congregation
3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria

Presidents' Day Weekend
Sunday, Feb 19 9-5, Monday Feb- 20 9-3

Thousands of books, all sorted by categories
Also CDs, DVDs, audio books, LPs, games, and puzzles
\$1.00 and up, BIG bargains after noon on Monday!
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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Czech National Symphony Orchestra. 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The acclaimed Czech National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) returns to the Center with an uplifting program of masterworks and embraces the sheer joy and optimism of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. This good-for-your-spirit concert also showcases Grammy-nominated violinist Robert McDuffie, performing Brahms's electrifying Violin Concerto in D major (Brahms's only violin concerto).

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.oldbrogue.com - \$21 general admission. A season ticket for all 6 concerts is available for \$114. Visit www.oldbrogue.com or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Beau Soir Ensemble. 2 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, McLean. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire spanning a variety of genres. Founded by harpist Michelle Lundy in 2007, the group regularly performs at venues and acclaimed concert series in the Mid-Atlantic region, including the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Strathmore Mansion and Harman Center for the Arts.

MONDAY/FEB. 13

CIA Officers Memorial Foundation Dinner. 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, Great Falls. In honor of Green Beret, Sgt. 1st Class, Nate Chapman who was assigned to Islamabad, Pakistan. Nate was killed in a

firefight on January 4th, making him the first U.S. service member to lose his life in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. For reservations, call 703-759-3309.

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

McLean Historical Society Meeting. 7:30 p.m. At the McLean Community Center. The program will feature Carole Herrick who will address the "Four African American Churches in McLean, Virginia." Everyone is welcome. Contact 703-356-8223.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Mayor and Chief at Your Service. 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Police Department Community Room, 215 Center Street, S, Vienna. Police Chief Jim Morris will provide an update on recent public safety concerns, including a rash of car break-ins and what residents can do to secure their property. Mayor Colbert and Chief Morris will also be available to discuss other issues and take questions from the community on any topic.

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

All-American Girl Activity. 9-11 a.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Have your child pack a favorite doll, drink and snack, and visit Sully Historic Site for an All-American Girls story. They will explore the story of Addie, an African American girl during the 1800s. This journey to the past is for kids ages 5 to 9 and will include stories, games and crafts with "All-American Girls - Living Dolls." Call 703-437-1794.

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Burke Historical Society. 3-4 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Dr. George McDaniel will speak on researching the history of Drayton Hall Plantation, SC, and finding ways for it to serve as a gathering place for the local community. Email: slawski_brian@yahoo.com

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-

5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lombudsman/. Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers for Change. A program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Great Falls Hike or Bike Volunteers. Bike or Hike Patrol volunteers assist park rangers by riding on accessible trails in Great Falls Park. To assist park staff in providing info and services to park visitors, maintain good public relations as a representative of the National Park Service, and monitor park resources, visitor usage, and emergency needs. Skills and Experience Desired: Excellent communication skills. Ability to work with culturally, socially, and economically diversified people. Knowledge of the park and local resources, or the desire to learn. Knowledge of basic bike maintenance or willingness to learn. Willingness to provide basic first aid. Ability to demonstrate skill in basic operation of a bicycle. Call Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225

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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 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.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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Handing Me All The Way Down



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I am almost exactly five years younger than my recently deceased brother, Richard. In addition, we are of similar height and weight, mostly, with similar shape and size. As such, I have been the recipient of hand-me-down clothes from my older brother my entire life, especially blue jeans. Richard bought clothes regularly (as became clear after Vanessa asked me to look through his closets and bureaus and to take whatever I wanted), but I had no idea as to its cumulative content. Now I do.

About a month or so after my brother's death on Dec. 3rd, Vanessa asked if I could come over to look through Richard's clothes (and shoes, sneakers, and the like) as she was trying to reorganize her life – and space at home, to begin the excruciating process of living forward while still mourning my brother's somewhat expected passing. She wasn't insistent at all that I visit for this purpose, it was more about her wanting to do something for me and then donating what was left to charity, especially the seasonal stuff, to make something positive from Richard's death. Living alone now in the house they bought together at the beginning of their marriage, 29 years ago, has caused Vanessa to have many sleepless nights ever since. (Not to mention the fact that when she saw Richard on the floor that early morning on Dec. 3rd in front of his bed (where he had been sleeping since he came home from the rehab facility (to not disturb Vanessa too much), she called 911 and with the operator's instruction, performed CPR on my brother. Can you imagine? And oh, by the way, it was in this room, Richard's room, where I spent that Sunday trying on his clothes.

A few Sundays ago, Dina and I went over to Richard and Vanessa's house with the expressed purpose of younger brother "KB" sorting through his older brother Richard's clothes and taking home anything, I wanted – which we did. Not without mixed ('mixed' only begins to describe the range of emotions I experienced trying on Richard's clothes) feelings. The finality of my brother's death being chief among them. Surrounded by his stuff, sitting in his dressing room, sifting through his bureaus, opening his closets, and of course trying on his things, was as joyless as you can imagine. Talk about benefiting from someone's misfortune: not good or the least bit rewarding.

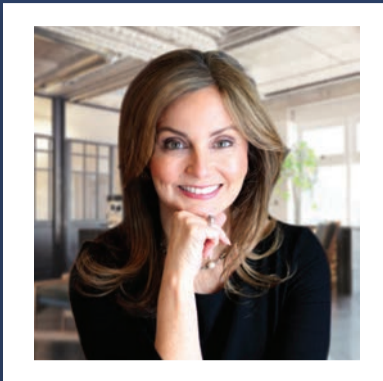
It took me approximately two hours to sort through multiple closets and bureaus, cabinets in his bedroom suite, clothes and shoe racks, tie, and belt racks, to complete the task at hand (and this task wasn't entirely completed as I didn't even go through his spring and summer stuff). I came home with four trash-bags full: sport coats, dress slacks, and blue jeans – in multiple colors, corduroy pants, sneakers and casual and dress shoes, sweatpants, belts, a few casual shirts, two leather jackets, a cashmere overcoat, and three pairs of winter gloves. It was a haul of epic proportions. The only problem? The reason for this haul: my brother's premature death.

I've worn my brother's hand-me-downs my whole life – and I'm 68. However, Richard had been alive for all those 68 years. The hand-me-downs I will be wearing now, I will be doing so because my brother is dead. A little different.

It took me a week before I wore anything that I had taken home that Sunday: a pair of black jeans and some New Balance sneakers. To say I was hesitant to step into his shoes – literally, would be an understatement. I was extremely uncomfortable and nervous, sort of like I was walking over his grave. I couldn't wait to get home and take off his clothes and put my own clothes back on.

Certainly, I'm grateful for the significant upgrade to my wardrobe (Dina is particularly pleased). My wardrobe has been the bane of our marriage). But the cost, not in dollars, but what makes sense, is way too much. I don't need the clothes. I need my brother. Sooner or later, I'll have to buck up and start making more of an effort to wear some of his clothes. Perhaps, after enough time since his death has passed, I'll draw some comfort from walking in his shoes, cinching one of his belts, or relaxing in one of the three pairs of sweatpants I took, as but a few examples. For the moment however, "There's no joy in Mudville," only sadness.

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