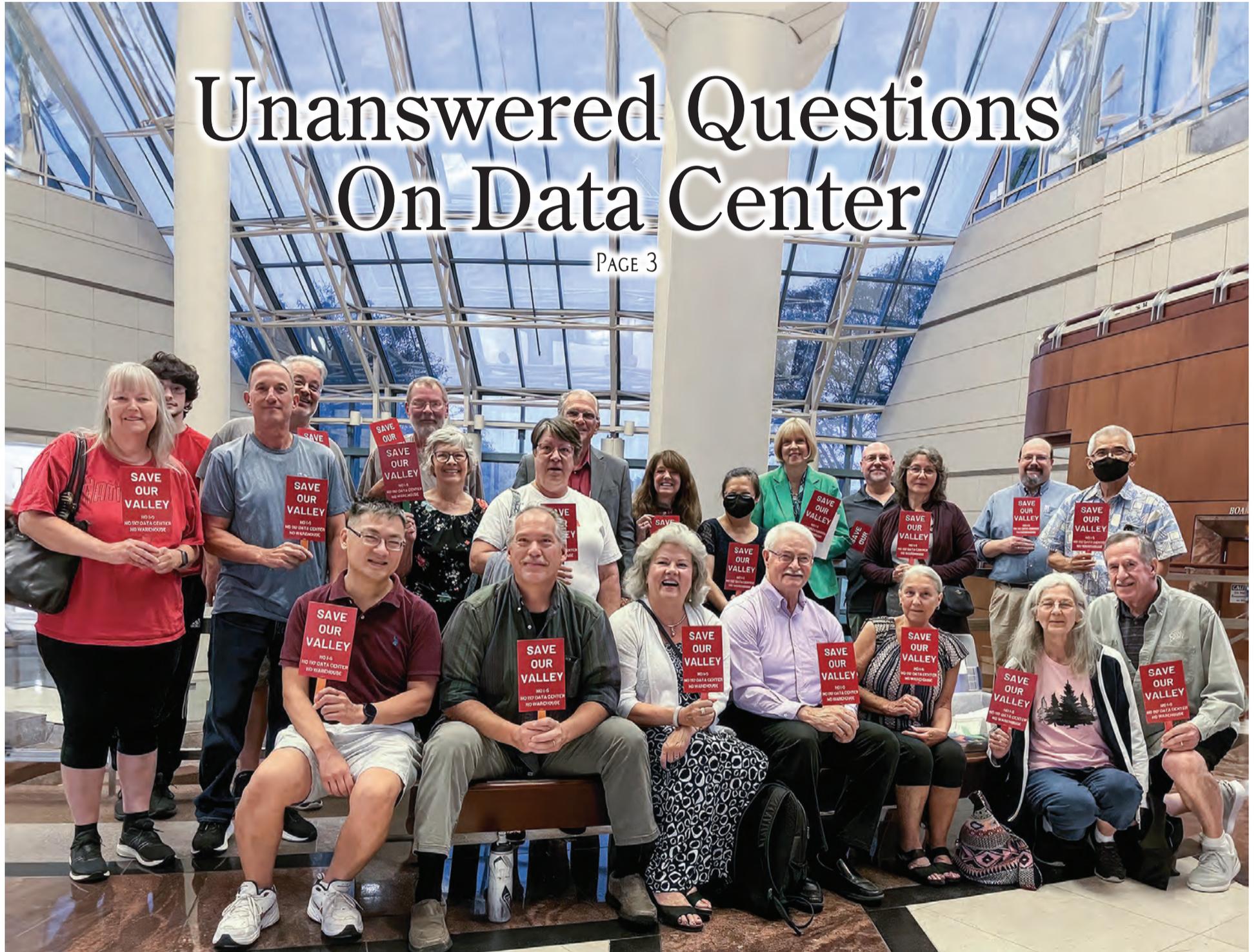


THE CONNECTION

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

Unanswered Questions On Data Center

PAGE 3



Who Is Running for Soil & Water Board?

PAGE 4

FPCPD Foot Pursuit Policy Comes After Police Shooting Incident

PAGE 8

Members of the Save Pleasant Valley group before the Planning Commission's public hearing on construction of a massive data center next to their neighborhood.

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FOR SALE!

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Planning Commission Approves Chantilly Data Center

Despite unanswered questions, clock was ticking.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Members of Chantilly's Pleasant Valley community did all they could last week to convince the Fairfax County Planning Commission that allowing construction of a huge data center near their homes would be a terrible idea. They researched every aspect of the potential problems this use could cause, spoke passionately, made fact-based arguments, presented charts and data, and even had an acoustics expert testify remotely.

The commissioners listened intently during the nearly five-hour public hearing last Wednesday, Sept. 20, seemed genuinely concerned and asked a multitude of questions. But in the end – even though the applicant didn't provide them with all the information they requested, and some huge questions still remain – they voted to approve it.

"The key issues for me are sightline and the constant noise," said Planning Commission Chairman Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner. "But it's not adjacent to the neighborhood, and if it's 40 decibels [at the community's edge] before it's operational, it's OK. But I'm not happy with the way this was handled by the applicant."

Penzance wants to build a 402,000-square-foot data center off Route 50, Stonecroft



Artist's rendition of the proposed data center in Chantilly. For scale, see white car on left in comparison to the building's height.

Boulevard and Auto Park Circle in Chantilly. It's adjacent to the Cub Run Stream Valley and just 4/10 of a mile from Pleasant Valley.

The land's zoned part commercial and part industrial, so Penzance needs it all rezoned industrial. It's also seeking a special exception so the data center could be as high as 110 feet, including 27 rooftop diesel generators.

It would arise on 12.1 acres of a 79-acre parcel, with the remaining 67 acres dedicated to the Park Authority and preserved as a Resource Protection Area (RPA). Some of the questions the applicant refused to answer include who the data center user would be, exactly where the electric substation needed to power it would go, and how much water and electricity it would consume.

Indeed, according to Business Insider, "Data centers consume quantities of power so vast they have begun to tax entire energy grids. Amazon operates or is in the process of planning and building 102 data centers in Northern Virginia alone. Together, [they] require more energy to keep running than the entire city of Seattle."

Many residents in Centreville and Chantilly alike are opposed because of the massive size, noise, truck traffic and air, water and soil pollution this center could bring. But land-use attorney Evan Pritchard, representing the applicant, persuaded the Commissioners otherwise.

"The noise level would be above and below 50 decibels, 50 percent of the time," said Pritchard. We're committing to pre- and post-construction noise tests. He also contended that, because of mitigation efforts, the noise would be equivalent to "the running of a quiet dishwasher." And because the generators will be screened, he added, "Noise will be no greater than 75 decibels at a distance of 25 feet. And generator testing will be limited to 9 a.m.-9 p.m., for no longer than two hours total at a time."

Pritchard said there'd be "adequate access" for trucks to enter via Route 50 and "We'll construct a right-turn, deceleration lane off eastbound 50 onto the property." He also said the 110-foot height includes all rooftop equipment.

SEE PLANNING COMMISSION, PAGE 10

Residents Speak Out Against Data Center

Say environment and people's health should matter more.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Speaking before the Fairfax County Planning Commission last week, opponents of the gigantic data center proposed for construction near Chantilly's Pleasant Valley community attacked the project from every angle. They spoke about the dangers it poses to the environment, its size and the noise and traffic it'll bring.

And it wasn't just the residents talking. There was a local land-use committee leader, an American University professor and a representative of the Sierra Club. A resolution was read, and 494 letters were delivered. Starting things off was Cynthia Shang, president of the community group, Save Pleasant Valley.

"Penzance wants to reap millions in profits from the data center boom," she said. "And this one is so large that it needs 27 generators, a new electric substation and miles of electrical transmission lines for it to even function. Pleasant Valley rises 60-319 feet above the applicant's property, so not only will the rooftop fans be heard, but the build-

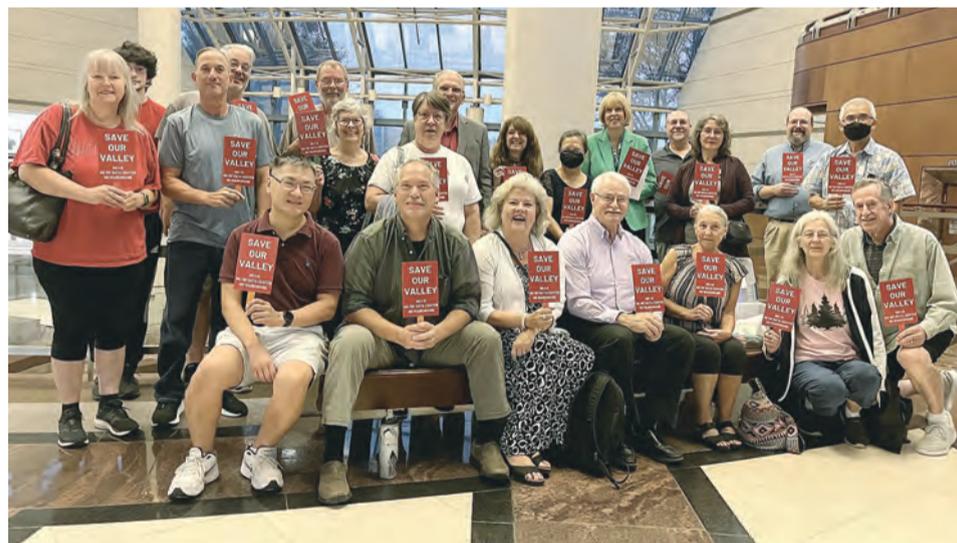


PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNTHIA SHANG

Part of the members of the Save Pleasant Valley group before the Planning Commission's public hearing.

ing will be visible from the ground, and even more so from second-story rooms, especially in the winter when trees are bare."

"The height is completely out of character with the nearby car dealerships, and this application opens the door for more data centers built in areas not meant for them," she continued. "Where does it stop?" Noting that in July Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) said the data center would yield nearly \$6 million/year in tax revenue for the coun-

ty because of its size, Shang said, "Smith is dismissing the negative aspects and, in essence, putting profits before people."

To access the site, she added, "Hundreds of noisy, air-polluting, diesel-carrying semi-trucks a day will have to travel a loop [in Lafayette Business Park] through doctors' offices, daycare centers and an on-street bike lane. They'll increase the chance of accidents and come within 220-300 yards of Pleasant Valley Homes. Deny this application."

Matt Maisal said Penzance "has refused to provide all the information" about the data center, and what it has offered is "incomplete, inaccurate and deceptive." And he, too, said, "The only thing that'll obstruct our view of it are the one or two trees in our yards."

Next, Kate Maisal said, "The data center is expected to store 135,000 gallons of flammable diesel fuel and 13,500 gallons of diesel exhaust fluid onsite. Diesel exhaust fluid is corrosive and can damage plant life and the environment and is toxic to aquatic life, with long-lasting effects. But accidents happen, some by natural disasters.

"According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, there have been 69 significant incidents from regulated, above-ground, fuel-storage tanks since 2018. So the threat to our environment and drinking water is real. Other data centers in the U.S. and the world are using alternatives to diesel fuel, so why aren't we insisting the applicant do the same – especially given the location adjacent to such an environmentally sensitive area?"

Nathan Brierly said Penzance's noise study failed to take into account the constant hum that'll emanate from this facility's air-conditioning units. "It's an annoying, disruptive and intrusive, low-tonal noise that

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 10

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ELECTION

PHOTOS COURTESY CAMPAIGNS

Race for Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Get to know the candidates, and the Board.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

2. What volunteer experience do you have in conservation?
3. What top two issues require the Board's priority?
4. Describe your campaign outreach efforts and funding?

In this year's General Election, Fairfax County voters are asked to elect three directors to sit on the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board. The candidates' campaigns mostly are self funded, without widespread use of campaign literature or advertising. Although on the ballot every four years, voters are often surprised to be faced with making a choice for this little understood seat. While the positions are considered non-partisan, and no party affiliations will appear on the ballot, political parties may, and have, endorsed candidates. The seats also are unusual in that they are elected but unsalaried. Seven contenders have put themselves forward to serve on the Board; three endorsed by the Democrat party, three by the Republican party, and one without party affiliation. Only one candidate is an incumbent.

WHAT IS THE FUNCTION of the Soil and Water Conservation Board (NVSWCD)? As with other county boards and commissions, this board is intended to promote two-way communication between citizens and county government. The Northern Virginia Board, one of 47 such boards across the commonwealth, takes direction from a state level board under the Department of Conservation & Recreation. It focuses attention on local land, water, and related natural resource conservation problems, and develops programs to address them. The Board serves as a source for general conservation and natural resource information, and approves soil and water conservation plans. Under their review purview are proposals submitted under the important Chesapeake Bay Act, and Tax Credit Programs; programs for which the Board has approval authority for resource management plans. The board also reviews proposals under The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The Board's elected directors are supported by two appointed directors, which they select, and a technical staff. The group is involved in assisting residents with drainage and erosion, conservation, stormwater management, and stream restoration, soil surveys, watershed cleanups, the rain barrel program, and early detection of non-native, invasive plant species. Our District is one of few urban territories within the state; most Soil and Water boards serve rural concerns.

As part of the Connection's continuing election coverage, we asked the seven candidates questions about their related experience, and why they felt suited to the position. Several have experience or education in conservation or engineering; others do not. We summarize the five responding candidate answers; two candidates, Edward W. Monroe Jr. and Mary Ellen Flynn, did not respond.

Questions for the Candidates

1. What do you feel best qualifies you for the position?

Dana H. Baraket (Falls Church)

Age - 32

Education: M.A., Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 2015; B.A. Government & International Relations, George Mason University, 2013

Current Position: Executive Director, National Arab Women's Association; Strategic consultant; Conservation volunteer experience: Fogwater harvesting, Agadir, Morocco, Georgetown University

Baraket says her long residency in the county, and her "extensive work in community building, organizing, and advocacy" qualify her to serve on the board. She also indicates her "passion is educating and assisting underrepresented communities."

Baraket's top priorities for the Board are education and outreach, which she sees as "vital to embracing environmental stewardship." She includes educating citizens on stormwater mitigation as one area of needed concentration. Another is to provide information on grants and programs offered. She says underrepresented communities tend to lack the information and tools to use the resources that could be available to them, though they are in dire need. Further, she sees education needs to go beyond residents; that "developers must be educated and provided the tools to make better choices."

Baraket dedicates her campaign time to "getting the word out to faith and underrepresented communities, and organizing leaders." She says she talks with them about the importance of "being good stewards of the environment," hoping residents will pay as much attention to soil and water as to every other elected position. Baraket is endorsed by the Democratic Party.



Rhonda J. Bitterli (Annandale)

Age - declined to provide

Education: M.S., Soil & Water Science, University of Arizona; B.A. English, Minor: Computer Science, Mathematics, University of Arizona.

Current Position: Retired, project manager, senior analyst

Conservation volunteer experience: Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, "Dig It! The Secret of Soils," 2008-2010; Bikes for the World, [diversion from waste stream for reuse], (2014); NVSWCD, annual seedling sale, 2023

Bitterli points to her work experience in "various environmental arenas, including how hazardous waste sites are evaluated, domestic and international agriculture, municipal solid waste, and geothermal energy" as her qualifications to serve on the board, along with her educational background in soil and





PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Limited Access Control Change

I-495 near Corporate Ridge

Fairfax County

Willingness for Public Comment

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to review information about a proposed change in limited access control on I-495 (Capital Beltway) near the terminus of Corporate Ridge.

The purpose of this requested change in the limited access line is to allow the construction of a pedestrian connection to the existing 14-foot shared-use trail that connects Magarity Road to the commercial core of Tysons. Under the existing condition, the designation as limited access right of way precludes the construction of the pedestrian connector. The proposed lateral shift in limited access is approximately 6.5 to 13.5 feet and occurs over 195 feet. This project will involve changes in limited access control.

Materials are available for review online at <https://www.virginiadot.org/CorporateRidge> or by contacting the VDOT Project Manager, Mr. Sid Siddiqui, P.E. at 703-259-3225 or TTY/TDD 711 to review the materials.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access change at a future meeting.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Sid Siddiqui, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **October 10, 2023**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

Soil & Water Conservation District Board

FROM PAGE 4

water science, and chemistry.

Bitterli's top priorities: "One priority issue is stormwater management, and erosion and sediment control ... especially as storms become more intense and flooding has become more frequent. A second priority is encouraging residents to take a more active role in addressing drainage and erosion problems on their residential property." She says this takes "enhancing outreach efforts so that residents know about all the NVSWCD resources available to them." She gives the example of the available website information on rain barrels, rain gardens, and use of native plant species, along with available technical guidance.

Bitterli's campaign is self funded and does not accept donations. Her outreach includes attending events where candidates are invited to speak, including an upcoming forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Oct. 11. She has a website and is on social media. She developed a single page flyer which she asks people to photograph or scan the included QR code for more information "in keeping with my desire to be environmentally responsible." She is endorsed by the Democratic Party. See rb-soilandwater.com

Christopher E. Koerner (Oakton) - Incumbent

Age - 69

Education: B.S. Civil Engineering, Hydrology, University of Connecticut (1980); B.A. Chemistry, Biology, Colby College (1976)

Current Position: Registered engineer; retired, environmental engineer; retired Diplomat, American Academy of Environmental Engineers

Conservation volunteer experience: Director/Treasurer, NVSWCD, 2019-2023; NVSWCD Associate Director/Secretary, 2017-2019; Sierra Club, since 1988, Executive Committee Chair, 2009-2012; Fairfax County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exemption Review Committee Chair, 2016-2020; Vice-President HOA, 1996-present [with county award for community lake restoration]; Fairfax Master Naturalist, 2017-present.

Koerner, a retired environmental engineer with over 40 years experience "as a technical expert developing and implementing strategies to clean up toxic waste sites; particularly difficult groundwater contami-



nation challenges" in the U.S., Europe, and South America. He includes in his experience, leading and participating in engineering teams on high-visibility projects at Fort Detrick, Md., and with anthrax contamination. He shares that his experience here and abroad "has strengthened my belief in environmental stewardship, and clarified the recognition that we all must do everything we can to preserve our beautiful, but fragile planet."

For Koerner, his top priorities are "obtaining visibility and adequate financing to support our talented staff." He cites areas in need of funding to include: stormwater damage with increasing impervious surfaces and more intense rainfall events; grants for homeowners, HOAs, and places of worship to adopt conservation practices; community gardens in underserved communities; and protecting our drinking water supply; among others. He considers it a priority to work on "continually improving community education and growing our diverse network of citizen, county, state, and federal environmental group partnerships."

Koerner indicates his campaign outreach effort "is networking with environmental groups, speaking at public meetings to educate citizens on what the Board is and does, and helping HOAs and individual property

owners solve environmental challenges." His campaign is self-funded, with minimal paper handouts and signs, "in order to reduce the environmental impact of the campaign." He is endorsed by the Democratic Party.

Debra O. Maddrell (Vienna)

Age - declined to provide

Education: M. Sc., National Security Strategy, National Defense University; B. A., History, French, Capital University

Current Position: Retired, U.S. Naval Officer

Conservation volunteer experience: None

Maddrell, a retired naval officer, points to experience in positions she held within the service in which she had responsibility for assuring naval vessels complied with federal and state regulations, to protect the St. John River and Mayport Harbor Basin, as qualifying experience. Also, that in Japan, her responsibility as installation head required compliance with Japanese land use and conservation regulations. She



SEE ELECTION, PAGE 11

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Oct 1, 2023

Fairfax City Hall

afsp.org/Fairfax

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OUT OF THE DARKNESS Community Walks

Another CONNECTION Community Partnership

Students Protest VDOE's 'Don't Be Trans' Policies

Flash point awaits as some schools balk at implementing policies.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Transgender rights advocate Ranger Balleisen, an alum of McLean High School class of 2023 and organizer of the student-led advocacy group Pride Liberation Project, is taking a stand against a simmering onslaught. Balleisen, who uses the pronouns he/him, and others oppose the Virginia Department of Education 2023 Model Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools (the "2023 Model Policies") finalized Tuesday, July 18, 2023. According to the document, it became effective the next day.

"As queer students in our Commonwealth, we strongly condemn the governor's policies as an attempt to force LGBTQIA+ students back into the closet and urge school districts to reject them," Pride Liberation said in a release the day after Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration finalized the policies.

According to Balleisen, Pride Liberation is launching a new campaign, Students4Trans, against Governor Youngkin's anti-trans guidelines. #Students4Trans will mobilize thousands of Virginia students against Governor Youngkin's Don't Be Trans policies at the state and local levels, Balleisen said.

Balleisen and approximately 45 protesters gathered outside the Virginia Department of Education headquarters in Richmond two days earlier on Friday. The protestors' messages of "Protect trans rights," "We should not have to fight to exist," and "Oppose Youngkin's Model Policies" can be seen on the signs they carried.

The finalized 2023 Model Policies reversed the 2021 trans-affirming guidelines of Youngkin's predecessor, Gov. Ralph Northam (D), and fulfilled a version of Youngkin's campaign promise of strengthening parents' rights.

Under the enacted 2023 policies, trans students are called by teachers and students by their name and pronoun at birth. That is unless the parents have agreed in writing otherwise. Schools must inform parents about their children's nicknames, pronouns, or social transitions that may occur at school. Parents control the counseling of students while at school. The guidelines prevent trans students from participating in sports teams or using restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identities.

Balleisen said that although he has graduated from a public high school and the 2023 Model Policies do not apply to him, other younger transgender students he knows are still in Virginia public schools, which does matter to him.

Around the same time last fall, on Sept. 27, tens of thousands of Virginia students, including those at Balleisen's alma mater, McLean High School, walked out to protest



FILE PHOTO 2021 BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

During his campaign for governor, "parents' rights" became a key slogan for Glenn Youngkin.

the governor's proposed anti-trans policies. The Pride Liberation Project, which organized the walkouts, said on Twitter, "We're walking out today to make it clear to @GovernorVA that students can't learn if we're worried about abuse, harassment, depression, and our rights. All we want is to be able to learn in an inclusive school that lets us thrive like every other student."

The finalized Model Policies present a Sample Policy in Appendix 1. It includes definitions for consideration "for use by local school boards as they develop and implement their policies in compliance with the Act." According to policies, "transgender student" means "a public school student whose parent has stated in writing that the student's gender differs from the student's sex, or an eligible student who states in writing that his or her gender differs from his or her sex."

"These policies provide families the opportunity to weigh in on their child's decisions and be a partner in their education," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lisa Coons in a statement announcing the release of the Model Policies on July 18. "We encourage all school divisions to review the policies and implement them into their local policies in collaboration with their school boards and community stakeholders."

Some School Districts Balk at Revised Policies

Attorney General Jason Miyares (R) responded to Youngkin's request in an opinion dated Aug. 23, 2023, confirming that the Virginia Department of Education's "Model



PHOTO BY KATHRYN ACKERMAN

Pride Liberation Project protests against the enacted and finalized 2023 Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students K-12 in Virginia's Public Schools.

Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools" complies with federal and state anti-discrimination laws.

"It is my opinion that the model policies comply with the Equal Protection Clause, Title IX, and the VHRA, and that pursuant to § 22.1-23.3, local school boards are required to adopt policies that are consistent with them," Miyares wrote.

However, questions remain about how much power the state has to enforce compliance, and if there is room for individual school boards to interpret the model policies and the legal issues.

Spotsylvania County Public Schools became the first division in Virginia to adopt the new guidelines on the treatment of transgender students in an Aug. 15 school board vote. On Aug. 17, Roanoke County Public Schools was close behind.

At least four school districts have rejected the policies: Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties. Richmond Public Schools superintendent recommended the school board retain current policies.

Gender Dysphoria, Protected Disability in Virginia

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that gender dysphoria is a protected disability in Virginia and three other states.

On Aug. 16, 2022, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

and Rehabilitation Act protect individuals with gender dysphoria from discrimination.

Plaintiff Kesha Williams, a transgender woman with gender dysphoria whose gender identity as female differs from the male gender she was assigned at birth, brought suit against the sheriff of Fairfax County, a prison deputy, and a nurse. She alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the United States Constitution, and state common law. The case challenged the placement of Williams in a men's prison and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office denial of care related to her gender dysphoria.

The court's decision cited the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, which states that gender dysphoria is distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth.

Gender dysphoria can present debilitating symptoms, including depression, substance abuse, self-mutilation, and self-harm.

The court used this understanding to rule that the Americans With Disabilities Act applies to gender dysphoria.

On June 30, 2023, the United States Supreme Court upheld the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals by declining to review the case. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., dissenting the denial to review, wrote as part of his argument, "The Fourth Circuit's decision makes an important provision of a federal law inoperative and, given the broad reach of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, will have far-reaching and important effects across much of civil society in that Circuit."



Second Story Backpacks from Women's Club of McLean

The Woman's Club of McLean has long supported Second Story, a non profit organization in Fairfax County providing counseling and residential housing for teens, young mothers, and their children who were living in unsafe residential situations. In 2022, Second Story served 213 young mothers, their children, and teenagers and 100% were moved to safe living situations.

To help Second Story, The Woman's Club of McLean decided to purchase and outfit backpacks for the school aged children involved in the program.

In the summer, the McLean Woman's Club raised \$1300 to purchase and outfit the backpacks. The Club sought advice

from a Fairfax County teacher as to supplies and provide special guidance for a first grader backpack. Various vendors such as Target, Staples and EBay were strategically shopped and spreadsheets were kept to track donations, supplies and expenditures. One Woman's Club member scheduled an afternoon tea to get volunteers to stuff the backpacks. An assembly line was created to stuff pencil boxes, glue sticks, pencils, notebooks, erasers and other items. Later that afternoon, 40 backpacks were delivered to Second Story. Now that it's September, The Woman's Club of McLean wishes all the new students in the Second Story Program a successful school year.

IAD Master Plan Public Open House Workshop

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Location: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott
45020 Aviation Drive
Dulles, VA 20166**

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is preparing a Master Plan for the Washington Dulles International Airport. The Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive study that describes short-, medium- and long-term improvements proposed for the airport. It is designed to establish a roadmap for incremental development to meet future aviation demand and other airport needs for the next 25 years.

The Master Planning process is designed as an inclusive process that encourages citizen participation. A public open house workshop will be held to provide information on the preliminary development alternatives for the Airport. Representatives from the Airports Authority and the Consultant team will be available to answer questions and receive comments on the ongoing Master Planning analyses and tasks completed to date.

For additional information, please scan the QR code or visit us at the website below:



<https://www.flydulles.com/about-airport/master-plan/dulles-international-airport-master-plan>
The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Master Plan team can also be contacted at: IADMaster.Plan@mwa.com

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Chief to Present Foot Pursuit Policy to Supervisors

Oct. 3 Public Safety Committee meeting will bring some long awaited responses from FCPD.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m., the Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee will meet at the Fairfax County Government Center. FCPD media report that Police Chief Kevin Davis will present the department's foot pursuit policy to the Board. He is also expected to respond to recommendations by the Police Reform Matrix Action Plan Working Group.

Kevin Davis began his tenure as chief of the Fairfax County Police Department on May 3, 2021. In the Final Report June 2021 of the University of Texas at San Antonio Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, An Investigation into the Use of Force by the Fairfax County Police Department, researchers Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph.D., and Rob Tillyer, Ph.D. recommended that "[FCPD should] consider adopting a foot pursuit policy to help reduce force and injuries to officers and suspects." This research project was supported through an agreement between the Fairfax County Office of the Independent Police Auditor and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

According to a different report, the April 2023 Fairfax County Police Department Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police-Shooting Incidents by the Performance Executive Review Board (PERF), which Davis requested, the department did not adopt a foot pursuit policy as the University of Texas at San Antonio Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice had recommended. In April 2023, Davis was one month shy of his second anniversary as chief.

PERF researchers said in the report that, at Davis's request, "PERF did not examine reports connected to the last [shooting] incident, which took place on Feb. 22, 2023, since that matter is under active review by the local prosecutor." That incident involved a nighttime foot pursuit by two Fairfax County police officers, one plain-clothed and one uniformed. They shot and killed a shoplifting suspect outside Tysons Corner Center.

A man was allegedly stealing sunglasses from a store, as reported to the police. The man, later identified as Timothy Johnson, 37, was unarmed and ran out of the store, across the parking lot, and into a wooded area. Having been alerted of the possible shoplifting incident, the officers followed in foot pursuit. Johnson, alive after having been shot once in the chest, was pronounced dead at the hospital.

PERF researchers reported in 2023 that the Fairfax police department only recently began requiring its members to write "foot pursuit" in incident reports if they engaged in such a pursuit. In the past, department members may have described a foot pursuit using less searchable terms, such as "ran after subject" or "chased person."

PERF reported that between July 19, 2021, and April 20, 2023, the Fairfax County Police Department had eight police shooting incidents, three of which were fatal; in the seven years before July 19, 2021, there were eight police shooting incidents. Per Chief Kevin Davis's request, PERF examined all data until April 2023. Since the local prosecutor was conducting an investigation into the Johnson incident, PERF did not review any reports related to it.



SCREENSHOT

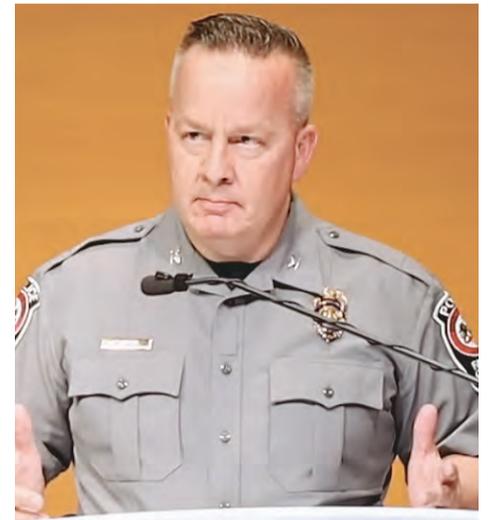
Supervisor Rodney Lusk

Civilian Oversight and Transparency

In his 2021 Annual Report, Davis said, "There is always room for improvement." The report adds that the department "routinely ensures our policies and directives are consistent with best policing strategies, practices and reflect community feedback and values."

Multiple civilian groups exist in Fairfax County related to policing, including the Community Advisory Committee | Police (fairfaxcounty.gov), Communities of Trust Committee | Police (fairfaxcounty.gov), police-department-cy-2023-eip.pdf (fairfaxcounty.gov), Police Civilian Review Panel | Police Civilian Review Panel (fairfaxcounty.gov) and the Police Reform Matrix Group.

FCPD Media responded on Sept. 21 when asked how frequently Chief Davis had met with the Community Advisory Group, Reform Matrix Group, and other relevant civilian police groups over the past two months: "Each month, our district commanders meet with their Community Advisory Committees. Chief Davis also meets with the Chief's



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis

Advisory Council bi-monthly too."

So far, the FCPD has made no public response to the Matrix Working Group's recommended action plan. Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office created the matrix in 2020 to make publicly accessible all police reform recommendations made by community members and groups.

The Matrix Working Group met earlier this year and considered the more than 300 recommendations in the matrix, organizing them into eight primary topics with recommendations for an action plan.

Two members of the matrix working group, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and Rev. Vernon Walton, presented the recommendations at the May Public Safety and Security meeting.

The upcoming Safety and Security Meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 3, featuring Davis, is public, as are all supervisor board meetings. The committee focuses on policies, projects, and programs that have the potential to affect the welfare and public safety of all county residents.

PARKTOBER EVENTS

Parktober Fest

Saturday, Oct. 7, noon to 5 p.m., at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

The whole family is invited to a celebration at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park that is becoming a community tradition. Join friends to shop local from artists and artisans, makers and bakers. Enjoy delicious food and drink from Ono Brewing Co. and DC Steakholders.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5049 Walney Road, Chantilly. Visit the Ellanor C. Lawrence Park website for more information or call 703-631-0013.

Farm Harvest Days and Carnival

Oct. 13 - 15, at Frying Pan Farm Park

Have fun on the farm and bring the whole family to Frying Pan Farm Park for the Farm Harvest Days and Carnival. Enjoy Big Truck Night on Oct. 13; watch the cider press in action, milk a cow, shell corn, peel apples

and play old-fashion games on Oct. 14-15; and enjoy food, games and rides at the carnival all weekend long! Admission is free; carnival ride tickets are available for purchase.

PURCHASE CARNIVAL RIDE TICKETS

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101 for more information.

Solar Eclipse Extravaganza

Saturday, Oct. 14, at multiple locations

Join our experts to view the partial annular solar eclipse. At noon, watch as the moon partially eclipses the sun as they both travel across the sky. A limited number of eclipse viewing glasses and sun spotting scopes will be available to view the eclipse. As we await the eclipse and after it has passed, enjoy various themed games, activities and demonstrations.

❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Burke Lake Park

❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Sully Historic Site

❖ Safely See the Partial Eclipse, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Historic Huntley

Visit the Astronomy website for more information.
REGISTER FOR ECLIPSE VIEWING PROGRAMS

Skate the Wake

Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Wakefield Skate Park

Enjoy a day filled with skating, music and all-around fun at Skate the Wake. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and enjoy food, music, vendors, and fun activities. Skateboarders are invited to bring their gear to learn new tricks from the professionals in the Learning Zone and compete in the Best Trick Contest.

Visit Skate the Wake webpage for more information.

Wakefield Skate Park is located at 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. For more information, visit the Wakefield Skate Park website.

Whatever your event "flavor," the Park Authority has you covered this season!

OPINION

A Place at the Table for Everyone Born

DELEGATE KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Political campaigns have slogans and themes designed to "sell" the candidate. Television commercials, bumper strips, brochures and flyers attempt with the fewest words and the catchiest jingles to stick in your mind at least until election day. The best message is one that attracts the most viewers and listeners in a way that they might find themselves humming or repeating throughout the day. The problem with this form of campaigning is that the message is probably an over-simplification of issues, may contain misinformation, and may have little to do with real issues. They work, however, and that is why political operatives continue to use them.

Some catchy phrases that led to success at the ballot box resulted in some terrible public policies. "End Parole" as a slogan helped candidate George Allen defeat the then Attorney General Mary Sue Terry who was ahead in the polls by suggesting that criminals were being let out of jail and were walking the street. The resulting policy led to Virginia building many more prisons than needed and an unfair criminal justice system. Governor Jim Gilmore's promise to "End the Car Tax" which was a local and not a state tax led to nearly a billion dollars being shifted from the state to local governments and starving the schools of nearly a billion dollars with a grossly unfair distribution of monies among jurisdictions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eliminating Animal Protection Police?

To the editor:

The current director of the Fairfax county animal shelter in concert with the deputy county executive, Tom Arnold, have been conspiring for the past year to eliminate the police department's Animal Protection Police unit. To date, there has been no information made available to the public as to who will replace APP and what services they will provide. The public has had no input nor have the APP officers. It is my understanding that the vision of the shelter director is to turn the community into the animal shelter.

My concern is how is that supposed to work? What services will the animal shelter provide to the residents under whatever model is being proposed? Are most of the changes related specifically to the role of the animal shelter? If so, why is the county moving to eliminate Animal Protection Police? Why has the shelter director and the deputy county executive circumvented protocol and not first involved the Board of Supervisors and the voting, tax paying residents? Isn't this exactly the kind of thing that angers most taxpayers? The lack of transparency with the government. Or is this just another way to eliminate police officers and replace them with untrained, unprepared civilians?"

And who will handle all of the wildlife calls that the Animal Protection Police respond to now?

Helen Allen
Reston, Virginia

I never had a jingle or a phrase to attract voters. Most that were suggested to me with words that rhyme with Plum did not, it seemed to me, to convey a positive message. Two songs were written about my service in the legislature. Leonard Greenberg wrote a song about my being a friend of the consumer. The Bobbie Pins, a sub-group of the Reston Chorale, did a song on my 25th anniversary of being in the House of Delegates.

A hymn sung a couple of weeks ago at the United Christian Parish of Reston that I attend came closest to being how I would like to be remembered. It would never fit the format of a political campaign, but it conveys a powerful message that reaches beyond any formal religion to moral and ethical living. "For Everyone born, a Place at the Table" written by Shirley Erena Murray (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=nvJwuVQDdUQ>). I am going to refer to it as a song for it has application beyond religious settings as a hymn.

The song speaks of inclusiveness that we so often speak about but do not achieve — for women and men, young and old, just and unjust, for everyone born. For everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a safe place, the right to belong, justice and joy.

The result will be that as individuals and leaders, we will be admired "when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace." Regardless of our religious beliefs, the God we know "will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy."

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Planning Commission Approves Chantilly Data Center

FROM PAGE 3

Residents are concerned about potential fuel leaks from the 27 onsite 500-gallon diesel-fuel storage tanks, plus the 5,000-gallon base tanks each generator would have – especially because any fuel entering Cub Run Stream (which flows into the Occoquan Reservoir) could pollute the drinking water for the entire county.

But, said Pritchard, “If there’s a spill, the land will be graded so it’ll flow away from the RPA or stormwater facilities and be contained in an oil/water separator and other equipment. And monitors will sense any leaks and alert the center’s operator. There’ll be overflow-protection valves, and we’ll do any necessary pre-treatment of water before it enters the wastewater.”

The generators will run during maintenance and emergencies, and when the data center needs more electricity from the grid. Noting that there previously was a five-day power outage, Commissioner John Ulfelder (Dranesville) asked, “What happens if the power goes off for five days? That’s a pretty long time for the generators to be running.”

“The tanks have enough fuel for 24 hours,” replied Civil engineer Jamie Cox. “If there was a power outage, we’d have to have fuel deliveries.”

Commissioner Daren Shumate (Mason) asked if the center could really meet 50 decibels at the Pleasant Valley property line. Pritchard said yes, adding that one study showed 42 decibels there. But when Shumate asked if that number also included noise from Route 50, the car dealerships and overhead planes, Penzance’s sound engineer, Sam Williams, said it was “just the building.” He also said the cooling units would have various silencers around them.

Regarding the height, Pritchard said they flew a drone overhead at 110 feet and concluded the center would only be visible from a “handful” of Pleasant Valley homes. “Did you announce the day and time of the drone flight for the community to see?” asked Commissioner Mary Cortina (Braddock).

Pritchard said they invited county staff, but not the residents, because of their objections to the center. “But nobody could see a speck of a drone,” replied Cortina. “A balloon would have been more visible.”

Niedzielski-Eichner expressed disap-

pointment that Penzance “didn’t include the community most affected” and wondered, “Can we have confidence in the drone visual as accurate?”

Cortina asked where the electric substation would be, but Pritchard said Dominion asked him not to tell. Saying a use of such density requires “adequate infrastructure in place – and we don’t know where it’ll be,” Cortina said, “Usually, Dominion has to provide this information.”

Furthermore, when Ulfelder asked what the air-quality impact would be from the 27 generators, Pritchard said they’d meet EPA and DEQ regulations, but didn’t know what types of generators they’d be. Ulfelder then wondered what the impact would be “to the homes less than half a mile away.”

Noting “natural gas has less potential for risk than diesel fuel and would seem to be better,” Niedzielski-Eichner asked why it’s not an option for the generators. Pritchard simply replied the prospective tenant told Penzance to expect diesel with catalytic converters.

And when Niedzielski-Eichner asked about a data center’s potential impact on water in the environment, a county water

representative said the county doesn’t have enough data on salt concentrations in water from data centers and is trying to get it.

Prior to the vote, Ulfelder said, “There are some open questions that trouble me. This is different and massive and is a change not necessarily intended for that area, so I’ll abstain.” Citing a lack of information, Cortina did likewise, as did Pete Murphy (Springfield). Vice Chairman Timothy Sargeant, who’d disclosed a professional connection to Dominion at the outset, had recused himself.

Ultimately, although the commissioners asked county staff if they could defer decision on this issue, they were told a deferral would go forward to the Board of Supervisors (who’ll hear it Oct. 24) as an approval. And since they were on day 98 of a 100-day time limit from the staff report’s publication, they went ahead and voted.

Saying he designs data centers, Shumate said strict environmental regulations would prevent this one from having an environmental impact. “It’s a tall building, but quite a way from the community,” he said. “And the applicant said the noise would be 40 decibels from the edge of the community, so I’m satisfied.”

Residents Speak Out Against Data Center

FROM PAGE 3

humans can’t filter out,” he explained. “It’s like a mosquito buzzing at your ear, 24/7, and there’s no escaping it.”

Citing studies on low-frequency noise, he said it causes agitation, cognitive alterations, sleep disorders, heart problems and high blood pressure. And, said Brierly, “People should have a right to a better quality of life.”

Wendy Meeusen said decades of research show that noise pollution affects animals and plants at 40 decibels, “and this center will far exceed that. Noise directly interferes with communication within a species, making mating calls or alerts to danger. Noise can also distract an animal from the presence of a predator or a food source.”

Dave Meeusen said the semi-trucks driving daily through the business park will be 70-80 feet long, 10 feet wide. “The lanes are 11 feet wide, with bike lanes and parking, and trucks will have trouble navigating the turns there,” he said. “Ten years from now, the data stored in this 110-foot building may well be stored in something as small as my car trunk – and we’ll be stuck with an obsolete monolith.”

Scott Gorvett handed the commissioners 494 letters of opposition from Pleasant Valley residents, “representing \$292 million in tax revenue to the county. Our home values will be lost because of the data center, and having the taxpayers bear the cost for the substation is wrong. We should be able to live in an environment free from a data center’s sound. We will see it, hear it and feel it every day, and it jeopardizes our quality of life.”

“The amount of energy needed to run a

data center is staggering,” said Aaron Gagnon. “And we don’t want pollution from the diesel generators or trucks. Please protect our health and the environment.”

Saying Pleasant Valley home values would plummet if the data center’s approved, Realtor Kathy O’Neal said, “No one wants to live where there’s a 110-foot data center and constant truck traffic near their house. People trust their county officials to look out for them, so please deny this application. We don’t want to be a tainted community.”

Next, Fran O’Neal asked, “Where’s the fairness, justice and humanity?”

He said data centers should be located “where they don’t diminish adjacent communities. As citizens, we’ll hold our planning commissioners and supervisors responsible for the results of their decisions.”

“Economic growth can’t be at the expense of the residents. Pleasant Valley homeowners paid their mortgage payments in hopes of someday doing better financially. This proposal drops a bomb on them. Don’t wrap Pleasant Valley in all these negative consequences and call it progress.”

Keith Elliott told the commissioners, “Deep in your hearts, think about it and ask yourselves, ‘Is this the right thing to do?’ And do you want to set a precedent of allowing data centers next to residential communities?”

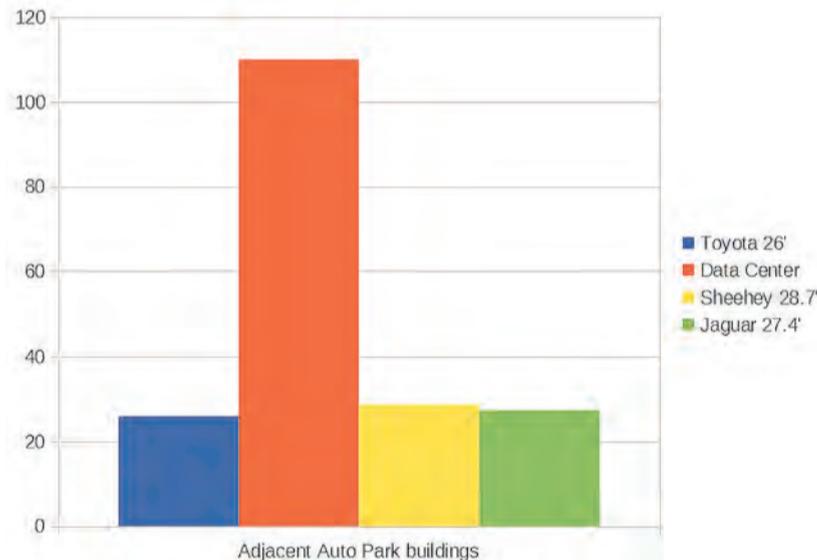


PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNTHIA SHANG

This chart shows the height difference between the data center and the nearby car dealerships.

The Sierra Club’s Ann Bennett said the application doesn’t incorporate adequate sustainability and clean energy measures. “One data center can equal the power consumption of 50,000 homes, and they increase our reliance on fossil fuels,” she said. “We’re running out of energy because of this industry.”

“Water usage is also a huge issue, and AI increases the need for it. So we’d like water-impact studies done before approvals. They should recycle and reclaim their used water, and residents’ drinking water should be a priority before data center water usage.”

Leslie Kent said the center’s generators and air handlers will heat and change the environment and fragile estuary. And Braxton Boren, an American University professor

who works in acoustics, said Penzance “has refused to provide low-frequency information.” He said this type of sound has long wavelengths, is not absorbed by air molecules like high-frequency sound, and travels long distances.

Boren also said trees don’t block these waves, so a data center’s 24/7 hum is “stressful and annoying, reduces cognitive ability during work or school, disrupts sleep and harms wildlife ecology.” And although Penzance says the sound will be 40 decibels at the community’s property line, Boren said low-frequency sound can’t be measured in decibels and doing so “underestimates its power. And this strong hum could ‘harm the quality of life of Pleasant Valley residents in many ways.’”

Representing the joint Sully District Council/West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. Land-Use Committee – which heard two presentations by Pritchard – Jeff Parnes presented the committee’s resolution against the center. It included a long list of objections echoing those of the speakers.

It also decried the costs local consumers will pay for the electric infrastructure upgrades necessary to support the center, plus all the environmental impacts resulting from the new electric substation and transmission lines that’ll serve it. The committee then recommended the application’s denial “in the strongest possible terms.”

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ELECTION

PHOTOS COURTESY CAMPAIGNS

Race for Soil & Water Conservation District Board

FROM PAGE 5

would rely on the “appointed members who bring the needed technical expertise to the table.” She sees her role as “representing the interests and concerns of the taxpayers and citizens.”

Top issues: Maddrell sees “mitigating the destructive impact of utility scale solar farms on forests and green spaces,” as her highest priority. She wants to work with State legislators to address solar farm impacts, by forcing utility compliance with State environmental quality regulations. She favors use of rooftop solar energy installations on commercial buildings, and would urge the Board of Supervisors to amend building codes to encourage them. Her second priority is to counter the effects of road runoff. She favors use of permeable cool road technologies, which she says would “improve stormwater management, reflect more solar energy, reducing ambient heat on urban roadways by 10 to 15 degrees.”

Maddrell describes her campaign as “self-funded. My primary outreach effort is at the community level and through social media.” She is endorsed by the Republican Party.

Mary E. Strayhorne
(Falls Church)

Age: 43
Education: Master of Law (L.L.M.), American University (2014); J. D., Law, Faulkner University (2011); B.A., American Studies, Queen’s University (2007); Associate of Science (A.S.), Multimedia & Web Design, Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale (2002).

Current career position: Consultant, management, contracting, public interest.

Conservation volunteer experience: None

Strayhorne says “There is more to conservation than just having

technical knowledge in the science behind conservation efforts — it is also important to effectively communicate the soil and water needs to stakeholders ... Without the money and support from stakeholders to implement the advice of the Board, sustainable maintenance is a plan without action or results.”

Stayhorne says her top priorities are to “Expand education outreach to inform the public on best practices, relating to over fertilizing and yard management, to effectively mitigate their impact on our environment that has led to a rampant increase in invasive species. And to help the board obtain additional funding from various sources, including from our new partners in commerce, to support conservation efforts ...” She points to current issues with invasive species and the need to “bring our community green spaces into a healthy, sustainable state of maintenance ...”

Strayhorne indicates the majority of her campaign time is spent “connecting with constituents and members of our community who have the expertise and understanding of what the issues facing soil and water are at present, and constituent concerns.” In coming weeks, she expects to participate in forums, attend local events, such as back-to-school nights and football games, and reach out to women’s voting and Latino community groups. She is working with other Republican candidates for Board of Supervisors and school board on conservation planning and education outreach. She is endorsed by the Republican Party. See strayhornefornova@aol.com

Editor’s Note: The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will host a virtual NVSWCD candidate forum on Oct. 11, 7 p.m.; to register go to <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>. Find other League candidate forums held Oct 2 to Oct 16 at the same site.



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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU NOV 10

Into the Hothouse Exhibit. At Gillespie Gallery of Art, GMU's Art and Design Building, 4515 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Mason Exhibitions presents Into the Hothouse, an immersive site-specific installation by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. The exhibit is a category-defying constellation of dozens of gathered, printed, and handmade works that explore botanical and environmental subject matter. Natural forms, technological interventions, and laborious craft techniques abound. The gallery is free and open to the public from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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://tallshipprovidence.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

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

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.



The Vienna CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 in Vienna.

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 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.

NOW THRU 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.

NOW THRU OCT. 29

Fall Fest 2023. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston. Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Fall Fest schedule spans weekends from September 23rd to October 29th, with the Colum-

bus Day special on October 9th, operating from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per child and \$5 per parent, while children aged two and under enter for free. The festival offers a variety of activities, including inflatables such as a corn maze, two 20' slides, two pumpkin bounce houses, and a basketball game. There's also a charming petting zoo, the Reston Farm Garden Market Express Train, and live music for entertainment. The market features seasonal items like chrysanthemums, pansies, fresh produce, natural jams, local organic honey, farm-fresh products, pumpkins, seasonal decor, and our famous Apple Cider Donuts. You can also savor offerings from local food trucks throughout the weekend. Book your tickets on our website: <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 15

"The Chosen." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Chosen by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok, directed by Alex Levy. Tickets: \$25-\$50 general admission, \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

George Mason's Gunston Hall Opens Historic Riverside Garden. 5:30-8 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. After many years of archeological investigation, scholarship and construction, Gunston Hall will be hosting a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of its 1-acre historic garden. Executive Director of Gunston Hall Scott M. Stroh III and Gunston Hall's First Regent Virginia Nicholson will be making brief remarks. The garden opening is the culmination of decades of work by Gunston Hall. The garden was designed based on the 18th-century garden conventions that emphasized geometry and communicated

George Mason's wealth and refinement to his peers. It also highlights the contradictions between George Mason's values and his dependence on enslaved labor.

SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 1

25th Annual Oktoberfest. At Fort Belvoir's Fremont Field (beside Wells Field House), 2104-6028 Goethals Road, Fort Belvoir. Oktoberfest is a four-day festival that highlights authentic German cuisine, beverages, music, and dancing. Enjoy an exciting carnival, Volksmarch 5K/10K Walk and much more. Hours: Thursday 6-10 p.m.; Friday 4-11 p.m.; Saturday 12-11 p.m.; and Sunday 12-8 p.m.

ARTSCREEN: A FREE FILM SERIES CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Join in a free film series on Friday evenings in the City of Fairfax at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Films begin at 7:30 p.m. Free popcorn, candy, refreshments and door prizes, too!
 September 29: The King's Speech. (2010) R - The story of King George VI, his unexpected ascension to the throne of the British Empire in 1936, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch overcome his stammer.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Arts by George! 5 p.m. At GMU Harris Theatre; 8 p.m. at Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The philanthropic event, headlined by Renée Elise Goldsberry, raises vital support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, game design, film, and arts management. At 8 p.m., guests will transition to the Center for the Arts for a live Fund-a-Student Auction, leading up to the performance by Goldsberry. In this concert, Goldsberry will perform a dazzling concert featuring Broadway hits and American songbook classics. Tickets are \$100, \$75, \$50.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Oak Hill Mansion Open House. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Oak Hill Mansion, 4716 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Travel back in time with a captivating visit to the historic Oak Hill mansion in Annandale. Step into history during an annual open house event at this private residence on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note that this year's event will exclusively feature indoor and garden tours, with no satellite parking, shuttles, speaking program or food provided. Guided indoor and garden tours will be offered at 15-minute intervals.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Children's Consignment Sale. Grace Weekday Preschool at 7434 Bath Street, Springfield is holding a children's consignment sale on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Cash only and all sales final.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

A Conversation with Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. At CenterStage, located at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston. \$40 Reston/\$60 Non-Reston. Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody share family stories, professional anecdotes and glimpses into their 40-plus years of (mostly) marital bliss. Details are available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Author David Baldacci. At Chantilly Regional Library. 9:30 a.m. V.I.P. meet and greet; 11 a.m. featured speaker. Hosted by Fairfax Library Foundation. 50 tickets available. Baldacci, the author of nearly 50 bestsellers—including his latest novels, The 6:20 Man, Long Shadows, and Simply Lies—will discuss his work and answer questions from the Festival audience. A book sale and signing will follow his presentation. Tickets for the morning V.I.P. event can be purchased online for \$75 each at www.fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org/events.

ENTERTAINMENT



The MPAartfest takes place Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 in McLean Central Park, McLean.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

RA's Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Association's Parking Lot, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Eighty families will be selling a variety of items, so this is a great opportunity to find bargains on children's clothes, toys, things for a new home or a college dorm, etc. Vendor spaces is sold out.

SEPT. 30 TO OCT. 1

21st Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Visitors will see thousands of handmade-in-the-USA, exquisite pieces of art from every medium. Presented by the nation's top art festival producer, Howard Alan Events (HAE), the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Visit www.ArtFestival.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

MPAartfest. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Central Park, McLean. Now in its 17th year, MPAartfest 2023 offers enjoyment for guests of all ages. This year's festival features the work of more than 35 visual artists, some of DC's most talented music performers, local food vendors, and a variety of children's activities to engage creative minds and captivate art-lovers of all ages. A one-day juried fine art show and sale, MPAartfest transforms McLean Central Park into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. MPAartfest will again offer a full day of lively

and varied musical performances. Sponsored by Mars and curated by Music Director Ken Avis, radio host of Antidote WERA 96.7 FM and a performing musician with the award-winning band Veronneau, this year's performers include: Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra (10am), Alison Crockett (11am), Bobby Thompson (12pm), Little Red and the Renegades (1pm), The Honey Larks (2pm), and Taisha Estrada (3pm). On the food front, MPAartfest will once again feature the much-loved Café Beret (sponsored by The Mather) where guests can enjoy wine and beer provided by The Wine Outlet. The event will also offer food from a variety of food trucks and eateries, including Rocklands BBQ, Pikoteo, Timber Pizza, Kona Ice, and MooThru.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

Vienna CROP Walk. 12:30 p.m. The Walk supports local and international hunger relief efforts. It is approximately 2.4 miles and takes about an hour. A shorter 1.2-mile walk is also available. Registration/check-in starts at 12:15 p.m., at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Avenue, Vienna. To register, donate, or for more information, go to Vienna CROP Hunger Walk. There is no fee to walk, but walkers are encouraged to donate or to find sponsors who will make donations to support their efforts. You can even form your own team. Three-quarters of the funds raised go to Church World Service (a hunger relief nonprofit), and for the Vienna walk, one-fourth will go to the Committee for Helping Others (CHO), which provides a food pantry and other emergency assistance to local residents.

SUNDAY/OCT. 1

EV Owners Show Their Electric Vehicles. 1-5 p.m. At GMU, 4400 University Drive Parking Lot L (Roanoke River Lane and Po river Lane, Fairfax). Electric vehicles (EVs) will take the stage during the 13th annual National Drive Electric Week. Attendees will have the opportunity to test drive various models of EVs, talk to EV owners, see cars, trucks and buses on display, and learn about the latest in EV technology and financial incentives. The event is co-sponsored by Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Sierra Club Potomac River Group, and Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

MONDAY/OCT. 2

Cultivating 21st Century Audiences. 4-6 p.m. At GMU's Center for the Arts, (Monson Grand Tier, located on the third floor), 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Presented by GMU's School of Theater and College of Visual and Performing Arts Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The panelists include Adrienne Bryant Godwin, director of programming for Mason Arts' Center for the Arts and Hylton Performing Arts Center; Maria Mañuela Goyanes, artistic director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; Naysan Mojtani, associate artistic director at Round House Theatre; and Serge Seiden, managing director of Mosaic Theater Company. The discussion will be moderated by Djola Branner, professor of theater and director of Mason's School of Theater, and is co-organized by Shá T. Norman, CVPA's director of diversity and inclusion.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Presented by The Alden

OCT
5
&
11

Foreign Language Film: Hispanic Heritage Month Selection
Two dates! Thursday, Oct. 5, 1 p.m.
& Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Free admission

Join the McLean Fun Run!

OCT
7

McLean 5k
Saturday, Oct. 7, 8 a.m.

McLean Square Shopping Center,
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
Register at mclean5k.com

Bring the Kids

OCT
9

Touch-A-Truck
Monday, Oct 9, 10 a.m.-Noon

Free Admission;
Must register for Sensory Friendly Experience,
9:30-10 a.m.



Presented by The Alden

OCT
13

New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players:
"The Pirates of Penzance"
Friday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

\$20/\$17 students and seniors
\$15 MCC district residents

For Pets and Pet Parents

OCT
15

McLean Pet Fest
Sunday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

McLean Central Park,
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden

OCT
19

Performing Arts Documentaries
Thursday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m.

Visit aldentheatre.org for more information.



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mcleancenter.org

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28	29	30	31		

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Tuckahoe Recreation Club Inc. trading as Tuckahoe Recreation Club, 1814 Great Falls St., McLean, Fairfax County, VA 22101-5414. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Phil Murray, General Manager. Date notice posted at establishment: 9/18/2023. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

MCC Governing Board Meeting + Public Hearing on FY2025 Budget. 6:30 p.m. MCC Governing Board invites residents of Dranesville Small District 1A, who pay a real estate surcharge to support the center, to the FY2025 Budget Public Hearing. The hearing will be held in person at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, at the center. This hearing gives residents an opportunity to review and comment on the center's budget proposal. District residents who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY:711, to have their names placed on a speakers list. Those who cannot attend the hearing can send written comments by mail (address to: McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101) or email to MCC Executive Director Elizabeth May-Salazar at feedback@mcleancenter.org. For more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit www.mcleancenter.org. For Old Firehouse activities, call 703-448-8336. For The Alden Box Office, call 571-296-8385.

EARLY TAX FILING PLANS

Early tax filing plans will be discussed with CPA George Kresslein. 10:00 a.m. @ 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Sponsored by NARFE 1159; open to public, refreshments. Can be accessed via ZOOM; contact doujones500@verizon.net by October 2.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

MCA Local Candidates Debate. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center Community Hall. The debate will be hybrid, in person and via Zoom. There will be two 45-minute debates in the following order: Dranesville Supervisor -- Puneet Ahluwalia and Jimmy Bierman; Dranesville School Board Rep. -- Robyn Lady and Paul Bartkowski. Visit www.mcleancitizens.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

FACETS' 35th Anniversary Benefit. 7-9 a.m. At Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping parents, their children, and individuals who suffer the effects of homelessness, poverty and hunger in Fairfax County, is hosting its 35th Anniversary Benefit Breakfast to share with the public, local businesses and elected officials FACETS' life-changing work to help residents who are struggling. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their courageous stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Attendees will be inspired as they renew their commitment to a Fairfax County where everyone has a place to call home. Register at www.FACETSCares.org.

EARLY VOTING BEGAN ON SEPT. 22

Early voting started on Friday, Sept. 22 for the Nov. 7 General Election, with three locations open on weekdays. An additional 13 early voting sites will open on Oct. 26, and every early voting site will be

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

The event is designed specifically to engage artists and enthusiasts of the performing arts industry, foster relationships within our arts community, and invite robust conversations to strategize and question efforts in place to build the next generation of arts supporters. The event is free and open to members of the public but registration is required.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

Panel Discussion on Book Banning. 10 a.m. At the Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Hosted by the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, the panelists will be Matt Callahan, senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, and Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association. The panelists will discuss the law and policy applicable to banning books in libraries, both public and in schools, and in bookstores, and whether certain books should be restricted to certain readers based on age or removed from library shelves entirely. For further information, contact David Drachsler at drachslerd@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

“Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown”. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. (Spain; Directed by Pedro Almodóvar); Shown in Spanish with English subtitles. In Almodóvar’s breakout dark comedy, a television actress encounters a variety of eccentric characters after embarking on a journey to discover why her lover abruptly left her.

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

Fall Free Concert in the Park. 6:45 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Local favorites The Magic Trio, three Rock ‘N’ Roll veterans from Northern Virginia, will play all your classic rock favorites! Also 2 Silos will be available for food and drink purchases. As always, the atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic dinner, blankets, lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

OCT. 5-9

Disney on Ice. At Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. This newest Disney On Ice spectacular features the most Disney characters in one show, including the on-ice debuts of Frozen 2 and Raya and the Last Dragon. Audiences will take a journey across the night sky with Mickey, Minnie, and all their friends from Encanto, The Princess and the Frog, Toy Story, Moana, Cars, Aladdin, and more. Tickets now available for purchase online at Ticketmaster.com or visit the venue Box Office.

Dates and Times:

Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 PM

Friday, October 6 at 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

open that day.

Early voting will be offered on three Saturdays, plus one Sunday. The last day to vote early is Saturday, Nov. 4. Due to a new state law, you must now include the last four digits of your social security number and birth year on the return envelope for your vote-by-mail ballot.

Local and state offices are on the ballot: Board of Supervisors (Chairman and all districts) School Board (At Large and all districts) Commonwealth’s Attorney

Sheriff Virginia House of Delegates and Senate (All districts)

Clerk of the Court

Towns of Clifton and Vienna (Mayor and Town Council)

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

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Vienna Oktoberfest takes place Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023 in Vienna.

Monday, October 9 at 1:00 PM

OCT. 6 TO OCT. 31

The Haunted Trail. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night starting at 6:30 p.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center celebrates its 10th annual Haunted Trail by bringing scares and laughs to the Halloween season. Haunt: Game Over immerses guests through a highly themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry for a frightening experience that brings them next to abandoned, historic buildings where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. The spirits will get loud with live music on Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween night, with a rotating schedule of band performances in the Rizer Pavilion, which also serves as the check-in area and ‘virtual line’ for Haunt entry. Food trucks, soft drinks, snacks, wine, beer, and themed-specialty drinks will be available for purchase on campus. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; Final groups will be dispatched by 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 9:30 p.m. on Sundays.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Vienna Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Historic Church Street, Vienna. More vendors, more food, great music and entertainment, plenty of free kids activities and locally-sourced beer and wine selections. The festival has historically drawn an average of 20,000-30,000 attendees and is sure to be a smash hit this year. Presented by the Vienna Business Association and the Town of Vienna.

Vienna’s 2023 Oktoberfest will feature:

- ❖ Live entertainment on three stages: Main Stage, Kid’s Stage, Acoustic Stage
 - ❖ Beer/Wine Garden featuring the Caboose Brewing Company, Hawk and Griffin, Norm’s Beer and Wine and Vienna Vintner
 - ❖ Beer and multinational food offerings located on Mill Street
 - ❖ Free kids activities, inflatables, games and entertainment on the Town Green
 - ❖ Business Expo Showcase
 - ❖ Vendor Marktplatz
 - ❖ Artisan Market
 - ❖ Loads and Loads of Fun!
- Visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org.

There is also a \$435 million public school bond on the ballot. If approved, the public schools’ plans include using this money to plan and design, renovate and build schools.

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.

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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.

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

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

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



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

He was once a close friend of mine: in 9th grade. Then, in high school we veered off in different directions, apparently (I can't remember exactly what happened). Besides, his home was on the other side of Newton Centre (where I grew up) in a section known as Waban so we rarely would bump into each other to facilitate any kind of relationship. Why I am writing about him now is that my long-standing best friend from high school Cary called me from his home in Needham, Ma. the other day to tell me that Stanley had died. As my closest friend, Cary was familiar with the occurrence/dynamic I'm about to share – and had been present at its occurrence, and thought I'd want to know about Stanley's passing, especially since Stanley and I lived 500 miles apart and hadn't spoken in 40+ years. As such, my likelihood of having seen or spoken to Stanley since was almost zero. In fact, Cary would have more than likely than I, since he still lived in the area, to have heard something about Stanley. (And since 1969 when we first met and instantly became best friends, and from 1972 on when I attended college in Maryland, he's been my eyes and ears up there. He has always been well connected and full of lots of local who, what and where's.)

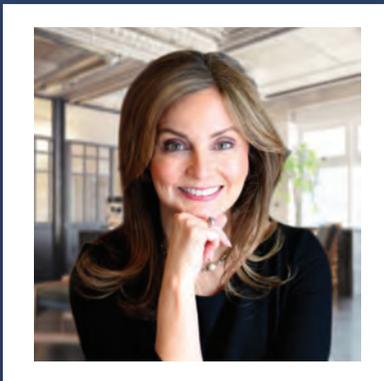
Stanley was a big part of my life in junior high school. I can't recall if we attended one another's Bar Mitzvahs, but 1967 was a long time ago. What I do remember, generally, are the many nights a group of us teenagers would spend playing pick-up basketball (keeping stats as well: rebounds, points, et cetera) at Stanley's house and then afterward sit in his room and listen to music. And it's the music he introduced me to, years ahead of its generally accepted time, as it so happened, that ultimately became the basis and foundation of my musical awareness and interest. In 1969-ish, Stanley introduced me – musically, to Frank Zappa, Steve Miller, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers featuring Eric Clapton and one other band, The Allman Brothers Band, who specifically, became the center of my musical universe forever more. (Previously my musical taste had included bands like The Beatles, The Turtles and The Association.) And who, by the way, were the performers at the first rock concert I ever attended. It was at “The Boston Tea Party” in Kenmore Square near Fenway Park in Boston, Ma.

And what precipitated this literary journey down memory lane was news of Stanley's death and a reminder of the last time I saw him. It occurred in the fall of 1982 at the Newton South High School's 10-year class reunion, the first such occasion since we all had graduated. It was held in Copley Square at some hotel I can't recall, and we were all assembled in an appropriate-type ball room for the gathering. I can sort of remember standing around talking to some friends when I first saw Stanley as he slowly walked in my direction. I smiled when I saw him, and as we soon got close enough to engage verbally, Stanley spoke up. He was rather aggressive - and unpleasant, accusing me of something or other I had said or done to him in the past (high school presumably). He was openly hostile over the incident, an incident for which I had no clue or recollection - or context even. Whatever little we talked after his initial salvo, my sense was the damage – whatever it was, was irreparable, and we didn't talk anymore that evening. I was and have remained totally perplexed about Stanley's anger. That's the extent of the last interaction I had with him. And over the ensuing years, during the ongoing bi-weekly phone calls – and occasional visits, I had with Cary, I don't really remember Stanley's name ever coming up too much, and now it's too late.

I was then and now bewildered, disappointed and a bit despondent over the perceived slight that I had, unbeknownst to me, inflicted upon Stanley. Who knew Stanley had such intense feelings that the first thing he says/does when he sees me after 10 years is to mention/refer to some hurt I had caused him. Moreover, being that he still lived in Newton, Ma. and I lived in Bethesda, Md., eight hours away by car, it's not as if I could have transgressed much in the subsequent 10 years. If I had committed some figurative crime against Stanley while I was living in Maryland, I didn't exactly have means or opportunity to “faux pas.” Still, Stanley was mad about something.

And now it's unlikely I'll ever know. I would however, like to reach out to someone who knew Stanley and hear how he lived his life, whether he had family, children, career, success, and so forth. It might lesson my guilt – about what I don't know.

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



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