

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna



About
The Connection
PAGE 3

Coming in Centreville
And Chantilly
PAGE 4

Hidden Gems in FCPS
PAGE 5

Opinion
PAGE 10

Lake Braddock
Holds Off Westfield
PAGE 18

Mobility and
Transportation:
Innovation Metro
Station opens.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2023-2024

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SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2023

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

Per MLS



FOR SALE!

Just Listed!

1313 Merrie Ridge Road, McLean

Stunning Colonial nestled on a private cul-de-sac in the coveted Dogwoods at Langley. This inviting home offers approximately 4800 sf, with 6 BR, 3BA, and 2 half BA. The gourmet kitchen features breakfast bar, ample cabinet storage, and eat-in breakfast area w/ skylight and deck. Primary BR w/ separate dressing area with tons of storage and ensuite; upper level has 4 add'l spacious BR's with BA w/ soaking tub and luxury shower. LL features a large rec room w/ fireplace, 6th BR w/ spacious BA, and walk-out entrance and access to 2 car garage. Beautifully landscaped property with a private expansive flagstone patio. **McLean HS pyramid!**



SOLD!

Sold for...\$1,420,000

1405 Layman Street, McLean

FABULOUS 4BR/3BA, 2-level home, nestled in nature in sought-after **Potomac Hills!** This amazing home features a light/bright updated kitchen with herringbone tile backsplash, 6-burner gas cooktop, breakfast bar and more! Elegant living room with huge picture window, fireplace & custom built-ins with lighting. Primary bedroom w/ luxury bath and two add'l BR's on main level. Walkout LL features an inviting family room w/ frpl, wet bar & huge picture window overlooking the patio; 4th bedroom, full bath, and large laundry room. Custom deck off dining room, overlooks parkland! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**



FOR SALE!

FRANKLIN PARK!

**2049 Rockingham Street
McLean, 22101**

\$4,695,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION!



SOLD!

Offered for...\$1,299,000

6603 Byrnes Drive, McLean

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS 4BR/4.5 BA custom home in sought-after McLean location, nestled in nature! Featuring a sparkling open-concept floorplan, vaulted ceilings and tons of natural light, this beautiful home also features hardwood floors, exquisite primary BR suite with dressing area, walk-in and luxury bath; completely separate living space attached with its' own entrance; modern, mid-century feel throughout!



SOLD!

**1741 Fairview Avenue
McLean, 22101**

\$1,570,000



SOLD!

**6631 Tucker Avenue
McLean 22101
\$1,824,750**



SOLD!

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



SOLD!

**2336 N. Oak Street
Falls Church, 22046
\$2,000,000**



SOLD!

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



SOLD!

**2204 Beacon Lane
Falls Church, 22043
\$1,795,000**

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

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2023

About Connection Newspapers in 2023

IN THE MIDST of the crisis which never ends, we at the Connection still hear the call to serve our communities, with a bit of wonder that we are able to continue. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press local government every day for transparency, although this continues to become more difficult. Your local paper can be your window into the workings of schools, police, transportation, zoning, stormwater management, services, and a nearly infinite number of other functions. These are the things that impact our lives at home and work.

The public has a right to expect transparency from such local institutions. The founders clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

It is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We also publish items about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, anniversaries and other business events and milestones are welcome.

If you are planning an event open to the public that you would like to have listed in our calendars, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of, perhaps the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning in 1784.

We are blessed with remarkable, award-winning staff, contributing writers and photographers

Find What You Need

- ❖ ONLINE: www.connectionnewspapers.com
 - ❖ Digital editions of the week's papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs
 - ❖ Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>
 - ❖ Advertising information, Special Section details here www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising
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 - ❖ Events to list in the calendar, email to calendars@connectionnewspapers.com or online www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/

who are dedicated to our mission. Most have been writing for the Connection/Gazette for years, some for more than a decade (or two, or three). Each brings areas of interest and expertise. Check the bylines. Don't miss Bonnie Hobbs, Mercia Hobson, Jeanne Theismann, Janet Barnett, Michael Pope, Mike Salmon, Susan Laume, Glenda Booth, Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe, Hope Nelson, Marilyn Campbell and others.

Local newspapers, including the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide down-

turn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis.

Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions and subscriptions. If you value local news and you have a budget for advertising and promotion, please endeavor to spend some of it with local newspapers including ours.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

Photo Journal 2023: New Countywide Strategic Plan Shapes Fairfax

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Connection gathered photos of some recent projects and happenings since the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted its first-ever Countywide Strategic Plan on October 5, 2021. The plan charts a shared future for all, enhanced quality of life, and equitable access, driven by the vision of “One Fairfax.”

A key component of the plan is the ten outcome areas, representing the issues the Fairfax County community cares about most. They were developed based on extensive community input and were reinforced repeatedly over an 18-month outreach period.

The areas include issues regarding cultural and recreational opportunities, empowerment and support for residents facing vulnerabilities, housing and neighborhood livability, mobility and transportation, the environment,

SEE PHOTO JOURNAL, PAGE 6
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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Housing and Neighborhood Livability: Ovation at Arrowbrook opens in Herndon with 274 apartments for households earning between 30 and 60 percent of the area median income. The green building with universal and sustainable design features and Earthcraft design is located less than a mile away from the Innovation Metro Station.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Mobility and Transportation: Innovation Metro Station opens.

THE CONNECTION ❖ SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2023 ❖ 3

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2023



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Groundbreaking for the Route 29 widening: Tossing shovelfuls of dirt into the air are (from left) Tom Biesiadny, Kathy Smith, Pat Herrity, Bill Cutler and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority CEO Monica Backmon.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Construction vehicles, traffic and jersey walls continue to comprise the Route 28 landscape in Centreville.

What's on the Road Ahead for Centreville, Chantilly

Transportation projects and affordable senior homes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In hopes of easing traffic congestion in the local area, several transportation projects are either planned or underway in Centreville and Chantilly. Below are details about some of them, as well as information about new senior housing:

Route 29 Widening

During the afternoon rush hours, Route 29 between Buckley's Gate Drive and Union Mill Road is 1.5 miles of slow and tedious traffic. That's when residents are heading home to Centreville, or points west, trying to avoid I-66 west's gridlock at the same time.

There's also a bottleneck there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But VDOT has a plan to widen that stretch of Route 29 from four to six lanes.

The goal is to reduce congestion, while improving safety, operations and access. The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange. Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

There'll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow Roads, Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckley's Gate and Summit drives.

Estimated project cost is \$97 million – with construction, alone, comprising \$81.8 million of that amount. Work was expected to begin last year, but is now anticipated to start late this year instead, and take approximately two-and-a-half years to finish.



Map of the Route 50 intersections involved in VDOT's STARS study.

During the March 8 groundbreaking, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said, "This improvement will get residents where they need to be, instead of sitting in traffic, and will really improve their quality of life. The beneficiaries will also be the people in the neighborhoods off Route 29 who have had to put up with cut-through traffic from I-66 for many years. This project will finish the last section of this road outside of Fairfax City, and I'm looking forward to the ribbon cutting in 2026."

Route 28 Widening

Rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville is often a bumper-to-bumper affair. But a multimillion-dollar widening project is aimed at easing this gridlock. It's slated to be completed next year, and workers have been busy for a long time to make it happen.

Route 28 is being widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, between the bridge over Bull Run (south of Compton Road) and the Route 29 Interchange.

Besides adding more through lanes to Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will also improve intersection operations, upgrade existing traffic signals and improve bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28.

A Fairfax County project, it's being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Total cost estimate is nearly \$79 million. Shirley Contracting Co. is the design-builder, and the county's Department of Transportation is doing the construction.

As construction at each intersection is finished, workers will focus on the side streets, tying in and facilitating new turn lanes to move traffic easier along Route 28. The road-widening began in summer 2021 and is expected to reach substantial completion sometime in 2024. Noise walls are currently being installed, and this work will continue until completion.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Sound walls going up on Route 28 North, prior to New Brad-dock Road in Centreville.

Route 50 Improvements

Under normal traffic conditions, the two-mile segment of Route 50 between Route 28 and Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is clogged during the morning and evening rush. It also averages 71,000 vehicles a day and has a high number of crashes.

So VDOT's doing a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study to assess how to make this stretch of road function better and safer. According to VDOT engineer Andy Beacher, STARS is used to develop low-cost solutions to traffic problems.

Toward that end, he said, "We studied all the intersections on Route 50 between Stringfellow and Route 28 and are making recommendations. However, there's no magic bullet for this corridor. It's very congested because of all the commercial development and commuters."

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 20

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2023

Superintendent Michelle Reid Shares FCPS's Hidden Gems

Did you know we have a Neurodiversity Specialist as well as a Twice Exceptional Specialist to ensure this population of students is supported? For those of you who don't know, a twice exceptional student is one that has been identified as academically gifted in one or more areas and also identified as having a disability. Without support, those challenges can often hide the student's abilities. These roles are unique to K-12 public education in the US. These staff members are such a great resource for our families and teachers. More detailed information and photos can be found here.

Kristen Haynor, Neurodiversity Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, first neurodiversity specialist in a K-12 school in the U.S. She hopes her appointment will encourage other districts to do the same. Haynor spends time in the classroom talking to students about her work.

Nonye Oladimeji began as the division's - and Virginia's - first public school - Twice Exceptional (2E) Education Specialist. Rachel Rubio serves as the new FCPS Dyslexia Specialist, a highly specialized role dedicated to the reading and writing disability that affects 20% of the population. Without teachers having the tools to recognize the signs, it can often go undiagnosed.

SEE HIDDEN GEMS, PAGE 19



INSTAGRAM

Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, engages with students in the classroom and extracurricular settings, where students typically gather.



FCPS

From left, Kristen Haynor, neurodiversity specialist; Nonye Oladimeji, twice exceptional specialist; and Rachel Rubio, dyslexia specialist; meet each week to discuss and plan their work.

DINE AND DISCOVER EVENT

Join Us For A Taste of What's to Come

THURSDAY
**SEPT
21**
2023
12:30 P.M.
1:30 P.M.

We'd love to have you join us as we celebrate our newly opened senior living community Sunrise of Vienna. Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our culinary team and learn more about the vibrant lifestyle that awaits in Vienna.

Call **703-719-8425** to RSVP or email **Vienna.MEC@sunriseseniorliving.com**.

Sunrise of Vienna
374 Maple Ave W.
Vienna, VA 22180
SunriseVienna.com



VIENNA

Assisted Living | Memory Care



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SCREENSHOT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Bryan Hill (center left) on the County Exec Trek, Fairfax.

Year One, the 2023 Annual Report

Steps taken to implement Fairfax County Strategic Plan.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

There was no community cake, no banners, speeches, or parades in February of this year when County Executive Bryan Hill shared the Year One Annual Report for the implementation of the first-ever Fairfax County Strategic Plan. Following the plan's development in 2019 and interruption by the pandemic, the Board of Supervisors approved the strategic plan in October 2021, believing that county leadership must look ahead to shape the future of our community.

The 2023 Annual Report detailed the steps taken to implement the plan. It summarized the county's efforts to improve the value and vitality of its 406 square miles for all residents, visitors, and employees.

Four "key drivers" energized the countywide strategic plan: equity, data integration, inclusive engagement, and ten community outcome areas, which are:

- ❖ Cultural and Recreational Opportunities
- ❖ Economic Opportunity
- ❖ Effective and Efficient Government
- ❖ Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability
- ❖ Environment and Energy
- ❖ Healthy Communities
- ❖ Housing and Neighborhood Livability



SCREENSHOT VIA FACEBOOK

Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

- ❖ Lifelong Education and Learning
- ❖ Mobility and Transportation
- ❖ Safety and Security

According to the plan, "These elements set a new foundation for the way different functions within county government must work together under a shared vision in pursuit of achieving consistent and measurable progress for the benefit of all people in Fairfax County."

Bryan J. Hill, county executive, wrote in his 2023 message sharing the Year One Annual Report, "As we look ahead, we are fully aware that we still have a long way to go to achieve our vision of becoming One Fairfax."

He added, "In Year Two, this will become an even greater focus as we strategically target the formation of infrastructure and strategy that fosters collective action around neighborhoods as the primary environments in which individuals access key opportunity structures."

Fairfax County approved a revision of the county strategic plan in May 2023, in keeping with the intention that the framework of the plan would remain unchanged over time, but the details would be adapted as needed.

The following changes were made to the Countywide Strategic Plan in Year Two and are included in the FY

2024 Advised Budget:

Change the names of two community outcome areas to match the other eight: Health to Healthy Communities and Environment to Environment and Energy.

Reorganize proposed strategies within the Ten Community Outcome Areas according to community success indicators.

Incorporate recommendations from the Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity into the strategic plan's proposed strategies.

To reflect Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) new strategic plan, revise existing language.

To reflect the identified headline metrics, update the Economic Opportunity Sample Metrics.

In the Fairfax Countywide Strategic Plan, revised in May 2023, Chairman Jeff McKay wrote, "Inequities persist, and access to opportunity can vary significantly based on one's identity and location." Such is despite the county's "enviable rankings" in key indicators of community prosperity, such as median income, school performance, and public safety.

To review the Strategic Plan or related items as a document, download the following PDFs: Countywide Strategic Plan (Current - Revised May 2023), Countywide Strategic Plan (October 2021), Two-Page Plan Highlights (Drivers and Community Outcome Areas), Alignment with One Fairfax, and Community Engagement Highlights at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zd-Fror-By977x4Y1SPQE7fehAF-zlmTZAB_4as4DWlNY/edit.

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 8

Photo Journal 2023: New Countywide Strategic Plan Shapes Fairfax

FROM PAGE 3
and others.

In 2023, the first achievements under the new strategic plan are visible throughout the county. We

hope you enjoy seeing and learning how the future of Fairfax County is unfolding as the plan helps to protect and enrich the quality of life for people and diverse communities.



SCREENSHOT VIA TOWN OF VIENNA

Environment and Energy, Mobility and Transportation: In March of 2023, Fairfax County authorized additional funds to assist the Town of Vienna's project that includes bioretention areas- rain gardens, curb extensions, and crosswalks on Meadow Lane at Tapawingo Road and Kingsley Road. Perennial plantings such as Pennsylvania Sedge, Joe Pye Weed, Fireball Bee Balm, and Cape Breez Switchgrass are going in.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Housing and Neighborhood Livability: Demolition makes way for future housing units in Reston.



SCREENSHOT VIA NCS CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF THE NEW SULLY COMMUNITY CENTER

Cultural and Recreational Opportunities, Healthy Communities: Sully Community Center Grand Opening, constructed by Fairfax County, is a place for fitness, sports, classes, and a healthcare suite that provides comprehensive primary care services focused on serving those who have faced barriers to accessing healthcare.

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

All around the nation, people will be taking action to build stronger, more resilient and prepared communities during September, National Emergency Preparedness Month.

This is an opportunity to look around and find ways to prepare yourself and others in your community for disasters. Taking action to prepare for an emergency before it strikes can lead to better outcomes and provide peace of mind.

Fairfax County's Department of Emergency Management and Security has tools that are designed to aid the community in becoming more prepared for disasters. Take some time to think about ways you can make a difference during this year's Emergency Preparedness Month.

Here are some tips:

- ❖ Prepare yourself and your family: The "Community Emergency Response Guide" (CERG) — available in multiple languages — has information on the types of threats and hazards local to Fairfax County, as well as tools to help you build an emergency plan and kit. It also has information on how to sign up for Fairfax Alerts so that you will receive alerts and warnings in the event of an emergency or disaster.

- ❖ Prepare your neighborhood: Once you have prepared yourself for an emergency, don't stop there. You can be a leader in your neighborhood and organize a group of neighbors to help plan for how your neighborhood will help each other during a disaster.

The "5 Steps to Neighborhood Preparedness" (an appendix in the CERG) lists easy steps neighborhoods can take to organize themselves to be ready for an emergency or disaster.

- ❖ Prepare your business: Whether you own a business or work at a place you think needs an emergency plan, the "Business Disaster Resilience Guide" can help. This guide explains why it is crucial for businesses to have a continuity of operations plan and provides tools to help set the business up for success in the event it is affected by a disaster.

- ❖ Make an emergency kit: Emergency kits include basic supplies and are tailored to every person's need. We recommend every household keep three to five days worth of food, water and supplies in shelter-in-place kits for each member of the household.

- ❖ Read and download the Community Emergency Response Guide: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency-management/cerg

Emergency Pet Preparedness

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/petresources/petpreparedness>

When potentially disastrous weather is in the forecast, it's best to prepare early! It's always better to be safe than sorry, and there's no time like right now to make sure you have everything you – and your pet – need in the event of a weather-related disaster. Here

SEE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, PAGE 9



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale

70+ sellers

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Need stuff? Find bargains and treasures at this outdoor community parking lot sale with 70+ community resident vendors selling household items.

FREE ADMISSION

mcleancenter.org
703-790-0123 | TTY: 711
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, Va. 22101



SCAN ME

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Supervisors Share Issues



SCREENSHOT VIA FACEBOOK CAN USE HEADSHOTS INSTEAD

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Back row: Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill; Pat Herrity, Springfield; Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon; Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, Elected At-Large; John W. Foust, Dranesville; Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia; (front row) Kathy L. Smith, Sully; Penelope A. Gross, Mason; Dalia A. Palchik, Providence; and James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock.

FROM PAGE 6

The Connection asked members of the Board of Supervisors to identify issues within their districts. No member of the Board claimed the county is utopia. While there is good news in community outcome areas, prevailing issues necessitate change. That will take time.

Comments are organized according to the ten community outcome areas listed in the Fairfax County Strategic Plan, Revised May 2023. Comments have been lightly edited for clarity and space.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay

Economic Opportunity— The pandemic led to massive economic disruptions all around the globe, including here in Fairfax County. As of this year, we are happy to see that we actually have more residents employed now than we did before the onset of the pandemic. We want to continue this momentum and are doing so by working with our Economic Development Authority, county staff, and the community.

Safety and Security— Fairfax County was again named the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country. We have remained the safest jurisdiction by having world-class public safety agencies and a community that cares. I am proud of the work we have done together and look forward to continuing this critical work.

Lifelong Education and Learning— “As a board, we prioritize investing in our schools each year, and this year is no different. Superior public schools are why business-

es choose to locate here and how they can grow here with the available talent pool. It’s also a school system where all students can feel safe and heard.

James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District

The three most important issues in the Braddock District are continuing to invest in our schools, improving transportation options, and protecting our local environment.

John W. Foust, Dranesville District

Many of the important issues in Dranesville are common across the county, like creating affordable housing, growing the local economy to provide good jobs and revenues to support county programs and services, and making our community more resilient to the ever-worsening impacts of climate change.

Mobility and Transportation, Safety and Security— Making downtown McLean more vibrant and safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Eliminating the awful congestion in the neighborhoods around the access ramp from Georgetown Pike onto the Beltway. Ensuring adequate infrastructure (including roads, trails, parks, and schools) is provided to serve the significant growth near the new Herndon and Innovation metro stations.

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District

Mobility and Transportation— Continue making progress on the redevelopment of the Springfield and Richmond Highway communities.

Lifelong Education and Learning—

We need to prepare our kids for the jobs of the future and help our residents gain marketable skills, training, and certifications that will enable them to pursue careers in innovative technology, the building trades, and medical technology. This is a foundational issue for me and a core focus of my office.

Housing and Neighborhood Livability— We need to continue to look at ways to provide more affordable housing options for

our seniors, our first responders, teachers, and other public-facing members of our community.

Pat Herrity, Springfield District

Effective and Efficient Government— The county’s unsustainable tax increases are adding to residents’ inflation concerns.

Safety and Security Crime— Businesses and residents suffer



SCREENSHOT VIA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The cover of the 2023 Annual Report for the first-ever Fairfax County Strategic Plan depicts the Tysons Corner skyline, featuring through the image many of the ten community outcome areas sought in the plan, such as economic opportunity, cultural and recreational opportunities, housing and neighborhood livability, mobility and transportation, and more.

from unprosecuted crimes and a police staffing crisis.

Lifelong Education and Learning— Schools, as parents, students, and teachers struggle to close achievement gaps from lost learning. We need to focus school resources in the classroom on teachers and kids, not on administrators and political agendas.

Healthy Communities— Addressing panhandling and the fentanyl public health crisis are also high on residents’ lists of concerns.

Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor:

Pedestrian safety; revitalization /redevelopment; affordable and attainable housing. There is a difference between affordable and attainable

Daniel Storck, Mount Vernon District Supervisor:

My top priorities continue to be improving the lives of our families through investments in education, housing, the environment, transportation, public safety, and the kind of economic development and jobs that ensure all have opportunities to live, learn, work, play, and grow older in the Mount Vernon District. It is also critically important that our county continue to be the safest jurisdiction of its size in the country.

One of the most pressing issues in our district continues to be the revitalization of Richmond Highway and Lorton. We have been successfully working together to re-envision Lorton and the Highway, investing in education, and delivering new parks, new public safety facilities, new housing of all types, new businesses, planned ‘The One’ Bus Rapid Transit system, pedestrian and cycling improvements, and so much more, all while making sure no one is left behind.

Another crucial issue is housing. The Mount Vernon District has a wide range, variety, and great diversity of all types of housing, including much lower-cost, substantial middle-income, and some of the most expensive housing in the DMV.

The smart growth housing and community development policies that I helped initiate, plan, fund, and implement in 2016 have resulted in the past two years alone in building or preserving more than 1,000 units of workforce and affordable homes, while more than a thousand middle-income homes were built or started construction. Substantial future “missing middle” homes are planned as well.

Kathy Smith, Sully District Supervisor:

Transportation and first responders/public safety.

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Emergency Preparedness Month

FROM PAGE 7

are some things to keep in mind as you prepare:

1. Make sure your pets' microchip information is up-to-date, and that your dogs are wearing collars with identification tags. In the event that your pet is separated from you, this safety measure can ensure that whoever finds them will be able to find you, too.

2. Make sure you have the needed supplies and important documents for each of your pets. Check out our Pet Preparedness Disaster Kit Checklist for a handy list.

3. If you are evacuating, make sure the place you're going allows pets. There are pet-friendly shel-

ters in Fairfax County, but please check to make sure they will be open. Hotels are not required to accept pets, so please plan accordingly.

4. If you absolutely need to shelter your pets while you get to safety, we will accept pets of Fairfax County residents for temporary safekeeping at the shelter and are preparing kennel space just in case. If you do need to bring your pet(s) to our shelter, PLEASE bring vaccination history and any medications they are on, and preferably a bag of whatever food they're eating as well. If you need assistance getting your pets to safety, please call Animal Protection Police at 703-691-2131.

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VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

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. State ID	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
PATRICK	13372	699	HUGHES BROWN RD/RTE 699	WHITE MUD CREEK	8/22/2023
WYTHE	19743	671	CRIGGER RD	CRIGGER CREEK	8/10/2023
PATRICK	13337	675	FRIENDS MISSION/RTE 675	ARARAT RIVER	8/10/2023
BEDFORD	2918	804	TEASS TERRACE/RTE 804	NININGER CREEK	8/9/2023
PATRICK	13336	672	JOHNSON CR RD/RTE 672	JOHNSON CREEK	8/9/2023
PATRICK	13276	626	ABRAM PENN HWY/RTE 626	N. MAYO RIVER	8/1/2023

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.

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.



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



Coming This Fall!

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale	9/16
The Old Firehouse Block Party	9/16
"The Pursuit of Happiness: Music for Social Wellbeing" with Calvin Earl	9/17
Harvest Happenings	9/23
Buckets 'N Boards	9/23
Public Hearing on FY25 Budget	9/27
McLean 5k	10/7
Touch-A-Truck	10/9
New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players: "The Pirates of Penzance"	10/13
McLean Pet Fest	10/15
Songwriter City	10/21
McLean Community Players	10/27-29
The Old Firehouse Festival of Frights and Trunk or Treat	10/28
Family Fun Bingo	11/3
"When You Wish Upon a Star—A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney"	11/4
McLean Antiques Show & Sale	11/11-12

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

mcleancenter.org

McLean Community Center

@mcleanvacenter

@mcleancenterva

Six Months Late, Finally a Budget

Raising Virginia's standard deduction from just \$3000/\$6000 to almost three times that amount causes an annual revenue loss of over \$1.1 billion.

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS



The General Assembly finally passed a full budget for this year. It goes into effect at midnight Friday, Sept. 15, unless the Governor wants to amend it. If he does, there will be another 30-day delay. Politically, I doubt that'll happen because it would delay taxpayers receiving a tax rebate check just before the upcoming November election of up to \$200 for individuals and \$400 for married filers.

The virtually unprecedented six-month delay in passing an updated budget, in fact, was all about taxes – just like it was the only other time a budget update wasn't passed before the start of the budget year July 1. That was 20 years ago and was over cutting the car tax. That year, an update of the second year of Virginia's two-year budget never was passed.

This year, it was over how much we should permanently cut taxes given that tax cuts reduce Virginia's revenue available to support education. Even though Virginia is below what most states give local schools, 52% to 55% of Virginia state tax revenue goes to support education.

In July, JLARC (our independent Joint Audit and Review Commission) released an extensive report documenting that Virginia's level of state funding far under-estimates what local schools actually cost. The state bases its share on just \$10.7 billion, while what K-12 actually costs is

much, much higher at \$17.3 billion. The report concluded it would take an annual increase of over \$3 billion in state funding support to address major areas of need it identified.

That JLARC report shifted the budget discussion towards a harder look at total tax relief. We had already cut state taxes over \$4 billion last year by removing the sales tax on food, raising the standard deduction, and

giving one-time rebates of up to \$250/\$500. Given the almost \$3 billion in permanent tax relief in last year's cuts, plus documented education under-funding and mounting concern about a federal government shutdown that would affect 30% of Virginia's economy, the budget compromise we just passed only put an additional \$280 million into permanent tax cuts while over \$900 million will go back to taxpayers through the one-time \$200/\$400 rebate.

Over \$96 million of the permanent tax cut will go to continuing the challenge of closing the large gap between the standard deduction Virginia taxpayers can take when they figure their state income tax and what they get on their federal income tax. Five years ago, Virginia's standard deduction was only \$3000 for a single filer and \$6000 for joint filers. It had been 15 years since it had been raised. Meanwhile, the federal standard deduction had grown to \$12,000/\$24,000 pushed by annual increases for inflation and the 2017 federal tax reform. Annual inflation adjustments, since,

have increased it to \$13,850/\$27,700.

Such a large gap is especially unfair to Virginia taxpayers because Virginia's tax law requires that if you choose the federal standard deduction, you can't choose to itemize deductions when you file your Virginia tax. Why? Virginia has chosen not to fund the bureaucracy it would take to audit itemized deductions and has always piggy-backed on federal tax audits.

Therefore, in 2018, we increased Virginia's standard deduction to \$4500/\$9000 resulting in an ongoing, annual tax savings for approximately 80% of Virginia taxpayers. The 20% that don't benefit are those who itemize to pay less in federal taxes and tend to be businesses or persons in the top 5% of income. Last year, we again increased the standard deduction making it \$8,000/\$16,000. Now, we've increased Virginia's standard deduction to \$8,500/\$17,000.

This constant push to lower taxes for most taxpayers by raising the standard deduction has resulted in Virginia's income tax being more progressive. In sharp contrast, the original proposal to lower the highest tax rate from 5.75 to 5.5 would have given most of the tax cut to the top 5% of income. They would have gotten thousands of dollars while the majority of taxpayers got less than \$50 and many would get no tax relief.

However, the total effect of our raising the standard deduction from just \$3000/\$6000 to almost three times that amount is an annual revenue loss of over \$1.1 billion. That cost in the face of documented under-funding schools and the mental health crisis was why the General Assembly finally came to agreement that the bulk of the remaining current budget surplus needed to be returned to taxpayers as a one-time rebate and not as an even greater permanent tax cut.

No Miracle in Virginia Student Test Scores

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



There was more than a week delay in announcing Virginia student test scores this year. Last week we learned why. Despite the Governor's unrelenting criticism

in his campaign for governor and in his time in office about school test scores, he has not been able to improve the very scores for which he has been so critical in the past. He certainly made a big splash in his pursuit in his effort to improve our schools: He replaced most members of the State Board of Education with his own conservative members, took on a new Secretary of Education, fired two Superintendents of Instruction, and introduced gimmicks like laboratory schools (i.e. charter schools). No amount of spin was able to cover up the fact that his own test score

results showed "significant and persistent learning loss in reading and math for Virginia students in grades 3-8. More than half of 3rd-8th graders either failed or are at risk of failing their reading SOL exam and nearly two-thirds of 3rd-8th graders either failed or are at risk of failing their math SOL exam."

In his typical campaign style of dealing with issues, the Governor announced an "ALL IN VA" plan to deal with the educational challenges that continue despite his two years of rhetoric. Central to the new plan is increased tutoring. He pleaded with retirees and others who have the time to help struggling students in schools. He never mentioned that thanks to the General Assembly there are more resource teachers budgeted for the schools for next year rather than a billion-dollar tax break to the

wealthiest Virginians and corporations that he was supporting.

The administration needs to acknowledge that the General Assembly's watch dog, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on which I serve, documented earlier this year the

gross underfunding of schools in Virginia by any comparison you make. In a report to be released in the near future, JLARC staff found that having enough high-quality teachers is among the most im-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 11

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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OPINION

Plum

FROM PAGE 10

portant factors for a quality education system. Yet, in Virginia the number of fully licensed teachers and the proportion of them who are fully licensed continues to decline.

The current vacancy rate for teachers statewide is 4.7 percent compared to 3.9 percent last year and less than one percent prior to the pandemic. The percent of teachers who are not fully licensed or not teaching in their field is 16 percent which a decade ago was six percent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How One Data Center Will Change Fairfax County ... For the Worse

A rezoning to accommodate the tallest data center in Fairfax County is up for a vote by the Planning Commissioners at a Public Hearing, Sept. 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at 12000 Government Center Parkway (application RZ 2022-SU-00019/SE 2022-SU-00038). It will be adjacent to a resource protection area and a tributary to our drinking water, within earshot of a residential community, and of a size that is completely out of character for the area and threatens airport navigation. If approved, it will set a dangerous precedent.

At 110 feet, the data center will be 4+-times larger than the adjacent Chantilly Auto Park buildings which are less than 30 feet, basically putting an 11-story high-rise in the middle of a tiny-homes village. The Airport worries that it "comes very close to a critical air navigation surface. If this surface is penetrated there will be adverse impacts to airport operations." As the tallest building for miles, it'd be completely out of character for the area and invites similar development in a portion of the county that was not meant for such urbanization.

Most distressing are the results of a survey of more than 500 teachers who left the profession of teaching with nearly half indicating they were unhappy being a teacher. The reasons for their unhappiness were inadequate support (75%), workload too high (70%), school leadership ineffective (64%) and inadequate salary (55%). There is no miracle to be found to improve student test scores. Certainly the political finger pointing does not help nor do inflated promises. What are needed are dedication and commitment, adequate funding, and support of the teaching staff. These could produce a miracle!

The data center requires over 130 rooftop HVAC fans generating a constant 24/7 noise at a frequency (Hz) that can travel very far and through barriers. It's not only an annoyance to humans at 50 dBA (acceptable under the current noise ordinance) but decades of research by the National Park Service and other national/international organizations shows it affects wildlife communication, reproduction, and survival; forcing many to abandon an affected area, leading to deforestation and alteration of the biodiversity.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

PUBLIC NOTICE

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY2025 Budget

(July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)

**McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.**

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers list. The draft budget proposal will be available on the center's website and copies can be picked up at the center's reception desk on or after Thursday, Sept. 14.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@fairfaxcounty.gov. Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing up through Friday, Oct. 6.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
mcleancenter.org

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Hidden and Not-So-Hidden Gems

Faves of Fairfax County Supervisors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is the high-tech corridor along the Metro Silver Line and the ten-story perch of a village green that soars above the street on top of Capital One Hall in Tysons, connected to the Watermark Hotel. Fairfax County is also

home to the Federal period villa, a 19th-century gem built for Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of George Mason IV, who authored the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

Fairfax County offers these destinations, along with cycling trails opened in the dark, illuminated by headlights, and zip lines where one can explore the trees from a new perspective.



SCREENSHOT

Historic Huntley

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay:

Historic Huntley, located at 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, is a 19th-century gem, a federal-period villa. Huntley Meadows Park is an oasis for over 200 wetland birds and deer, beavers, turtles, and other animals. The park and historic Huntley are facilities of the Fairfax County Park Authority.



SCREENSHOT

The Annandale Civic Space at 7200 Columbia Pike will have its grand opening on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Penelope A. Gross, Mason District

A couple of new gems in Mason District are the Annandale Civic Space at 7200 Columbia Pike, which will have its grand opening on Oct. 21 from 10 to 1, with a ceremony at 10:30. The new civic space is constructed on what was the playing field for the former Annandale Elementary School, now the ACCA Child Development Center. The new civic space will include a community demonstration garden, a children's topographic playground, programming space, walking paths, and, hopefully, a new mural. Check out the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cYFYoQg6Kc>.

The other fun spot is a mural on the side and back of new shops at the corner of Little River Turnpike and John Marr Drive in Annandale. On the east side of the mural is a floral motif; wrapping around the building to the back on the north side of the building is a more geometric design, but the whole thing acts like a "secret garden" that surprises drivers and passersby. Delightful!

We asked each of our nine jurisdictional district supervisors and the chairman at large to tell us about their favorite off-the-beat-path spots in their communities.

Whether you're new to the county, have moved to a different district, or have lived

here for years, why not try some of their recommended faves for a morning or afternoon outing?

Discover what's in Fairfax County's backyards and call its 406 square miles home.

John W. Foust, Dranesville District

♦ MPAartfest: On Oct. 1, 2023, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into a free, one-day, seven-hour festival of the arts. Vendor tents display the works of numerous juried artists, complemented by exhibitions of children's and seniors' artwork, an Open Studio demonstration, and performances by local musicians. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean

♦ Colvin Run Mill Historic Site offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone-ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, "penny candy," snacks, and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making, and seasonal activities are offered from February through December. 10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls

♦ Runnymede Park: The Town of Herndon owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It is the site for many nature-related events, such as the annual NatureFest, the Spring Native Plant Sale, and the Fall Native Plant Sale. The park is near the Sugarland Run Stream and attracts over 100 bird species, deer, foxes, and other wildlife. Guided walks are offered to highlight the wildlife on the trails. Two park shelters are available for rent. 196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon

♦ The McLean Community Center sponsors McLean Day on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions, and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. The event also includes booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups, and local officials showcase their wares. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

♦ Herndon Festival, held in late May, offers something for the whole family. The festival features two entertainment stages, 10K and 5K races, carnival rides, hands-on arts and activities, food vendors, fireworks, and more. Enjoy four days of fun-filled activities and entertainment. 200 Spring Street, Herndon

♦ Great Falls Freedom Memorial: This was created in 2004 to honor all who have served our country. The Freedom Memorial hosts annual ceremonies on Memorial Day, Sept. 11, and Veterans' Day, as well as a 5K race on July 4. It is a special place to pay respects to and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country. 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls (behind the Great Falls Library)

♦ Herndon Friday Night Live! Concerts are held on the Herndon Town Green on Friday evenings in the summer. Concerts are free and feature popular local and regional acts. Most featured bands play rock and roll covers from classic to modern rock, but country and original music are also included for good measure. Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon

James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District

♦ Howrey Field Park is home to three baseball fields, each dedicated to two of the six "Soldiers of Howrey Field" killed there on June 1, 1967. Tragically, a bolt of lightning struck a light pole they had erected to help prepare for the upcoming Little League season. The park is also home to a small memorial and flagpole dedicated to the soldiers. Each year, beginning in 2021, the Board of Supervisors has recognized June 1 as "Soldiers of Howrey Field Day" in Fairfax County.

♦ Wakefield Skate Park provides an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy skateboarding, inline skating, and BMXing on freestyle and competition courses. There are bank ramps, a 4-foot quarter pipe, a pyramid, grind rails, and more. Our son loves to ride his balance bike up and down the ramps alongside the other young and not-so-young skaters and BMXers. It's a great atmosphere and a wonderful amenity for the community.

♦ Bunnyman Brewing, born from Fairfax County's most famous urban legend, is now Fairfax County's best craft brewery, serving up innovative, creative, and quality brews. Two retired Fairfax County firefighters founded Bunnyman, which has become Burke's favorite community gathering place. 5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, opening soon at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center



SCREENSHOT

Wakefield Skate Park

Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District

♦ Lynh and Van Nguyen, sisters, and artists, founded MosaicARTS Gallery in Merrifield. MosaicARTS holds monthly art exhibitions from local and national artists in their gallery and virtually on their website. In addition, they also offer art classes and happy, creative hours that encourage individuals to explore their creative side. Learn more: Home: Mosaic Arts Site.

♦ Oakton Community Park, located at 2841 Hunter Mill Road, provides a variety of individual and organized recreation activities. While the park is maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), the Greater Oakton Community Association works with FCPA to maintain the woods, establish a meadow, and improve the historic schoolhouse so it can serve as a place of community gathering.

♦ The Perch, also known as a "park in the sky," is located on the eleventh floor of Capital One Hall in Tysons. Guests can enjoy fresh air and amazing views while strolling along the park, watching live performances, playing lawn games or mini golf at Perch Putt, or sipping craft beer from Starr Hill Biergarten. The Perch is built for fun for all ages! Learn more: The Perch at Capital One Center.



SCREENSHOT VIA MOSAIC ARTS

MosaicARTS holds monthly art exhibitions



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dan and Deb Storck along the Potomac

Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District

♦ One of my favorite things for my wife and I to do is grab a picnic lunch or dinner and walk, bike, or drive along the George Washington Memorial Parkway to find one of the many perfect spots overlooking the Potomac River and George Washington's Mount Vernon.

♦ Another great ride, walk, or jog option is the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail, which runs 40 miles and connects the entire county from Great Falls Park to Occoquan Regional Park. At Occoquan Regional Park, you can find our country's only national monument to the women's suffrage movement.

♦ The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is dedicated to the millions of little-known women who engaged in the suffragist movement primarily from 1848 through the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which allowed most women to vote. Nearby, the Cross County Trail leads you to the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center, which tells the story of the suffragists imprisoned at Lorton Prison and the prison's history.

♦ George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill is another often overlooked gem in our community. Few know that George Washington constructed a gristmill at his Dogue Run Farm in 1770-1771. In 1791, he upgraded his operation by installing milling improvements. In its day, the gristmill could produce 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of flour and cornmeal daily. Today, you can visit the working mill to see the water wheel turn as it grinds grain and the working reconstruction of the distillery that still makes George's whiskey. For more about the hidden gems of Mount Vernon, visit Potomac Banks: <https://www.fxva.com/southcounty>.

Visit our website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon, to sign up for our newsletter, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter to learn about the myriad district projects, important topics, area activities, and upcoming events. More information about the Mount Vernon District can be found in our Newcomer Guide on our website's "About Us" page.

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District

♦ Crumbl Cookies' ribbon cutting with franchise co-owner Joel Frary. (Deenie Frary is not in the photo.) My favorites so far are Oreos and Snickerdoodles. I was honored to attend their ribbon cutting in Kingstowne and talk with the franchise owners, Deenie and Joel Frary."

♦ I really enjoy Della J's Delectables southern home cooking on Richmond Highway. I have a bit of a sweet tooth, and my favorites are their peach cobbler and key lime cake. This African American-owned business is a real treat!

♦ Coming Soon: I wanted to share some exciting things that are happening in Franconia District. We have amazing new retail stores opening soon in Springfield Plaza, including Whole Foods in the fall of 2023 and The Container Store in the spring of 2024. In addition, there are two new restaurants coming to Festival at Manchester Lakes, Firebirds and First Watch, and the timeline is TBD.

Saturday, Sept. 30, open to the public. The event will feature an open house at the Sully Community Center, activities for children, food, music, demonstrations, and fun for the whole family. The center holds weekly classes for seniors and technology workshops for teenagers. The facility offers new basketball and pickleball courts and hosts an in-house SACC program. Partnering with Healthworks, a community health wing adorns the Community Center's west wing, offering county residents primary care services. To better access the Community Center, I worked with Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff to establish the Fairfax Connector 901 route. This north-south bus route serves Centreville, Chantilly and Herndon and offers stops close to the Community Center.

If you need any help with county services, please feel welcome to contact my office anytime via email at sully@fairfaxcounty.gov or by phone at 703-814-7100. We have two community rooms available at the Sully Governmental Center for free use by Fairfax County residents. You can reserve our community rooms and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sully.

Supervisors Adopt Reston Comprehensive Plan

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the new Reston Comprehensive Plan which includes updates to guidance for topics like affordable housing, open space and community health. The newly adopted plan applies to all 8,400 acres of Reston's planned community, including roads.

Supervisor Walter Alcorn represents Reston on the board.

"Since my Board Matter almost four years ago, dedicated community members, Planning Commissioner John Carter and county staff have put in countless hours on creating a new draft Reston Comprehensive Plan," Alcorn said. It has been an exhausting process for all involved.

Reston residents attended over 60 virtual and in-person public meetings over three years to comment on the proposed Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The board, Planning Commission, and county staff noted and considered the comments.

"The adoption of the Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment is a momentous achievement for Reston, ushering in a new era that ensures Reston's continued success," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay. "This updated Plan safeguards existing neighborhoods and improves transit. It also sets the stage for the future of Reston, that is both responsive to the core values of Reston's founder, Bob Simon, and to the valuable position that Reston plays as a major economic development location in the County."

On July 19, 2023, the Planning Commission voted 12-0 to recommend the plan, PA 2020-III-UP1, to the Board of Supervisors; the county executive also supported the amendment according to the agenda item.

The amendment updates Reston's Comprehensive Plan in multiple areas: planning



Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment

principles, land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, environmental stewardship, heritage resources, public art, equity, community health, and economic development. Here is an overview of the goals of those updates.

Plan features include maintaining residential density in village centers, focusing on higher-intensity mixed-use development in Reston Transit Station Areas, and protecting, maintaining, and providing transitions to surrounding residential neighborhoods. The plan emphasizes Reston Transit Station Area redevelopment.

The plan removes the residential redevelopment option for the village centers' non-residential areas except for Lake Anne and Tall Oaks. It requires a Comprehensive Plan amendment to exercise a residential option.

Transportation uses multimodality to provide equitable, safe, efficient, attractive, and reliable travel options for current and future Reston residents, employees and visitors.

As per countywide workforce dwelling policy, housing guidance includes the area median income for rental workforce dwelling units. It also has "a minimum of 12 percent [workforce dwelling units] and maintains the sliding scale for the percentage of WDU's currently included in the adopted Reston Comprehensive Plan."

Parks and open space guidance retains



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

On June 6, Reston stakeholders meet with Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner John Carter and flag specific issues they opine must be addressed before the commissioners consider the plan and take action.

Reston's list of public parks that serve Reston in the current adopted plan and allows for the equivalent of 12 athletic fields of various sizes and a provision for unprogrammed open spaces for sports and activities.

Environmental Stewardship specifies its vision and its challenges while offering Reston-specific solutions.

Heritage addresses the need to identify, evaluate, protect, and support Reston's known and potential heritage resources to maintain their interpretive link to Reston's history and ensure that current and planned public facilities will follow Reston Comprehensive Plan principles.

Public art ensures developers coordinate projects with Public Art Reston early on and work with local and national artists and organizations.

Equity focuses on community health and economic development elements. Housing policies allow all Fairfax residents a full range of opportunities, especially in mixed-use ar-

reas with multiple transportation options. Workforce development pathways give people the skills to work in a diverse economy and support their families. Healthy, accessible, affordable food is essential for a vibrant food system. Equity stresses the importance of nature-human interaction. Healthy and quality living and working conditions reflect the need to enjoy clean air and water now and in the future.

Quality facilities, programs, and services for all communities make the parks and recreation system equitable and inclusive. An equitable transportation vision includes a multimodal system to provide safe, efficient, attractive, and reliable travel options with equity for current and future Reston residents, employees, and visitors.

The newly adopted plan is the result of a Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment process, which was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in response to Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn's Board Matter presented in January 2020.

Waitlists Open for Affordable Housing

Individuals interested in applying to affordable housing waitlists have the opportunity to do so Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., for select properties in the county:

The Arden: Apartments located at 2317 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303

Ovation at Arrowbrook: Apartments located at 1335 Fairfield Ridge Avenue, Herndon VA 20171

Madison Ridge: Apartments located at 14806 Rydell Road, Centreville, VA 20121

The Residences at North Hill: Apartments located at 7250 Nightingale Hill

Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

How to Apply

Interested individuals can apply online via Rent Café, from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Instructions for using Rent Café can be found here:

Individuals who need assistance can call 703-246-5100 or come to the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development office at 3700 Pender Drive in Fairfax, VA.

Those who apply via Rent Café will be

randomly placed on a waiting list for these properties. All applications received have an equal opportunity to be selected. Once a unit becomes available, the individuals on a waiting list will be contacted, screened, and determined eligible based on income level, household size, and the size of the rental unit. Households cannot currently be receiving other federal rental housing assistance to qualify.

Housing Funds Make a Local Impact in Fairfax

These affordable housing opportunities are

made available through the Project Based Voucher program which provides rental assistance to eligible households to live in specific rental units. Through a contract with the owner of the unit, the FCRHA pays a portion of the monthly rent, while the household pays their portion of the monthly rent based upon 30% to 35% of adjusted gross income. The rental assistance is attached to the specific unit and remains at the property, even if the family moves. The FCRHA uses subsidies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Project Based Voucher program.

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BULLETIN

FREE FALLS PREVENTION SEMINAR AND BALANCE SCREENING

Join team members from Inova's Physical Therapy Center to learn more on topics including:

- ❖ Common injury occurrences.
 - ❖ Common falls prevention risk factors.
 - ❖ Fall prevention strategies.
- All registrants will also benefit from a free screening to assess strength, flexibility and balance.
- ❖ All participants must be 60+.
 - ❖ No recent surgeries in the past 8 weeks.
 - ❖ Not currently on any restrictions of movement by a physician.

Short lecture/discussion on facts about falling followed by balance screenings performed by Physical Therapy professionals, ending with practical tips on staying safe at home.

Registration required and limited to 30 participants. E-mail nandina.ustaris@inova.org, call 703-797-6900 option 4, or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/X6XGyEx9jj> to register.

GIRLS ON THE RUN REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for the fall 2023 season of Girls on the Run is open! Registration will close on Friday, Sept. 15 at 11:59 p.m. Girls on the Run (GOTR) is an out-of-school program designed to help young girls build key life skills through dynamic lessons. Teams are led by trained volunteer coaches who lead by positive example and have a passion for helping others be the best version of themselves.

Teams typically meet twice a week for 75-90 minutes and are led by volunteer coaches. The 10-week season will begin the week of September 11th and conclude at the celebratory 5K events the weekend of November 18-19.

Each practice has a corresponding lesson from the Girls on the Run research-based curriculum, which focuses on building social, emotional, and physical skills while encouraging healthy habits for life. While many teams meet at schools, GOTR NOVA also offers community teams based out of neighborhoods, community centers, and parks. If a team is not offered at your school, make sure to check out GOTR NOVA's interactive map to find a team near you!

Girls on the Run programming is specifically designed for elementary school girls starting in grade 3 while Heart & Sole programming is created for middle school girls. Visit www.gotrnova.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CAR FREE DAY 2023

World Car Free Day 2023 will be held Friday, Sept. 22 in the metropolitan Washington region, and registration is now open. This annual event organized by COG's Commuter Connections program encourages residents, commuters, and students to choose a greener way to travel by going car free or car lite on Friday, Sept. 22. By taking the free online pledge at carfreemetrodc.org, participants contribute to reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, improve their health, and qualify for great prizes. Interested residents can simply take the pledge to reduce their single occupancy trips on Sept. 22 by choosing

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

an alternative travel option such as public transit, bicycling, car-pooling, vanpooling, scooting, walking, or simply teleworking. Each registrant will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win great prizes from this year's sponsors.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Champions for Accountability: Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join in the Champions for Accountability, a leadership discussion that explores the power of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in business. Led by Champions for Accountability leaders including Kendall Holbrook,

CEO, DevTechnologies, and Bud Morissette, CEO, Interstate Moving | Relocation | Logistics, Champions for Accountability will be your opportunity to meet with and learn from companies already finding business success in recruiting and retaining diverse talent. Visit nova-chamber.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

NARFE Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center Auditorium. NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association) will host a Candidate

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19

Your hometown home & auto team



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Kyle Knight, Agent

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Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND AND EXTEND ITS SAVE PLAN PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-604, AND FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A 2024 SAVE RIDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF ITS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CASE NO. PUR-2023-00119

On August 15, 2023, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CVA" or "Company"), filed an application ("Application"), pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan (SAVE) Act ("SAVE Act"), for (1) approval to amend and extend its SAVE Plan pursuant to the SAVE Act; and (2) for approval to implement a SAVE Rider for calendar year 2024, inclusive of the costs associated with the Company's Advanced Leak Detection and Repair Program ("Advanced LDAR Program").

The Company requests to extend its SAVE Plan for three years (calendar years 2024 through 2026) ("Phase 5 SAVE Plan"). CVA proposes that during this three-year extended term, the Company would be authorized to spend up to \$69 million in 2024, \$67 million in 2025, and \$73 million in 2026 for a total of \$209 million. The Company requests authorization to exceed this investment by 10% on an annual basis and 10% on a cumulative basis, for a Phase 5 SAVE Plan maximum spend of \$229.9 million. CVA further requests authorization to include costs associated with its Advanced LDAR Program in its Phase 5 SAVE Plan. The Company also requests approval to implement its 2024 SAVE Rider, which is based on a \$69 million projected SAVE eligible capital program for 2024, deferred 2022 and projected 2024 costs associated with the Company's Advanced LDAR Program, and the true-up of the recovery of the actual SAVE cost of service for the calendar year 2022, to be effective with the first billing unit of January 2024 through the last billing unit of December 2024.

CVA has proposed a 2022 True-Up Factor credit of \$535,548 and a 2024 Projected Factor of \$12,419,565, for a total proposed SAVE revenue requirement of \$11,884,017. As proposed, the 2024 SAVE Rider would increase residential customers' bills by \$1.77 per month, for a total proposed monthly SAVE Rider rate of \$2.73.

Further details are set forth in the Company's Application and supporting exhibits, and interested persons are encouraged to review these documents.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive Information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk's Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

An electronic copy of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Assistant General Counsel, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836, tbellis@nsource.com.

On or before October 11, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

On or before October 11, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. A copy thereof also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

On or before October 11, 2023, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such request for hearing shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, if available. A copy thereof also must be sent to counsel for the Company. Requests for hearing must include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The Company's Application and other documents filed in this case, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

NEWS

900 Apartments Coming to the Town of Herndon

When Quadrangle Development Corporation builds its two office towers in the Town of Herndon, they will be the tallest buildings ever constructed within the town's boundaries. As Silver Line Metro riders head toward Dulles International Airport, the towers will soar skyward. The 28-acre site is located off Herndon Parkway, 0.4 miles from the Metro Silver Line's Herndon Station, at the parkway's intersection with Fairbrook Drive.

Quadrangle Development Corporation is promoting Fairbrook Park's upcoming transit-oriented mixed-use community in the Town of Herndon. A new sign was recently posted at the intersection of Fairbrook Drive and Herndon Parkway, the community's entrance, announcing the arrival of 900 luxury apartments and retail. None of the apartments are designated affordable dwelling units or income-restricted for low-income renters.

On its website, Quadrangle describes the property as two high-rise office towers designed by DCS Design to achieve LEED Silver Certification, which will sit on a three-story concrete podium with 1,955 garage parking spaces. Office Tower 1 will have 360,000 rentable square feet and rise 19 stories to 275 feet. Office Tower 2 will be approximately 240,000 rentable square feet and rise 13 stories to about 170 feet.

The two eight-story residential buildings will have 410,000 and 470,000 square feet of space, respectively, with 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and 10,000 square feet of daycare space. An 80,088-square-foot office building is currently occupying the by-right property.

Provision and contributions On Nov. 17, 2020, the Herndon Town Council approved Resolution 20-G-54 to approve with condition Special Exception SE #17-03 pertaining to applicant Fairbrook Business Parks. Among the conditions is providing a 2000-square-foot space as an undeveloped shell for the proposed "nature center/public space" to the Town of Herndon, rent-free for the first ten years and two five-year leases afterward. The town and the applicant will mutually agree on the specific use of the space.

Other contributions to the town include \$900 per residential unit for off-site recreational facilities to offset the capacity impact on the town's current facilities; \$25,000 for each of the two buildings 3 and 4 (residential) for public safety and facility needs; and \$12,262 per expected student to



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION
Sign installed off Herndon Parkway



IMAGE SOURCE: QUADRANGLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Quadrangle reports that Office Tower 1 in the Town of Herndon will rise 19 stories to a height of 275 feet.

the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for transfer to the School Board for capital improvements to schools that serve the town.



GREAT FALLS GRANGE FOUNDATION

The candidate forum is on Sept. 27 at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

Great Falls Community Assoc. To Hold Election Forum

On Sept. 27, at 5:30 p.m., the Great Falls Community Association will hold an election forum at the Grange for members and the public. The six

Dranesville Supervisor, House, and Senate candidates will discuss Great Falls issues relevant to their offices.

Candidates for Dranesville Supervisor are Puneet Ahluwalia (R) and Jimmy Bierman (D). Incumbent supervisor John Foust is not running for reelection. State Senate District 38 candidates are Jennifer Boysko (D) and Matthew Lang (R). House of Delegates District #6 candidates are Kristin Hoffman (R) and Del. "Rip" Sullivan (D).

"This will be a great occasion to hear what the candidates have to say and how their positions may impact our

community," said Chris Rich, president of the Great Falls Community Association.

None of Great Falls' current local or state elected officials are running again. Del. Kathleen Murphy resigns on Dec. 31. Redistricting means that Virginia Senator Barbara Favola represents will no longer represent Great Falls. John Foust, elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in November 2007 and re-elected in 2011, 2015, and 2019, will retire.

Before the moderated sessions, where candidates will present position statements and answer questions, Rich says they will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to community members and speak one-on-one with them.

— MERCIA HOBSON

McLean District Design Guidelines Released

County staff presented Volume II: District Design Guidelines, McLean, to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for endorsement on Sept. 12. Volume II contains written and visual ideas for the design of streets, lighting, and the area fronting buildings and provides design direction to improve the McLean Commercial Revitalization District (CRD) look. It supplements Volume I: Urban Design Guidelines for Fairfax County Revitalization Districts and Areas.

Outreach efforts included an advisory group with twelve representatives from Mc-

Lean-area organizations, a public workshop, two online surveys, and an open house.

County staff said in the board agenda item that the guidelines are nonregulatory and not meant to "control or dictate" a particular architectural style or site design solution. Landowners and their consultants will use them in project designs. County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors will use them to evaluate such projects.

The Community Revitalization Section (CRS) of the Department of Planning and



VOLUME II
DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES
McLEAN
SEPTEMBER 2023

DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES, McLEAN
Volume II: District Design Guidelines, McLean

Development developed the guidelines. Many county departments participated in the process, including DOT, DPWES, LDS, Park Authority, Health Department, and Urban Forest Management.

Vienna-County Reciprocal Police Agreement Could Improve Public Safety

A Town of Vienna Police Department detective may again be assigned to the Fairfax County Police Department's Or-

SEE AGREEMENT, PAGE 23
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Exercising Democratic Rights to Reduce Cafeteria Waste

BY HALIA OCHIENG
GREAT FALLS STUDENT

A group of students from Great Falls Elementary and Cooper Middle Schools collected over a hundred signatures for a petition on reducing cafeteria waste. They then delivered the petition to Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer's offices on Sept. 1. The students were inspired to take action after observing many unnecessarily wasteful practices while having lunch. These practices included using disposable utensils and trays, wrapping main courses in plastic, and forcing younger students who buy lunch to take a milk carton, many of which were thrown away full. Some cafeterias also left milk refrigerators open for the duration of the lunch period, failed to label recycling bins, and threw away vegetable waste that could have been composted.

The fact that some schools adopt more sustainable practices shows that it's possible to change. For example, from talking with experts working on these issues, we learned that schools in Brooklyn participate in a composting program, which would be even easier for schools in Great Falls with gardens. We also learned that American University and George Washington University's cafeteria switched to reusable packaging, and other schools have switched to milk dispensers that allow students to only take the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Students from Great Falls Elementary and Cooper Middle Schools meet with Jake Green in Representative Gerry Connolly's office after presenting their petition. From left, Halia Ochieng, Emily Mosley, Izabel Richman, Peri Kim, Jake Green (Connolly staff), Maura Campione, Stella Scannell, Alexa Landi

amount of milk they plan to drink.

Given the number of students in Fairfax County, small changes could have large impacts. "If every student in the county threw away their plastic utensils daily, after one year, the waste would weigh as much as two Statues of Liberty," explained sixth grader Maura Campione, president of the Great

Falls Elementary chapter of the group.

At first, Congressional staff were very supportive of our initiative but suggested that we address these issues at the local and state levels. We feel the solution needs national, state, and local cooperation, and we pointed to national recycling laws in many Scandinavian countries that proved success-

ful. Congressional staff promised to look at these laws and we committed to engage our school board, county and state legislature as well. This may be challenging because, although we learn about Congress in school, our local and state government structures are less familiar. We welcome our local leaders to step up and join us in this campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

The 27 air-polluting diesel generators storing 148,500 gallons of flammable diesel fuel and toxic (especially to aquatic life) diesel exhaust fluid are regulated - any Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) with 660 gallons or more must be - but since 2018 the DEQ has reported 69 leaks/spills from regulated ASTs. The potential for contamination of the adjacent Cub Run stream (a tributary supplying the Occoquan Reservoir that provides drinking water for over 800,000 residents) makes the location a very poor choice. Moreover, the air polluting emissions are self-regulated at each facility, not collectively. This year, the DEQ tried to permit data center generators to exceed EPA air pollution standards, but that measure failed. Our area has over 4,000 data center diesel generators and counting.

The data center can't function unless Dominion Energy builds a new substation and installs miles of transmission lines, which we as rate payers will pay for not the data center. Data centers are the main contributing factor for Dominion's reliance on fossil fuels for at least 15 more years. But this detail is considered a separate issue by the county. Why be a part of the climate change solution when you

can be a part of the problem?

As Northern Virginia becomes the data center capital of the world, we're learning that the air and noise pollution threat to humans, wildlife and the environment is being ignored because of the promise of potential revenue they may provide to localities.

Data centers are needed but as Chairman McKay said "While we are open to data centers in Fairfax County, they only work if they're in the proper location". If approved, then nowhere is off limits.

Cynthia Shang

President of Save Pleasant Valley

CALENDAR

		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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Oct. 22

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Lake Braddock QB Christian Foster #13 looks down the field to receiver Robert Hollen #82



Kai Austin #3 tries to avoid the tackle of Connor Morin #5

Lake Braddock Holds off Westfield To Improve to 2-1

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/CONNECTION

BY WILL PALENSCAR
THE CONNECTION

In a low scoring football game in Burke, the Lake Braddock Bruins narrowly held on to beat the Westfield Bulldogs 9-7 on Friday, Sept. 8. After a scoreless first quarter Lake Braddock kicker Carson Gallant kicked a 24 yard field goal with no time remaining in the first half putting Lake Braddock up 3-0. In the second half Jakob Weiss would be the benefactor to a 32 yard

reception which would then setup his 20 yard touchdown reception. The extra point was unsuccessful and Lake Braddock led 9-0. In the 4th quarter Connor Morin scored on a 35 yard touchdown reception with 8:24 to play in the game. Lake Braddock was then able to hold off Westfield from a comeback in the closing minutes of the game.

With the win Lake Braddock improves to (2-1) and will face West Potomac (2-0) on 9/14. Westfield falls to (2-1) and has a bye week and will host Justice HS on 9/22.



Jacob Weiss caught this ball for a 20 yard touchdown reception

Connor Morin scores on this 35 yard touchdown reception



Kennedy Duda #21 runs past Lake Braddock defenders

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2023



Kristen Haynor, Neurodiversity Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools

FCPS

Superintendent Michelle Reid's Hidden Gems

FROM PAGE 5

<https://www.fcps.edu/blog/fairfax-county-public-schools-welcomes-first-nation-neurodiversity-specialist-amongst-trio>

What are the most significant issues specific to the FCPS?

Strategic Plan: We are excited to be implementing our FCPS Strategic plan, which will serve as our North Star in ensuring excellence, equity and opportunity for all students through 2030. This plan reflects many months of hard work and input from students, staff and families: we reviewed more than 100,000 feedback survey responses and hosted more than 65 plan-

ning team and community meetings.

Our plan includes five goals: Goal #1, a strong start for all students, Goal #2, ensuring all feel safe, supported, included and empowered, Goal #3 reflects our commitment to academic growth and excellence, Goal #4 relies on equitable access and opportunity and Goal #5 is leading for tomorrow's innovation. We will aim to meet our plan's objectives by doing things like increasing Pre-K programs to meet community need, strong support for community literacy, boosting student participation in extracurricular and leadership activities, supporting successful completion of at least Algebra I by eighth grade, expanding availability and enrollment in advanced coursework and bolstering financial literacy among our student population.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 15

Forum for the Mayor of Vienna and eight candidates for Vienna Town Council. Free. Members and guests welcome. Call 703-205-9041.

SEPT. 26 TO DEC. 5

English and Citizenship Classes. At St. Mark Catholic Church, Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Registration Dates: -Tuesday, September 19, and Thursday September 21 from 7pm to 8 pm. at St. Mark in Vienna. A placement exam will be given. Link to register online: <https://bit.ly/StMarkRegistration2023>. Classes: - Tuesdays and Thursdays, from : September 26- December 5. - English classes from 8 pm to 9:30 pm; - Citizenship, Writing, Conversation from 7 pm to 7:45 pm, same days. Where: - St. Mark Christian Formation Cen-

ter, 2nd floor. Cost: - English classes: \$25 (for 9 weeks of lessons). - Citizenship, Writing, Conversation : \$10 (for 9 weeks of lessons). - Book cost is extra where applicable. Cash and Credit/Debit accepted! Questions: - Visit the Web page: www.stmarkesl.org/; or - Email: stmarkesl@gmail.com; - Call: 703-980-9380 or 703-403-4170.

MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application

forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: www.mcleannewcomers.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/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

SEPT 16

Special Events
Fall Community Parking Lot Sale
Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Free admission

SEPT 16

Celebrating 33 Years!
Old Firehouse Block Party
Saturday, Sept. 16, 1-4 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.,
McLean, Va. 22101
Free admission

SEPT 17

Presented by The Alden
"The Pursuit of Happiness: Music for Social Wellbeing"
with Calvin Earl
Sunday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo,
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd,
McLean, Va., 22101
Free



SEPT 23

Fun for the Little Ones
Harvest Happenings
Saturday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Free Admission

SEPT 23

Presented by The Alden
Buckets N Boards
Saturday, Sept. 23, 5 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo,
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd,
McLean, Va., 22101
Free

SEPT 26 & 27

(the) Unruly Theatre Project
2023-2024 Company Open Auditions:
Sept. 26 & 27, 7-9 p.m.
Visit aldentheatre.org for more information.



The McLean Community Center
mcleancenter.org

@mcleanvcenter
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Home of The Alden Theatre
aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



Projects

FROM PAGE 4

VDOT collected traffic and accident data on seven signalized intersections in the study area and then examined both short-term solutions that would help immediately, plus mid-term solutions that would provide relief into 2030. The estimated cost range for these improvements is \$8 million to \$11 million.

“Right now, we have no funding [to build this project],” said Beacher. “Once we finish the study and choose alternatives, we’ll have cost studies done and then work with Fairfax County to identify funding opportunities.”

Compton Road Shared-Use Path

Fairfax County and VDOT plan to build the Compton Road Shared-Use Path in Centreville. This 10-foot-wide trail will benefit local residents, connect the Bull Run Special Events Center and the Cub Run Trail System, and will also become part of the I-66 Trail Network.

The goal is to improve mobility and travel choices for pedestrians and bicyclists. The work will include a bridge over Cub Run to safely facilitate the shared-use path over the stream. It’ll connect, as well, to the existing Bull Run Loop Trail, Sully Loop Trail and



This map shows how the Compton Road Path will connect to other trails.

West County Trail, as well as to future trails.

Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation are anticipated to begin in early 2024. Start of construction is currently planned to start in mid-2027 and is expected to take approximately 20 months. Financed with federal, state and local funds, the total project cost is estimated at \$9.3 million.

The Lodge at Autumn Willow

Construction is now underway for The Lodge at Autumn Willow in Chantilly to provide high-quality apartments for senior citizens at prices they can afford. There’ll be 150 independent-living units, with 15 ADA-compliant. Eleven percent of the residents will be seniors at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI); 14 percent, at or below 50 percent AMI; and 75

percent of them, at or below 60 percent AMI.

Tucked into a forest near the intersection of Stringfellow Road and Autumn Willow Drive, it’s a partnership of entities including the Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority (FCRHA), Michaels Development Co. and Virginia Housing. Groundbreaking was July 20, and construction is expected to take some eight months.

Michaels Development will manage the property, and the FCRHA will hold the lease for 99 years – guaranteeing the preservation of affordable housing at The Lodge at Autumn Willow for nearly the next century. FCRHA also awarded eight, project-based vouchers, helping ensure that the property will support households with a range of incomes.

Apartments will be one- and two-bedroom units, and the outdoor amenity spaces will include a serenity studio, firepit and recreation area. Onsite walkways on this wooded,



Artist’s rendition of the entrance to The Lodge at Autumn Willow.

20.5-acre site will connect residents to county trails and the Little Rocky Run stream bed. In addition, new, widened sidewalks will run along Autumn Willow near the entrance. The property will have 135 parking spaces and is located near two fire stations, a hospital and shopping areas.

A basement-level gathering spot is planned at the end of each residential wing, and an accessible ramp leading to the front entrance will be reached via a turn-around loop off Autumn Willow Drive. A canopy in front of the two-story, brick-and-siding building will provide a covered walkway for drop-offs and pickups in the arrival plaza.

The outdoor courtyard between the building’s two wings will contain a reading cove and recreation zone for both active and passive recreation and relaxation. And an existing trail running west to east will be maintained in place, enabling residents to walk to nearby stores.

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TWO POOR TEACHERS

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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAYS THRU OCT. 19

Weekly Farmers Markets. Thursdays 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. At The PARC at Tysons, 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Fairfax, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building community in Fairfax County, is excited to announce the launch of a weekly farmers market at The PARC at Tyson. The market is run by Potomac Farm Market, which has over 20 years of experience connecting communities to local farmers and artisanal food producers. Each week, residents can expect to find seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers, and other locally sourced specialties.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallship-providence.org/>

FUNDAY MONDAY

"Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the preschool set! Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts."

SCHEDULE

Sept. 18 -- My Gym
Sept. 25 -- Music w/Marsha (Of the Positrons)
Oct. 2 -- Irish Dance w/McGrath Morgan
Oct. 9 -- No Program
Oct. 16 -- Music together Sing and Groove
Oct. 23 -- My Gym
Oct. 30 -- Kids Nature Puppet Show "Creepy Creatures"
Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun
Nov. 13 -- No Program
Nov. 20 -- My Gym
Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic
Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove
Dec. 11 -- My Gym
Dec. 18 -- TBD

ONGOING

Fall Native Shrub and Tree Sale. At Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The Fall Native Shrub and Tree Sale has started. Visit <https://bit.ly/WNCPlantSale> to place your order. Orders are due by Friday, September 22 at 5 p.m. (as inventory lasts). Plants must be picked up on Saturday, September 30 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

Reston Museum. See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-restons-founding-2023-09-09-10-00>

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Spooky Fall Festivities. At Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park, South Run RECenter, Springfield. This ground-based experience will take guests on a hike through the park, navigating various creatures from your deepest, darkest nightmares. Participants will be immersed in the natural environment, never knowing what might be waiting around the next curve in the path. Is that just the wind through the branches? Definitely not! This guided, anxiety-filled adventure will take 20-30 minutes with a cost of \$14.95 per person. Go Ape is



Cox Farms Fall Festival runs Sept. 16 through Nov. 7, 2023 in Centreville.

also expanding the Frights at Height experience! Launched in 2022, this autumnal aerial activity is now available on select evenings in both September and October. Guests will find zombies, ghosts, and ghouls hiding in creepy corners under the Treetop Journey zipline and ropes course. Only \$39.95 per person for this 1-hour gravity defying, scream-filled adventure after dark...if you dare. Visit www.goape.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

Stars & Stripes Golf Charity Event. 6 p.m. At Reston National Golf Course. The event includes four holes of golf, food, drinks, and a door prize ticket. There will be a silent auction for a PXG driver. This event benefits veterans, first responders, and their families. Visit <https://center-for-veterans-in-transition.square.site/>. Herndon Town Councilmember Cesar del Aguila is a supporter.

SEPT. 15-17

Perchfest. At the Perch, at Capital One Center, 1805 Capital One Drive, McLean. Perchfest will feature mini-golf in the clouds, local music, craft beer from Starr Hill Biergarten, fitness classes, Shop Made in VA and community vendors, and so much more. New this year: the inaugural Perch Putt Open (charity golf tournament) will kick-off the weekend festivities on Sept. 15 with emcee, Tommy McFly. Visit the website: <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/capital-one-center-presents-perchfest-2>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

1st Annual Celebrate Virginia. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Enjoy Virginia Beer and Wine Tastings; Live Music; Artisan Market; Participate in Painting a Community Mural; VIP Tent Activities. Bring the family and have some fun outdoors celebrating the talent of Virginia as you enjoy live music and entertainment, shop local artisans' wares, indulge in Virginia Beer Tasting, VIP Wine Tasting, mural painting, giveaways, and more!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Virginia Native American Festival. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. The Native American Festival brings together tribal members from throughout the Commonwealth. Discover the history and long-standing tradition with the Rappahannock Native American Dancers and Drum group. Engage in hands-on demonstrations, including bow and arrow use. Hear captivating stories passed down through generations. Discover traditional crafts with Virginia Tribal Vendors, and savor culinary delights with on-site concessions. The cost is \$12 per person. For more information, visit the Riverbend Park website. Call 703-759-9018 or email FCPARiverbend@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SEPT. 16-NOV. 7

Cox Farms Fall Festival 2023. At Cox Farms, corner of Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival is filled with family-friendly entertainment and attractions including slides, swings, animals, hayrides and more. From the world-famous hayride to our corny Cornundrum and giant slides, our Fall Festival has something for the whole family. The Fall Festival is open Sept. 16-17, and then Thursday through Monday Sept. 23-Nov. 6, plus Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hours Sept. 16 - 17; Thursdays through Mondays Sept. 23 - Oct. 30: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Nov. 2 - 7: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last entry one hour before closing). Market is open daily through Nov. 7.
The Fields of Fear Hours: Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 22 - Nov. 4 (plus Sunday, Oct. 8) 7:30-11 p.m. (last entry 10 p.m.) Featuring more than 20 acres of fear and spooky attractions.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Find bargains and treasures at this outdoor community parking lot sale with 60-plus community resident vendors selling household items. The area's first, biggest and best sales of the fall season, it offers a wide variety of gently used household goods, electronics, furniture, clothes, appliances and other items. The Kids' Corner is a special area of the sale where children ages three to 15 can use their math and entrepreneurial skills while selling toys, clothes, games and other items.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Old Firehouse Block Party. 1-4 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Come out and celebrate the Old Firehouse's 33 years of serving the Greater McLean community! Listen and dance to your favorite hits, enjoy free, delicious food, rock climbing, art projects and other free activities. Learn about OFC's After School Program and the firehouse's rich history.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Celebrate Virginia. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The 1st Annual Celebrate Virginia at Tysons Corner Center announces a fun outdoor event celebrating the talent of Virginia for attendees to enjoy live music & entertainment, shop local artisans' wares, indulge in Virginia Beer Tasting, VIP Wine Tasting, mural painting, giveaways, and more! Celebrate Virginia is offered in partnership with Visit Fairfax and Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC). A VIP Wine & Wellness Tent will offer exclusive access to taste eight Virginia wineries.



Be sure to catch Music by Calvin Earl on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023 at the McLean Central Park Gazebo.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

Music by Calvin Earl. 3 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. This free concert performed by Earl, the honorary U.S. Spokesman for the African American Spiritual as a National Treasure, is appropriate for all ages. Call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit the website, aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

N Gauge Train Display. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors 65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225. Visit www.fairfax-station.org

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

Military Appreciation Monday Dinners. At 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Restaurant in Great Falls. The new season will kick off in support of the Semper Fi and America's Fund. Please call the Brogue at (703) 759-3309 to make a reservation.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Five Hills Garden Club Meeting. 11 a.m. At Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, N.E., Vienna. Life-Cycling with Monarchs and Honeybees: Gail Gile, former elementary school teacher, will speak at Five Hills Garden Club meeting. The community is invited to attend the program for an overview of monarch butterfly metamorphosis and migration patterns and the life stages of honeybees and honey production.

SEPT. 20-24

Big Fall Book Sale. At Reston Regional Library, Reston. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library will host their Big Fall Sale. This sale will feature more than 30,000 books in very gently used condition, from over 20 categories. All materials are donated. Proceeds go to fund library and literacy programming and materials in our community. Please note: There will be no children's books at this sale. Our next Children's and Educators book sale will be March 2024. Visit the website: www.RestonLibraryFriends.com, or email at restonfriendspr@gmail.com, or call 703-829-5467.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 20th
Public shopping in the Lobby from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

FROM PAGE 19

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 Brayton, 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. 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.

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@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 23

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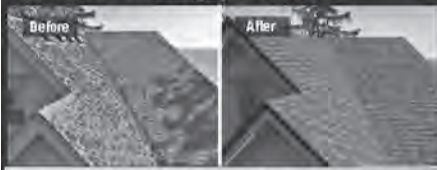
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Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) seeks a **PRODUCT ENGINEER** in Vienna, VA to create both installable software products (ArcGIS GeoEvent Server) as well as software-as-a-service (ArcGIS Velocity) to enable customers to ingest, analyze, and visualize real-time geospatial data that are both high-velocity (data that updates frequently) and high-volume (large amounts of data that updates). Can work remotely. Reqs. BS+1 yrs. exp. To apply, submit resume to Vinesh Patel, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373. If you have questions, you may contact Vinesh Patel at: vinesh_patel@esri.com, REQ#: 18672

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

Members Only Preview in the Main Sale Room from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 Thursday, Sept 21st - Saturday, Sept 23
 Open Sale all sections from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday, Sept 24
 Open Sale all sections from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

16th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. 7 a.m. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. In honor of Erin Peterson who was killed in the Virginia Tech tragedy. Tickets are \$200 individual; \$800 foursome. Call 703-830-3795; email info@erinpetersonfund.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Fall Garden Festival. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This free event celebrates a world of unique plants, captivating garden accessories, live music that sets the perfect ambiance and delectable food options to satisfy your cravings. It's not just any garden gathering -- it's a vibrant celebration of all things green and gorgeous. The Fall Garden Festival is your one-stop destination for gardening inspiration and unique finds. Gather your friends and family and join us for a day filled with nature's beauty and the joy of the gardening community. Call 703-324-8700.



TOWN OF VIENNA POLICE | VIENNA VA - FACEBOOK

Town of Vienna Police Department

Vienna-County Reciprocal Police Agreement

FROM PAGE 16

ganized Crime and Narcotics Division full-time. On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the two parties hope that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will approve the Town of Vienna and County of Fairfax reciprocal agreement. The cooperation between the two departments could be beneficial for combating illegal drug activities and vice crimes.

According to the released agreement on page 174 of the Board Revised Package, the Town of Vienna and the County of Fairfax concur that "illegal narcotics trafficking and vice crimes have a substantial and detrimental effect on the health and welfare of the communities and that a cooperative effort between the Town of Vienna Police Department and the County of Fairfax Police Department

would be advantageous in disrupting illicit drug activities."

This is not the first such agreement. The new agreement reinstates a previous one. County staff said in the board agenda item that staffing constraints in 2021 caused the Town of Vienna not to participate in activities with the FCPD. "This new agreement re-establishes the previous agreement between the Town of Vienna and the FCPD," county staff said.

Each detective's casework will determine how the departments share forfeited assets. The Organized Crime and Narcotics Division Commander decides. The minimum amount the Town of Vienna Police Department will receive will be 5 percent of all assets, with a maximum of no more than 70 percent, according to county documents.

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/ltombudsman/.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 22

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

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POTOMAC ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

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.

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.

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Debit This!



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't know if what I'm about to write comes under the heading of a rant, a pet peeve (drivers backing into parking spaces is my "numero" uno irrational preoccupation), or a logical and reasonable request/solution for an ever-increasing, almost mandatory facet of our respective lives: using a credit card reader when paying in-person with a credit/debit card. I have been in businesses where cash is not accepted (covid notwithstanding).

Apparently, cash is no longer king. More and more as we pay our way around our face-to-face transactions, cash is further down the line in the payment pecking order. Cash might as well be Green Stamps or the "red-headed stepchild," given how little respect and appreciation payees receive for the receipt of paper money rather than plastic.

As for accessing cash from an ATM; though they are not 100% identical, they seem familiar enough from one to the next. All I ask, other than for a cure for cancer (let's be realistic as to what really matters), is some uncharacteristic but much needed government intervention into the private sector to facilitate the shopping/buying experience in person and "uniformalize" the debit-card readers. I would imagine helping/encouraging consumers to consume in the easiest and most efficient manner would certainly be good for the GDP in addition to all our buying/paying experiences. It seems logical, prudent even, that installing some kind system-wide organization/design of the debit keys would benefit an aging population in specific, and society in general where everything everywhere requires a piece of plastic to finalize a purchase.

A few examples: computer keyboards, telephones, cash registers, radio dials, bingo cards, among so many other devices. All meant to simplify our lives.

And yet the similarities/dare I say adherence to some sort of governmental mandate has not stifled the private sector from being able to think about their businesses independently enough to thrive in a highly competitive Western World. Moreover, given that capitalism wants to incentivize its citizens to not only think about growing rich but to act as well on those instincts, it seems sensible to assist the process in any way possible - short of command and control, which enables said business to attract a profitable market share and additionally, rewards the customer for their patronage.

Wouldn't an enjoyable, relatively hassle-free consumer experience enhance a business's profile? If the last thing a consumer does - after they've selected their merchandise/product and taken it to the register to pay, is to have a quick and simple payment system/process to finalize their purchase/selection; wouldn't that encourage, almost instinctively, for the consumer to revisit the establishment that made their transaction so easy?

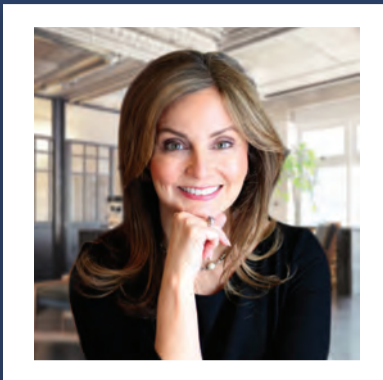
And given that part of a business's success is measured by repeat business/how sales compare to the previous year, retaining that clientele by providing a pleasant buying experience from start to finish, would seem a reasonable path to pursue/provide. Certainly, I know very little about business to what I know as compared to my years as an independent salesman - selling insurance and newspaper advertising, but I've been a consumer my whole life, and after bad experiences, you rarely return to where you had that bad experience. And since there are so many choices, both in person and online, it would behoove a business to be as attractive as it can be to prospective buyers. Not that consumers are always right, but as customers, they warrant respect and accommodation. Paying customers and especially repeat customers don't grow on trees. As the business, you must grow on them.

Why don't we all work together in a sort of private-public-type partnership?

One where, as Spock from Star Trek: the original has said many times; "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." Streamlining a system that is pretty much our daily consuming bread that would enable the masses ("Hoi Polloi," as The Three Stooges titled one of their many two-reel comedy shorts, referred to them/us) to have fewer hurdles to completing their consuming transactions would benefit everybody. And capitalism thrives when more are merrier.

If businesses/government ever want to make a deposit on the future, they should make an investment in the present. Help all us consumers to consume more and feel stupid less. Make debit machines exactly alike in look, feel and touch, please? Thank you from the bottom of my wallet.

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



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