

# CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
Charlotte	4850	92	JEB STUART HWY	BLUESTONE CREEK	1/29/2023
Franklin	7987	792	LAUREL BLUFF RD/ROUTE 792	RENNET BAG CREEK	1/27/2023
Roanoke	14980	609	E. RURITAN RD/ROUTE 609	BR GLADE CREEK	1/27/2023
Washington	19206	859	GRASSY RIDGE RD	GREEN COVE CREEK	1/26/2023
Amelia	1267	636	LODOR RD	NIBBS CREEK	1/26/2023
Goochland	8603	600	ROCK CASTLE RD	BIG LICKINGHOLE CREEK	1/26/2023
Pulaski (M)	21267	611	ROUTE 0611	NS RAILWAY	1/17/2023
Charlotte	4943	658	WELSH TRACK RD	NS RAILWAY	1/14/2023
Botetourt	3537	T1003	2ND AVE/T1003	TINKER CREEK	1/10/2023
Brunswick	3583	46	CHRISTANNA HWY	NOTTOWAY RV (SPILLWAY)	1/9/2023
Washington	19058	640	BENHAMS RD	ABRAMS CREEK	1/4/2023
Dinwiddie	6049	623	SUTHERLAND RD	NAMOZINE CREEK	1/3/2023
Campbell	4326	705	COVERED BRIDGE RD	SENECA CREEK	1/1/2023

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

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

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

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

## NEWS

# Northern Virginia Leadership Awards

The winners of the 2023 Northern Virginia Leadership Awards will be celebrated on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 hosted at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston, said Leadership Fairfax. The event will be presented in a hybrid format, with the in person event beginning at 11:30 am, and the program starting at 12 noon with an option for attendees to tune in virtually. Tickets: [leadershipfairfax.org/events](https://leadershipfairfax.org/events)

The NVLAs are bestowed annually to talented community leaders and organizations that have made a significant impact on Northern Virginia through volunteerism, philanthropy, and community leadership in the following categories: Regional Leadership; Non-Profit Leadership; Corporate Leadership and Educational Leadership.

Sponsors include Leidos, Reston Community Center, Apple Federal Credit Union, Boston Properties, Cornerstones and FedWriters.

### 2023 HONOREES: Nonprofit Leadership Organization: Good Shepherd Housing

Good Shepherd Housing has been a provider of affordable housing along the Richmond Highway corridor for almost fifty years. Established in 1974, GSH has pursued a scattered-site approach to acquiring and managing affordable rental housing units. Rather than pursuing a single-site, multifamily residential development Good Shepherd Housing has purchased units incrementally in a dozen communities along 15 miles of Richmond Highway, blending communities and neighborhoods. Good Shepherd Housing understands that affordable and stable housing is a vehicle for changing a family's lifelong outcomes, giving struggling households breathing space to work on education, employment, and savings.

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 7

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# NEWS

## On the Case: Bring FBI Headquarters to Springfield

Gathering highlights a strong argument for the site near the Springfield Metro station.

By Mike Salmon  
THE CONNECTION

It's got location, transportation options galore and a diverse population, so Virginia officials on many levels got together on the site in Springfield on Wednesday morning to vocalize why the new FBI headquarters should be relocated there.

"We have all of the key ingredients the FBI needs to carry out their mission," said Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R), before laying out factors that seem to make the Springfield location an ideal spot for the FBI. Those factors include a business friendly ecosystem, the high quality of life, its land owned by the Federal government and all the transportation options surrounding the site. "Springfield sits at the heart of a multi-modal transportation system," Youngkin said.

The governor was on the stage of the Government Services Administration with local county supervisors, delegates and members of Congress to make the case.

In all of the speeches, there were convincing points for the FBI relocation, and many of the same points were vocalized more than once by different people, but they didn't care. They even joked about it, and about getting up so early and standing out on a cold, rainy morning to make their cases.

The press conference follows a letter from the Commonwealth's congressional delegation and Youngkin, detailing the ways in which Springfield best meets the



There were plenty of good vibes going around with all those on the stage. Chairman Jeff McKay and Gov. Glenn Youngkin while U.S. Sen. Mark Warner speaks.

five selection criteria set forth by the GSA and FBI, which are: transportation access; site development flexibility; promoting sustainable siting and advancing equity; and cost. The letter, dated Feb. 13, said, "Springfield offers the FBI the most advantageous site and provides the greatest opportunity to consolidate into one suburban headquarters, thus furthering the FBI's mission to protect the American people and upholding the Constitution of the United States."

The proximity to other law en-

forcement entities was part of the argument. It's only 27 miles to Quantico where the FBI National Academy and FBI National Crime Lab are located, and the U.S. Department of Justice is only 13 miles away. The other two locations that are being considered include Greenbelt, Maryland, and Landover, Maryland, and both those locations are over 50 miles to Quantico.

"This site is proudly in Fairfax County," said Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay (D).

The county's diversity was also

touted, with a community college nearby where the students that speak a second language are a majority. This might be needed by the next generation of FBI agents. "We need to make sure we have a diverse workforce," said U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA).

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) looked at the pockets of poverty surrounding the site, and said that the introduction of a federal entity like the FBI Headquarters is a way to end that poverty. "The single most effective

way to lift people out of poverty is investment," he said.

They all made a convincing case but in the end, the decision will be reached through a more complicated process involving officials at a higher level. All of the facilities competing for the FBI Headquarters have a solid case, said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D) but this site in Springfield is solid too. "On merits, I believe it's a strong case," Connolly said, and added that the next step is a meeting with all the players that is planned for March.



Some of the surrounding buildings were new, others part of the old GSA.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Chairman Jeff McKay was all about bringing it to Fairfax County.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin listed all of the positives for this site.



Supervisor Rodney Lusk joins in pitching Springfield as the right spot for the new FBI headquarters.





From left are Catherine Read, Battalion Chief Andrea Clark, John O'Neal and Christopher Kehde. (In background is Councilmember Kate Doyle Feingold).



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City's award-winning Fire Station 33 fronts on Fairfax Boulevard.

## Excellence in Modern Fire-Station Design

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Not only is Fairfax City's Fire Station 33 a modern, state-of-the-art facility, it's also an award-winning one. And Fire Chief John O'Neal received that honor, on behalf of the Fire Department, at the Fairfax City Council's Jan. 10 meeting.

Introducing the presentation, City Mayor Catherine Read said, "Firehouse magazine is a national publication focusing on fire and rescue services. Each year, it organizes the Firehouse Station Design Awards to celebrate the best new fire stations in the country. And City of Fairfax Fire Station 33 was selected for recognition as one of the top fire stations for 2022."

Christopher Kehde, principal/managing director with FMG Architects, then gave O'Neal a plaque acknowledging Station 33 as the national Gold Award winner for its design. "I had the distinct honor of being the principal architect for Station 33," said Kehde. "We had an exemplary project team, including City leadership, Fire Department representatives, the contractor and the design team."

"How we worked together on this project to realize the City's vision truly was exceptional in the design and construction industry," he continued. "It's my honor to be here this evening to share in this plaque recognizing the success of the collective achievements of that project team."

Originally built in 1978, the old Station 33 was planned for a single-engine company. But as time passed, its design no longer met the needs of a busy, modern-day fire station. At just 7,800 square feet, the building lacked the space to adequately store equipment, and its ready-reserve apparatus had to be housed off-site.

Besides rectifying these problems by constructing a nearly 21,000-square-foot facility, the new station increased the Fire Department's operational readiness. Equally significant, it improved the safety, health conditions and quality of life for the Station 33 staff.

Thanks to a state-of-the-art decontamination area, firefighters are now able to keep their dirty gear out of the living spaces, so they're not exposed to toxic substances. In addition, having the latest in hot-zone design principles and modern, vehicle-exhaust

systems there also helps limit their exposure to carcinogens.

The new building features a secure vestibule and three engine bays, instead of two, like the former station. It also has a much larger support area, a spacious control room and 25 parking spaces. The second floor has administrative spaces, three offices and a conference room, plus a training area. The third floor houses the dining and kitchen areas, plus bunks for 14 people.

The station's groundbreaking was Nov. 16, 2019. And despite the following year's pandemic, construction was able to proceed, with the official grand opening on Oct. 16, 2021.

During the recent award ceremony at the City Council meeting, Kehde said he'd spoken with Janet Wilmot, who organizes the Firehouse Station Design Awards each year. "She noted the [magazine's] selection committee was unanimous in its selection of Station 33 for its highest award," he said.

Kehde explained the committee believed that "Station 33 set the bar for excellence in modern, fire-station design through its inclusion of key design concepts such as hot-zone design – to protect firefighters from

contaminant exposure – and immersive design that helps support and protect mental and behavioral health." He said the committee was also impressed with the station's "onsite practical training to support operational readiness, and gender-neutral bunks and lockers that accommodate the changing firefighter demographics."

Kehde then said it was his honor and privilege to present the plaque recognizing City of Fairfax Fire Station 33 as a design Gold Award winner. Thanking him, Chief O'Neal said this achievement wouldn't have been possible without the work of a great team, starting with the mayor and City Council – current and past, the support of the professional staff and "the great team that Christopher and our general contractor, Whitener and Jackson, brought to the table with a quality project."

O'Neal then recognized the City's overall project manager, Rick Thoesen, for all his hard work in making the new station a reality, as well as fire Capt. John Jeniec, who served as the internal project manager for the Fire Department. "They did a great job," said O'Neal. "So thank you, everybody, for all your support."

## Brian Knapp Feted for 23 Years of Service to Parks

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Needing to be a Fairfax City resident for a year before being eligible to serve on one of its boards or commissions, Brian Knapp could hardly wait to volunteer after moving here. And, said former Mayor David Meyer, "As soon as he was able to serve his community, he did so."

On July 27, 1999, Knapp was appointed to the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), on which he served 23 years, including as its chairman since 2002. He

also served 15 years on NOVA Parks, which operates 33 regional parks.

And at Fairfax City Council's Jan. 10 meeting, the City gave him a framed proclamation honoring him for all he's done. Meyer presented it because this ceremony was supposed to have happened last year (while he was still mayor), but was delayed.

Reading the proclamation, Meyer said Knapp served during the tenure of three, City Parks and Rec directors and "supported transformative initiatives in the City's recreational program." These included the construction of the Sherwood Community Cen-

ter and the opening of the Stafford Drive, Draper Drive and Ted Grefe parks.

Other milestones occurring during his watch were the refurbishment of Van Dyck Park, the repurposing of the Green Acres School into a recreation center/senior center, and the repurposing of the Westmore school site into a place for recreation, as well as a dog park. Knapp was also instrumental in planning the George Snyder Trail and helping PRAB develop its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan in 2014.

Council first appointed Knapp to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

in 2007. And during his time on this entity, he helped it develop two, strategic, five-year plans, rebrand itself as NOVA Parks and, said Meyer, become "one of the premier, regional-park organizations in the United States."

In addition, Knapp served on the City's Open Space Task Force that added more than 45 acres of undeveloped land to Fairfax's inventory of open space. He also joined the Task Force on Children and Families, which strengthened communication to City residents about programs catering to chil-

SEE SERVICE, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM





BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are Mayor Catherine Read, Brian Knapp and David Meyer. (In background is Councilmember Jon Stehle).

## Service to Parks

FROM PAGE 4

dren and teens. And he did all these things while also serving as an active leader of Boy Scout Troop 1113 of St. Leo's Catholic Church.

Meyer then expressed his "heartfelt and profound" appreciation to Knapp, on behalf of all the Fairfax residents, for Knapp's "tireless and effective advocacy and superior leadership of Parks and Recreation programs and facilities in the City of Fairfax and the Northern Virginia region. We are blessed beyond measure for Brian Knapp's contributions – which will remain an invaluable legacy for many generations in the future."

Then it was Knapp's turn to speak, and he first thanked his wife Mary and son David for their support of him throughout the years that made what he accomplished possible. "I got to serve with great people and fellow volunteers in

the City and regionally," he said. "I got to know people from so many different groups in the City.

"It was a real honor to serve with so many powerful, distinguished individuals who, in their own right, had done so many other things in their lives. They, too, were giving their time to help out in Parks and Rec. And I'd also like to thank all the professionals I got to know during that time – people who give time, energy and passion to something we all love: recreation."

Knapp thanked, as well, former City mayors John Mason, Robert Lederer, Scott Silverthorne and Meyer for all he was able to achieve under their leadership, plus the guidance of City Council. "This is teamwork, and I'm really grateful to be honored by all of you, this evening," said Knapp. "It's been a wonderful ride; thank you very much."

# Dr. Whyte's New Book

Released February 14, 2023

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

Students, teachers and others involved in the Historical Marker Project launched as part of the Black/African American Experience Project gather at the dais after the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized them at its Feb. 7 meeting.

## Six New African American Historical Markers

Students uncover seminal Black figures who transformed Fairfax County's history.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Could Fairfax County's students, as young as elementary school, from all walks of life, from every ethnicity, from every background, one day come together and become the historians who unearthed and shed light on the underrepresented, diverse and rich stories of the county's African-Americans and Blacks? In the embodiment of the Board of Supervisors One Fairfax policy, it happened recently.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced at its February 7 meeting that its inaugural Black/African American Historical Markers Project, launched on February 1, 2022, has generated six new historical markers. The Fairfax County History Commission's historical marker review committee approved the six markers, no more than one marker per magisterial district.

"(The project) allow(s) new stories to be shared with our community," said Supervisor Dalia Palchick (D-Providence). She was reading a resolution requested by Chairman Jeffery C. McKay (D-At Large), Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully), and herself to recognize the staff, students, teachers, and community members involved in the project.

A few moments earlier, McKay had welcomed all the children and anyone who was there in the auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center for the proclamation to come down and gather in front of the dais where he and the supervisors sat. A quick, unofficial headcount totaled slightly over one hundred students, teachers, and others.

"My goodness, how many school buses



SCREENSHOT

Students assemble in front of the dais, some holding up photos of Black/African Americans who they researched for the Historical Marker Project.

did they have to take?" Vice chair Penny Gross could be heard through her live mic quietly commenting. "It should be part of 4th-grade civics."

On behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, Palchick congratulated and thanked the participants and supporters who made the inaugural Historical Marker Project a success. She called out "a special congratulations to the students whose work helped uncover these important stories from our history."

Palchick said that the goal of the project was "to reveal narratives and oral histories of the county's African American communities, whose history, culture and accomplishments in the county are underrepresented in its history books, lessons, and markers." Fairfax County's Neighborhood and Community Services collected oral histories from

residents to increase the visibility of Black/African American experiences in the county.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Franconia) said that the county wants to reflect on the contributions of all community members and that "we are all woven together." "This is information that we can share for future generations, and I think it's just so important," he said.

In a joint collaboration involving the Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), the History Commission, and Neighborhood and Community Services, numerous students, scout troops, and other groups submitted proposals for 53 individual and group markers.

Ramona Carroll of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) spoke on behalf of the group. "These youth have given us a history lesson and unearthed some

things about Fairfax County that maybe us, as adults, didn't know," She thanked the history commission partners who worked with NCS and gave them information the students and teachers needed to know to do the research.

According to McKay, the students' participation in the project helped the county "authentically and deeply engage with the contributions of our Black American community in the county."

The stories on the markers may shock some and make others think deeply about the county around them. Fairfax County Public Schools named and explained the six new markers:

These six markers are:

❖ **Louise Archer**, an educator, who supported numerous students over her time.

❖ **Lillian Blackwell**, who sued successfully to ban segregation of movie theaters and public schools.

❖ **Annie Harper**, who challenged the constitutionality of Virginia's poll tax.

❖ **Robert Gunnell**, a freedman who conveyed land for Gunnell's Chapel, a 19th century African American Methodist Church.

❖ **Colin Powell**, who was a long-time county resident, four-star general, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, founder of America's Promise and the first African American secretary of state. There is an elementary school named after him in Centreville.

SEE BLACK HISTORY, PAGE 7  
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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



SCREENSHOT

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At large)



SCREENSHOT

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence)



SCREENSHOT

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk (D-Franconia)

## Learn About African American Contributions

FROM PAGE 6

❖ **December 20, 1856: The 16**, which recognizes 16 enslaved individuals named in an 1856 property inventory for the land on which West Springfield High School now stands.

A four-member Fairfax County History Commission committee chose the six marker proposals from a group of 14 finalists selected by a committee of appointees from board offices, community organizations, and student representatives. Mary Lipsey worked with the Marker project/FCPS/African American marker content and winners. Lipsey is also one of three Commissioners, along with Barbara Naef and Phyllis Walker Ford, who helped design and launch the African American History Inventory database designed in conjunction with students from George Mason University's Capstone program in 2022.

"The idea for the project started as a way that students could learn more about Fairfax County local history. The emphasis of the project was to capture, preserve, and communicate the untold African American history and culture of our county," said Lipsey. Project leaders were ecstatic when there were over fifty submissions from students at all age levels.

"The difficulty of the project is that there are no textbooks that include our county's African American history," Lipsey said. "What excited me most was that I too had the opportunity to learn more about the African American History of our county. I feel any day a young person is happy to learn and share history is a great day."

"We can't go back and change our history," said McKay. "But we certainly can learn from it and do better." He praised the History Commission for doing a remarkable job of getting young people involved.

Stephanie Duffield is a 4th-grade teacher at Haycock Elementary School. The historical marker project inspired her as a teacher because of the community it created in the school and the local community. She and fifth-grade teacher Patti Gray decided to finish the historical marker project as a buddy class. Their students' proposal on Gunnel's Chapel, about five miles from the school, earned a spot to become one of the six markers.

Noa Herzog, a fifth grader at Haycock Elementary School, said, "I hope this will make people want to visit Gunnell's Chapel and appreciate what a role it played in black people's lives."

"The students in both of our classes paired up to research and submit their proposals," said Duffield. "It was powerful for the students to see how much history is right here in our community – it just needs to be uncovered. The project showed students how to become advocates for their communities, which I believe is so important."

Anne Marie Harris is a Louise Archer ES 4th grade teacher. On behalf of the teachers who submitted at their school, Harris said, "Last year, our fourth grade team of teachers saw the contest as a fantastic opportunity for our students to build research skills while learning more about our school's namesake as well as Virginia history. All four fourth grade classes worked to learn about Mrs. Louise Archer's impact on her community as a dedicated educator during the time of segregation; students read about and discussed the setbacks and challenges she faced and her determination to provide the very best she could for her students. We are so honored and proud to have her name and legacy formally recognized with a historic marker and to teach others about her."

The following individuals submitted the winning proposals

Brian Heintz, Teacher-Applied History Class, West Springfield High School; Maggie Gowan, Teacher, West Springfield Elementary School; Sean Miller, South County High School; Stephanie Duffield and Patty Gray from Haycock Elementary; Alicia Hunter, Coordinator, Social Studies K-12, Fairfax County Public Schools; and Deborah March, Culture Responsive Pedagogy Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools.

The 14 finalists out of the 53 entries for the Historical marker Project submissions

Maura Keaney- Island Creek Elementary in Alexandria; Caroline Fox, Girl Scout Troop 3686: Camille McCarthy, Nancy Hanson, Jennie Moonis; Caroline Fox; Niyat Asefaw; Meron Fikru, Delano Telford, Maddie Haag; Carissa Christensen; Janea Kinder, Josephine Springer, Jamaría Miles; Anne Marie Harris -Louise Archer ES in Vienna; Brian Heintz; Stephanie Duffield and Patti Gray-Haycock Elementary in Falls Church; and Keira Guthrie reported the Communications Aide for the Office of Chairman McKay.

For a more detailed description of each marker, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/sites/providence/files/assets/documents/board%20matters/bm%209-13%20historical%20markers.pdf>

## Northern Virginia Leadership Awards

FROM PAGE 2

### Corporate Leadership: Springfield Town Center

Springfield Town Center is honored with the Corporate Leadership Award to recognize its contributions as a public-private partner during the COVID-19 pandemic. Springfield Town Center provided leased space at no cost to Fairfax County for 11 months during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign to establish a vital vaccine equity clinic for residents with limited health care access in the Springfield area. Springfield Town Center operated 140 vaccine equity clinics providing nearly 10,000 vaccine doses. The Springfield Town Center clinic became known as a trusted location in the community where residents with no health insurance, English language and digital access barriers could obtain important COVID-19 vaccine.

### Nonprofit Leadership Individual: Dr. Nardos King

Dr. Nardos E. King is an outstanding community leader. She serves as the President of the Donna M. Saunders Foundation, the DC Metro HBCU Alliance and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. Dr. Nardos King is a visionary leader with a clear idea of how she envisions the future and with the ability to strategize on how to get there. King's work with the Donna M Saunders Foundation has provided financial assistance to breast cancer patients to help with rent, food, car payments, health co-payments and other needs. The HBCU community day and 5K run brings 1300 plus members of the community together to learn about health issues and HBCUs. The day also raises funds and donations for scholarships.

### Regional Leadership: Chris Atwood Foundation

In less than a decade, the Chris Atwood

Foundation has shined a light on the opioid crisis and substance addiction as a community health issue; they have changed the terminology used, and the connotations surrounding substance addiction. They participated on the White House Task Force in 2017-2018, educated law makers in the Virginia statehouse, changed six state laws, and partnered with Fairfax County to bring treatment to those incarcerated and to provide safe housing when they are released. Chris Atwood Foundation has served over 11,000 people with naloxone training, housing, peer support and more. Over 700 lives have been saved by reversal of opioid overdose using Naloxone Chris Atwood Foundation provided. Over 500 people recovering from substance abuse disorder Chris Atwood Foundation has placed in substance-free safe houses to help them continue their road to recovery.

### Educational Leadership: Shannon Matheny, Assistant Principal – West

### Springfield High School

Shannon Matheny has created a school within the school, with a student-centered environment that helps students find their own path and achieve more than they knew they were capable of achieving. Thanks to Matheny's vision, West Springfield High School has helped ensure all students can find a pathway to success. She has served as senior administrator for four years at West Springfield High School and helped more than 2,500 students reach their graduation goals.

The awards ceremony to recognize the 2023 winners will take place in a hybrid format on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 with options for in person or virtual attendance, with the ceremony starting at noon. Virtual tickets are \$25 for non-members and general public, in-person tickets are \$50 and include networking and catered lunch. Tickets: [leadership-fairfax.org/events](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/sites/providence/files/assets/documents/board%20matters/bm%209-13%20historical%20markers.pdf).





Somewhere along the way, Gary Spellman bought this Beat bobblehead which he displays in his studio.



The 1950's cars had the rounded bodies, which are highlighted in many of the paintings.



Goatees and clicking the fingers is all part of the scene.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

# The Beat Goes on with “Daddy-O” Art Show

Workhouse Art Center’s show culminates with bongo and guitars on March 18.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The Beat Generation of the late 1950s had goatees, guitars and visions which are all captured by the artists of the Workhouse Art Center’s “Daddy-O,” art movement which is displayed for the next month in Lorton.

Gary Spellman is one of the artists that is spearheading the exhibit, with culminates with a big event on March 18 that will feature musicians, comedians, a bongo player and overall hipness that might be connected with this bygone era. There will be an art raffle too. Spellman lived in Laguna Beach years ago and was absorbed into

the beat atmosphere, so his studio walls are covered with his paintings of classic 1950s cars and other items that scream “daddy-o.”

“I was born in the 1950s so I paint what I know,” Spellman said, “it’s funky and cool, the funkiness of it,” he said. One item in particular is a 3-D art piece of old corks and a flashing red light that his father bought in the 1950s and he’s saved it ever since. It provides an inspiration. Another item is a beatnik bobblehead he bought in some second-hand store. “It’s just fun,” he added.

The fun is carried over to the whole exhibit put together with works from many of the artists at the Workhouse in a fashion they call “Series 2023.” Daddy-O is the sixth series, and their last one fit a

pirate theme. People dressed up like pirates for the final fun day at the Workhouse and Lura Bovee hopes attendees will get the same inspiration this time around on March 18.

“We try to encourage people to dress up, more people dressed up like pirates than we expected,” Bovee said. In the studio building where the Series party will gather, “we’re making it look like an old, seedy coffee shop from the 1960s,” she said.

The artists are a big part of the Workhouse atmosphere, but with the Series events, which are also a fundraising event, they count on the staff, the board members, artists and people from the surrounding community that may have a talent that is needed. “We draw on

all these people, different talents,” she said.

For the Daddy-O exhibit, which will be in building 16 where the gift shop and offices are, there are paintings of various genre, glass sculptures, 3-D art and jewelry that have a “beat” feel to them. Luce is a painter also, and recently started painting pictures of vents and windows from some of the former prison buildings too. The rusted steam vents, aged brick walls and window coverings reinforce the feeling that art is whatever inspires.

Luce does have a connection to the Beat Generation too. Years ago, her cat was named Lenny Bruce, who is a famous comedian and influencer from that time.

## On The Road with the Beat Generation

The Beat Generation was born out of the 1940s and 1950s. The poets and writers were part of a literary movement of the 1940s that became better known in the 1950s as pop culture and media gained a foothold. Names that are connected with the “Beats,” included Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and the Beat bible was Kerouac’s book “On the Road.” The story follows characters Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty across the country, following a path laced with jazz, sex, generosity and drugs. Published in 1957, On the Road is still a reading staple for many.



**Workhouse Arts Center**  
9518 Workhouse Wy,  
Lorton, VA 22079  
Phone: (703) 584-2900

Gary Spellman in his studio next to an authentic piece he inherited from the Beat Generation.



This art piece seems in tune with “On the Road.”



# CALENDAR

## 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.

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 distracted or deviated

from your Path. Sponsored by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Adults. Website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10035131>

## FEB. 15-16

Lake Accotink Dredging Project Meeting. Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. Virtual and Feb. 16 at the cafeteria at Kings Glen Elementary School, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive in Springfield. The meetings will present an overview of the project, details on the impacts and costs of management options, and staff recommendations. Those planning to attend virtually can access the meeting at: <https://publicinput.com/TS53544> Participants also can call in at 855-925-2801, meeting code: 8809 A story map and additional background information on the project and the history of Lake Accotink are available at Lake Accotink Dredging.

## 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.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power with Filmmaker Nina Menkes. 6-7 p.m. Online. Join the first Visiting Filmmakers Series event of the semester. Nina Menkes will discuss her acclaimed new documentary, Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power. The film uses clips from movies made between 1896 and 2020 to examine the politics of shot design, specifically, the ways women are framed on screen that contribute to a persistent environment of sexism, discrimination, and violence. To register to attend this virtual event, go to <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/7818181818> or <https://gmu.zoom.us/join/join?secret=1234567890>

## FRIDAY/FEB. 17

(the) Unruly Theatre Project and the Herndon High School Improv Group. 7 p.m. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come enjoy a night of laughs on us! (the) Unruly Improv is The Alden's professional teen improv company dedicated to bringing comedic performances to the community.

## 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.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Country Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association event.



Brainwashed: Sex-Camera-Power with Filmmaker Nina Menkes will be shown on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023.



Abbie Palmer will play Traditional Celtic Music at the Old Brogue Irish Pub on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023.

Open to all ages, singles, couples. DJ provides music. Smoke and Alcohol free. Bring your own refreshments. Couples and Line Dancing. Two lessons. Cost: \$15 non-members. Under 18 with paying adult: \$5. Visit the website: [nvcwda.org](http://nvcwda.org)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Doug Varone and Dancers. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Doug Varone and Dancers returns to the Center, bringing a program brimming with the vitality of highly charged choreography which

also touches the human heart. The program will feature Somewhere (2019), Short Story (2001), Nocturne (2017), and Double Octets (2021).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge (N-TRAK) model trains will be 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), 703-425-9225.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Voctave. 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Calling all Disney and Broadway fans! A cappella superstars, Voctave, will transform the Center for the Arts into The Corner of Broadway and Main Street in an "aca-awesome" treat for all ages. Featuring swoon-worthy arrangements from some of your favorites from Broadway musicals to Disney films!

## 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](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com)

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Lorton: Prison of Terror. 1-4 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This documentary explores the history of the Lorton Correctional Complex, the complicated and notorious prison that inhabited the buildings of the Workhouse Arts Center, and several buildings belonging to our neighbors. The filmmakers ask why Washington, D.C. built its prison in Virginia instead of within its own borders, and what made this prison and its inmates the most feared and most respected within the American prison system. Intended for mature audiences due to graphic/violent content; viewer discretion is advised. Visit the website:

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/lorton-prison-of-terror-film-w5m4r>

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

"The 1619 Project - A New Origin Story." 2 p.m. Featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Nikole Hannah-Jones. At The Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, McLean. Free. Register for the waitlist on the Fairfax County Public Library website. Co-creator of the award-winning "The 1619 Project," Nikole Hannah-Jones is an investigative reporter who covers civil rights and racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. She has been honored countless times, including as one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People 2021, as the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" grant, an NAACP Image Award and a Peabody Award.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Maple Syrup Boil Down. 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Did you know maple trees store starch that converts to sugar and rises in the sap in late winter and early spring? Discover which trees produce sap and how to "tap" a tree. The cost is \$8 per person and reservations are required. Registration fees include a sample of maple syrup over cornbread made from Colvin Run cornmeal. Call 703-759-2771 or visit Colvin Run Mill.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



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## CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

## Announcements

### Giant Annual Book Sale

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation**  
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**Presidents' Day Weekend**  
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Abbie Palmer and Agi Kovacs in a pub atmosphere by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com) - \$21 general admission.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 21

Gardening for Wildlife. 11 a.m. Alice Sturm, the Garden Program Manager at the Audubon Naturalist Society, will be the guest speaker at the Five Hills Garden Club of Vienna at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, N.E. The community is invited to attend the program.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## SPEED CAMERA PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHES FEB. 10

Slowing down drivers and improving traffic safety are the objectives of a new Speed Camera Pilot Program that will include the installation of photo monitoring devices (speed cameras) in eight school zones by Feb. 10. Data suggests that school zone speeding is prevalent and cameras are effective. In the five school zones surveyed last year, thousands of drivers exceeded the speed limit by more than 10 mph during the sample period.

Ultimately, it is expected that the Speed Camera Pilot Program will change driver behaviors to keep Fairfax County residents safe.

Speed Camera Locations:

Chesterbrook Elementary School: Kirby Road near the school (Dranesville District)

Irving Middle School: Old Keene Mill Road near the school (Brad-dock District)

Key Middle School: Franconia Road- near the school (Franconia District)

London Towne Elementary School: Stone Road near the school (Sully District)

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School: Sleepy Hollow Road near the school (Mason District)

South County Middle School: Silverbrook Road near the school (Mt. Vernon District)

Terraset Elementary School: Soapstone Drive near the school (Hunter Mill District)

West Springfield High School: Rolling Road near the school (Springfield District)

An additional school zone speed camera near Oakton High School (Blake Lane near Sutton Road) and a work zone speed camera at Route 28 (near Old Mill Road) are forthcoming.

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## STUFFS THE BUS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Manning the donation table inside the Fairfax Walmart are (from left) Boy Scout Miles Salvo, Britepaths volunteers Cecilia LeGrand and Wendy Asmen, Annandale High sophomore Madison Mueller, Britepaths Board President Emily Barnes, Rachel Carson eighth-grader Deeya Deshpande, Fairfax High senior Rohan Pierce, and Britepaths volunteer Shelley Brosnan.

# Community Stuffs the Bus for Britepaths

**A** Stuff the Bus food drive for Britepaths' food pantry was held last Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Fairfax Walmart on Lee Hwy. Part of Fairfax County's annual initiative to stock local food pantries in the winter, it proved to be a big success. The five-hour event yielded 1,154 pounds of food and supplies, \$237 in cash and \$910 in gift cards.

Volunteers greeted Walmart customers as they entered the store and passed out fliers asking for donations of food or money to help nonprofit Britepaths continue providing food for local families in need. Items collected were then stuffed into a Fastran bus and brought to the organization's pantry.

Meanwhile, those unable to participate in this food drive may still contribute to Britepaths because the need for food is ongoing.

Nonperishable food items needed are cereal (healthy, low sugar), oatmeal (in canisters), pancake mix and syrup, jam/jelly, dried beans, pasta and sauce, and parmesan cheese (shelf-stable).

Household/hygiene items needed are laundry detergent, toilet paper, all-purpose cleaner, Windex, Clorox Wipes, shampoo/conditioner, and deodorant. Also welcome are grocery-store gift cards in amounts ranging from \$25-\$100.

Donation drop-offs are preferred Monday thru Thursday. Britepaths is at 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, in Fairfax. Call 703-273-8829 or email [info@britepaths.org](mailto:info@britepaths.org) to let them know you're coming, and they'll meet you in the parking lot to receive the delivery.

— BONNIE HOBBS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Helping load donated food into the Fastran bus are Boy Scouts from Troop 1966 of Fairfax. (From left) are Tristan Wathen, Isaac Juni, Miles Salvo, David Taylor and Sam Gershenson.

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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.

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## You can't Make This Stuff Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I had my first dream a few nights ago in which my recently deceased brother, Richard was front and center (actually, he was off to the side). He was standing in a non-descript room with our late mother standing off to his right and yours truly standing a similar distance to his left. He was wearing a button-down sweater with the bottom four or five buttons, buttoned. There was a diamond pattern alternating blue and khaki featured throughout his sweater. Also, he was wearing a white/beige cotton-type sheet underneath the sweater and light-colored pants to match. His sweater was form-fitting from its bottom to just over Richard's waist. There was no conversation and no touching.

He looked fabulous, svelte, and extremely fit. He had a big smile on his face and a crinkle in his eyes. He looked like a movie star. I remember thinking: "Wow. He looks great," and then looking across the room to where my mother was standing, and noticed she had a similar expression to what I was feeling, or at least that's what the dream made me think. Then this dream sequence was over. But not the dream.

Next, I was sitting in my car on the left side of the island/pumps at a service station, and again saw my brother - on the right side of the pump island. He was standing alongside a Volkswagen Rabbit-type convertible with its top down. He was wearing the same outfit and had the same big smile. He seemed to have an aura around him. He appeared - to me anyway, positively, absolutely alive and well, vigorous and super confident. Then the dream/my sleep ended. I woke up smiling, joyful that I had experienced this spiritual interaction with my brother, Richard. I knew we were very close and connected in so many ways. But I hadn't considered as to whether it would transfer somehow when one of us died. Quite frankly, even though he was the older brother, once I was diagnosed with a terminal form of lung cancer originally back in 2009 giving me a "13 month to two-year prognosis," Richard predeceasing me didn't seem likely. And since I never think of myself actually dying, I'm likewise never thinking about what I'm going to be doing after I die (up there, down there, Book of Judgment).

While I was viewing this dream, I was cognizant somehow that as soon as I woke up, I needed to write down what I had just dreamt. I remember deciding that writing about this dream as soon as I woke wasn't necessary. The dream was so important, how could I possibly forget about it. Well, I forgot about it for a couple of hours.

Then the substance of the dream reappeared in my conscious mind, and I immediately called Vanessa (Richard's widow) and shared with her what I have just shared with you. She was eager to hear any and all details and was quite happy (which of course is the wrong word, especially under the circumstances) to hear that I thought Richard looked so handsome, and so fit and healthy, a version of him neither of us had seen in the previous four or five months since he was first hospitalized.

Unfortunately, Vanessa had not yet had a Richard-centric dream. She was excited (again the wrong word, but I imagine you can appreciate the wide range of highs and lows one feels over time concerning the passing of a loved one/hugely significant presence in one's life) with the prospect of Richard getting into our respective subconscious. I think she felt encouraged by my dream experience vis-à-vis the possibility/expectation that soon she might be experiencing a similar connection.

I mean, if he's going to reach out/touch (hopefully literally, as my late father did to me a few weeks after his death) me, he's definitely going to reach out to Vanessa, his wife of 29 years. If anybody is worthy and deserving of a spiritual connection, it's Vanessa. She was a great wife, and he was a great husband. They had everything to live for and look forward to. Now alone, Vanessa is trying to find her footing. I'm hoping she sees Richard in a dream soon. I'm sure he would be an overall positive experience for her, as it has been for me. And if there's anything Vanessa and I could use right now - since Richard's death, is a positive experience.

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



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Beautiful updated throughout Glen Cove townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Fresh paint, new carpet, wood floors, fireplace, 3 finished levels, walkout family room to brick patio in fenced back yard. Terrific location!!

Call Judy for more information.

Judy Semler: Long & Foster Realtors • 703-927-7127

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**Fairfax \$771,000**

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