

# THE CONNECTION

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

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 10 ♦ OPINION, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 20 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 22



While grazing may be their usual meal, they will raise their heads in anticipation of sweet grain treats

Day Prom  
For Inclusion

PAGE 8

Driver Sentenced  
To 4 Years in Deaths

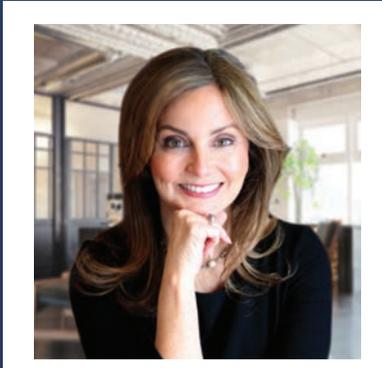
PAGE 3

Struggling with the Budget

PAGE 4

Here Comes  
The Lamb  
Mower

PAGE 16



# DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG



Work with the #1 Realtor

Joe Trippi, Justin Scango,  
Twee Ramos and Susan Canis

## Spring Market is Here!

### The Manors at Still Pond

Collection homes revised and reimagined for today's lifestyles with exciting new spaces and elevations exemplifies exceptional design and attention to detail. With 4 models to choose from: Evanton, Winthrop, Vincent & Wyndham.



Great Falls Prices Starting at: \$2,945,000



Great Falls \$2,250,000



Reston \$1,950,000



McLean \$2,799,000



Great Falls \$1,599,000



Vienna \$1,750,000



Great Falls \$2,099,000

What's  
Your  
Home  
Worth?



## CALL ME TODAY!

703-757-3222

Sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

**LONG & FOSTER**  
REAL ESTATE

**Forbes**  
GLOBAL PROPERTIES

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

2021-2023 Top Sales Team  
Northern Virginia Region  
West Virginia Region



**Cornerstones 50**  
stability • empowerment • hope



## Oakton Alum Facing Up to Four Years Prison

Convicted on two counts of involuntary manslaughter in crash in front of Oakton High.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

**O**n Wednesday, April 24, a Fairfax County jury found Usman Shahid guilty of two counts of involuntary manslaughter for striking and killing two teenage pedestrians on the sidewalk, Ada Gabriela Martinez Nolasco, 14, and Leeyan Hanjia Yan, 15, on June 7, 2022.

Shahid was 18 years old when the car he was driving crashed into the girls, and just days after he graduated from Oakton High School. Nearly two years later, on Friday, April 26, two days after his guilty conviction, jurors recommended that Shahid serve up to four years total for the two deaths. Shahid could have received up to 20 years, as the felony carries a maximum of 10 years in prison for each count.

Judge Randy I. Bellows, a circuit court judge for Fairfax County's 19th Judicial Circuit, ordered

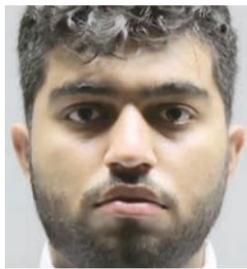
Shahid's immediate jailing on Wednesday after his conviction, despite his attorney's objections to the guilty verdict.

"This is one of the most tragic cases in Fairfax County's history," Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano said on Friday, April 26. "My heart breaks for the families, friends, and loved ones of these young girls.

While there is nothing that can make up for such an immense loss, I hope that this conviction can help our community finally begin to heal from this tragedy."

The crash occurred at approximately 11:45 a.m. on June 7, 2022 at the intersection of Blake Lane and Five Oaks Roads, south of Oakton High School, shortly after an early school dismissal.

According to a June 23, 2022,



SCREENSHOT

**Usman Shahid guilty of two counts of involuntary manslaughter for striking and killing two teenage pedestrians.**

press release from Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano, when he announced the indictment of Shahid on manslaughter charges, three pedestrians, Oakton High School friends, had just crossed the intersection and were on the sidewalk nearby at the time of the crash which killed Nolasco and Yan and badly

injured the third girl.

Prosecutors in Shahid's 2024 involuntary manslaughter case say Shahid did not have a driver's license and was on his learner's permit while driving the white BMW. He reportedly had three friends in the car with him.

In a news release, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano said that Shahid, heading south on Blake Lane at speeds well over

the 35 mph speed limit, collided with an SUV (a Toyota Four-Runner) that was trying to turn left onto Five Oaks Road.

"Shahid's vehicle then careened onto the sidewalk, striking and killing the two Oakton High School students and injuring a third as the girls walked home from school," Descano wrote.

Prosecutors demonstrated during the trial that Shahid's high speed and lack of evasive action were significant factors that led to both the initial crash and the pedestrian collision, resulting in the deaths of Yan and Nolasco.

A crash expert testified that Shahid's vehicle contained a data recorder, which indicates that Shahid continued to accelerate from 60 mph to 81 mph in the



SCREENSHOT FXCO

**Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano.**

five seconds he approached the intersection before the crash. The data recorder also indicated that Shahid did not attempt to apply the brakes.

Shahid's defense attorney, Peter Greenspun, said that the other SUV driver on Blake Lane was to blame for the crash and that driver received full immu-

nity in exchange for testimony in this case. Shahid saw that the traffic light had turned yellow, accelerated, and collided with the SUV, whose driver was turning left. The SUV driver testified that he had stopped on the road to let the girls cross when the BMW hit him.

A judge will finalize the sentence later this year. The judge has the power to lessen the sentence but cannot increase it.

## Seven Years Later, Still No Herndon Downtown Redevelopment

Comstock's 2-year construction pause expired on April 30.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

**O**n April 24, a town spokesperson told The Connection that Herndon Town Manager Bill Ashton would update the Town Council during its April 30 Work Session on how "the town and Comstock are working together to determine next steps."

In April 2022, Comstock paused beginning construction of the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project for up to 24 months under the amended agreement with the Town of Herndon. The end date of that pause was April 30, 2024.

On page 20 of Comstock's latest Investor Presentation, May 12, 2023, which is midway through Comstock's 2022, 2-year construction pause on the Herndon Downtown, Comstock indicated that the development pipeline for the Herndon Downtown, which includes 273 units and 293 square feet, is an "estimated completion 2025." But is that valid in May of 2024?

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at the Connection's press deadline, the



April 8, 2019  
©2019 Torti Gallas + Partners | 1300 Spring Street, 4th Floor | Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 | 301.586.4600  
TORTI GALLAS + PARTNERS

West Elevation - Center Street - Building B  
HERNDON DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT  
SCREENSHOT BY HERNDON-VA.GOV

**April 8, 2019, Architectural Drawing of Building B on Center Street, part of the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project awaiting build by Comstock.**

Town of Herndon sent out a release about how Comstock and the town are working "to restructure their contractual relationship in a manner that reflects the realities of project development in 2024."

"In particular, today's sky-rocketing inflation and its impact on interest rates are markedly different than when we first entered our agreement with Comstock," said

Herndon Town Manager Bill Ashton in the release. "Our aim is to arrive at a mutually beneficial process that realizes the town's vision for our downtown and makes good business sense for Comstock."

Both parties agree that an extension of the agreement to pause construction is necessary to finalize project details, the release states. "Accordingly, both parties have agreed to a

new expiration date of the agreement, to Aug. 15, 2024."

A look in the rearview mirror of the past seven years reflects that the two parties hit some snags after the promising Oct. 24, 2017, event when the Herndon Town Council adopted the resolution to consider a com-

SEE SEVEN YEARS LATER, PAGE 4



SCREENSHOT

The Town of Herndon transferred the 4.675 acres in the yellow area to Comstock. Comstock's fence currently encloses the area within the blue circle dotted rectangle, where the former Subaru dealership at 770 Elden, shown in the image, was razed in the late spring of 2020 to prepare the site for redevelopment, which was expected to begin soon.

## Seven Years Later, Still No Herndon Downtown Redevelopment

FROM PAGE 3

prehensive agreement between the Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture, LC.

Specifically, the town would contribute \$3.6 million to Comstock's rehabilitation efforts. It included \$500,000 for environmental cleanup, \$500,000 for temporary public parking, \$250,000 for the arts center's relocation, \$100,000 for culvert repairs, and up to \$100,000 for off-site easements. The town would also transfer the 4.675 acres of property it bought for \$5.8 million to Comstock.

Comstock would redevelop the mixed-use property, providing 339 public parking spaces in the garage, the shell of an arts center, an arts and recreation proffer, and \$505,000 in proffer funds for town activities. According to the town, the overall value was approximately \$12 million in 2017.

In the 2017 Comprehensive Agreement between the Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture, LC, Comstock agreed to construct a vibrant downtown redevelopment project with retail and rental housing as part of a public-private partnership valued at about \$85 million. The town hoped, among other things, that tax dollars estimated by the county officials at \$300,000 per year for taxes and fees, a parking garage, and an arts center would boost its economy. Early 2019 was the anticipated start of construction, with completion expected by early 2021.

But on July 7, 2018, Comstock's project hit its first snag. A group of town residents filed a Notice of Appeal with the town's Department of Community Development when they opposed and challenged the Herndon Heritage Preservation Review Board's June 18 decision to award developer Comstock

three certificates of appropriateness, which were required for most exterior changes to buildings and structures within the town's heritage district.

In September 2018, Comstock resubmitted site plans to redevelop downtown Herndon. Staff needed additional time to review the plans, which were then returned to the Heritage Preservation Review Board for approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Then, in March 2020, the pandemic hit, and on Nov. 17, 2020, the Herndon Town Council unanimously approved a resolution amending the Comprehensive Agreement with Comstock to advance the seemingly stalled project. Comstock had yet to construct a building or secure financing. The amendment required that Comstock have the project underway by Dec. 31, 2021.

A month later, Comstock Holding Companies, Inc. announced that Comstock Herndon Venture, LC ("Comstock") and the Town of Herndon had closed on the transfer of land in historic downtown Herndon (Dec. 15, 2020). "Comstock's planned redevelopment of the 4.7-acre parcel is the centerpiece of Herndon's revitalization plan for its historic downtown," Comstock wrote in News Details on December 16, 2020, saying that Comstock and its design team worked closely with town officials to develop a plan that is exciting while honoring Herndon's historic character. The plan earned the unanimous approval of the Herndon Historic District Review Board in 2019.

The amendment's date, requiring Comstock to have the project underway by Dec. 31, 2021, came and went until April 2022. Comstock used its legal right in the comprehensive agreement amendment to pause construction for 24 months, citing market

SEE SEVEN YEARS LATER, PAGE 22  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



EYEING A BRIGHTER RETIREMENT LIFESTYLE?  
**FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS.**

**INDEPENDENCE CHOICE POSSIBILITIES**

**JOIN US SATURDAY, MAY 11!**

**Free Shred It & Forget It Event | 9 am – 12 pm**

*Safely dispose of private, outdated documents.*

10200 Colvin Run Road | Great Falls  
703.912.0096 | BrightviewGreatFalls.com

Assisted Living | Dementia Care

## State Farm Insurance G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS

**State Farm™**  
AUTO • HOME • LIFE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit [www.gstephendulaney.com](http://www.gstephendulaney.com)



**703-759-4155**

**731-C WALKER RD. · GREAT FALLS, VA**

State Farm Insurance Companies  
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

# CLUB STUDIO®

**OPENING SOON!**

STATE-OF-THE-ART GYM / 5 BOUTIQUE FITNESS STUDIOS  
CRYOTHERAPY & RECOVERY LAB / KALOLOGIE® MEDSPA / HWPO TRAINING



Club Studio is a new cutting-edge fitness experience that brings top-of-the-line amenities, best in boutique studio classes, and wellness services together in one gym.

**JOIN THE VIP LIST >**  
*and get the best rates before opening!*  
[www.clubstudiofitness.com](http://www.clubstudiofitness.com)



**Opening Soon!**  
**CLUB STUDIO TYSONS CORNER**  
8387 Leesburg Pike, Suite C  
(703) 349-7656



Certain amenities and services may be available for an additional fee. Images depict a typical Club Studio fitness club; locations may vary. ©2024 Fitness International, LLC. All rights reserved.

# No Hold Comments by Chairman and Supervisors

## Budget, lack of state funding; Animal Protection Police or Animal Control Officers?

SCREENSHOTS FXCO

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Tuesday morning, April 30, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted nine to one to approve the FY 2025 markup package, with Supervisor Pat Herry, Springfield District, voting no.

**Jeffrey C. McKay, board chairman**, said revenue options are limited as the board operates under “the state’s outdated tax system.”

“Changes to the real estate tax rates are the only significant lever that the county has to generate the resources necessary to meet our needs,” McKay said.

The advertised budget plan included a proposed four-cent increase in the real estate tax rate. The markup package reduced the increase by one cent, “which will result in a real estate tax rate of \$1.12 and a half per \$100 of assessed value. ... In total, our agencies identified over \$34 million in reductions, more than one penny on the real estate tax rate, which was utilized to free up resources for other purposes,” McKay added. The increase in average real estate tax bill will be approximately \$450, down from the \$524 that it would have been, McKay said.

Tax reform at the state level is essential, McKay said. The state must also recognize its role in directly supporting public schools and Metro infrastructure to draw people to Fairfax, bringing development, jobs, and further economic growth, which benefit the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

“So far, the state has failed to coalesce around providing additional transportation funding. Relying upon existing state aid balances, which have all been allocated and are rapidly depleting, is not the answer.” The final state budget package is not expected to be approved until mid-May, said McKay.

This marked-up budget maintains the originally proposed school operating transfer increase at \$165 million, which fell short of FCPS’s requested increase of over \$250 million. “Approving this unprecedented request would have placed too heavy a burden on our taxpayers,” McKay said.

The contracts negotiated with the county’s two public safety unions will begin with this year’s budget. McKay called it “a big event.”

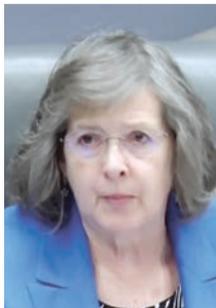
**Supervisor Pat Herry** said he was not going to support the markup package and drew attention to the plan to consolidate the duties of Fairfax County’s Department of Animal Sheltering and Animal Protection Police. Herry said it was “a completely botched process from the beginning.” He described a lack of transparency and input from a large number of stakeholders.

“We still haven’t addressed what’s going to happen with Wildlife Services; we’ll figure it out later. But that is not good enough when you’re looking at a major restructuring like this,” said Herry.

Herry made a motion to remove the consolidation of animal control services from



**Jeffrey C. McKay,**  
board chairman



**Kathy L. Smith,**  
vice-chairman,  
Sully District



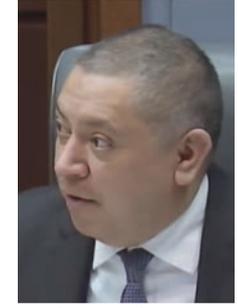
**James R. Walkinshaw,**  
Braddock District



**James N. Bierman, Jr.,**  
Dranesville District



**Walter L. Alcorn,**  
Hunter Mill District



**Andres F. Jimenez,**  
Mason District

the 2025 budget, but there was no second on the motion, and the amendment did not move forward.

**Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District**, said this was clearly one of the toughest budgets the board has had in many years and the first for this board. “But I’m really more worried about the next few years and how the board is going to continue to look at how they address needs, especially as they go into collective bargaining for all full employees,” she said. For Palchik, the only “glimmer of hope in the budget” was the guidance section for next year. It discussed how to ensure that the county diversifies its tax base and continues to invest in housing and the county’s employees.

**Supervisor James N. Bierman Jr., Dranesville**, shared that he, too, held similar concerns as Palchik, but focused on why he supported the proposal regarding animal police protection officers, turning to animal control officers instead. He admitted to struggling with the decision, meeting numerous stakeholders and hearing many voices, but, ultimately, realized what they would be voting on was a single question.

“Can the general day-to-day services and work currently performed by sworn police officers be instead performed by civilians without a negative effect on animal services?” Bierman believes it is better to decouple policing from community service whenever possible. That is because police officers are so often burdened with acting both as law enforcement and social service providers “to the detriment of both.”

The majority of calls were requests for assistance for sick, injured, orphaned, or stray animals or involved minor code violations, Bierman said. According to statistics provided by the FCPD, there were 18,000 calls for animal service last year, with 223 citations issued, “which pales in comparison to the total number of calls.” Furthermore, there has been a recent shift in policing toward non-police personnel responding to calls for service when there are no threats of violence and requesting support as needed.

Bierman noted that animal control officers will have the means to euthanize animals in the field, including chemical euthanasia and, when necessary, firearm use. He added that those currently employed could join the county police department or stay on



**Daniel G. Storck,**  
Mount Vernon District



**Dalia A. Palchik,**  
Providence District



**Pat Herry,**  
Springfield District



**Rodney L. Lusk,**  
Franconia District

as animal control officers without loss of pay or benefits.

**Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District**, said, “The tax rate increase in the proposed budget was more than I could stomach, and I think for a lot of my constituents, they felt they felt the same.” Still, he does not feel great about this budget, and like Palchik, he is worried about the challenges ahead.

“We’re moving into an era where we’re going to have to find out, figure out, how to do more with less because that commercial office market is not going to recover in a year or in two years.” He, too, expressed concern about funding union contracts. Moving forward would allow the board to plan their budget and allow those employees to plan their budgets, giving them some certainty about the increases they will see in their salaries.

Walkinshaw said that the Board of Supervisors and local taxpayers fully fund the local share of education. He said, “The Commonwealth of Virginia does not.”

The governor and the General Assembly, Walkinshaw, said “have a long way to go to filling the \$3.5 billion gap that exists in state funding for K–12 education.”

“All of us, Virginians, should be ashamed of that fact.”

**Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District**, said, “I think we can see that the real elephant in the room is around the generation of revenue.” He warned of sustained problems over time, particularly in the commercial tax base. He mentioned that 1976, the board was in a similar position, with declining revenues and a non-growing commercial tax base. They assembled a panel of business leaders who recommended expanding

the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority’s service offerings. More marketing was required nationally to attract more business as a way for the county to address shoring up the commercial tax. Companies came in. Second, in 1998, Fairfax County hosted the World Congress on Information Technology, drawing thousands of people worldwide.

“The Board of Supervisors then made a commitment to have additional hiring, expansion of our international program, and then also to look at ways to support attraction,” said Lusk.

According to **Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District**, the board needs a better process for consolidating and reforming county government. “Let’s set up a process so that we can do this in a way with better communication,” he said after the experience with Animal Protection Police Officers.

**Mason District’s Andres F. Jimenez** joked that this year’s budget was a “trial by fire” for him and Supervisor Bierman. Jimenez drew attention to the needs of the Sheriff’s Office, Emergency Medical Services, Fire, Police, and even Park Management. He was very concerned about park maintenance on weekends. “One of the craziest things to me since I’ve been here in the last couple of months is learning that there is no park cleanup on the weekend,” Jimenez said.

“I think we all need to look at that, as well as the structure overall of the Parking Authority when it comes to our board.”

**Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District**, said that the board has put money where it matters — in the things that make



THANK YOU FOR VISITING  
 1728 KIRBY ROAD  
 MCLEAN, VA 22101

CHECK# 22101

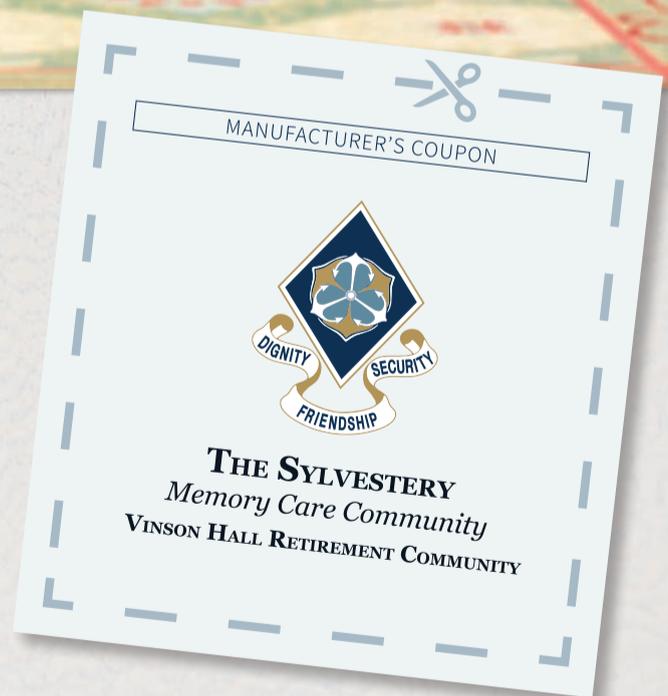
LET'S MAKE  
**A HOME,  
 TOGETHER**

THANK YOU! 

**MAKE EACH DAY COUNT WITH MEMORY SUPPORT**

Life is about making every day meaningful. At Vinson Hall Retirement Community, our Memory Support neighborhood, The Sylvestery, delivers compassionate care and day-to-day services for older adults with Alzheimer's or dementia. Our cheery, light-filled suites, hallways and gathering spaces make residents feel at home. Offering compassionate support from our licensed team 24/7, including stimulating social activities and soothing sensory therapies, The Sylvestery is a secure, joyful neighborhood that delivers peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

Whether returning from a group outing to a local theatre or a trip to the grocery store, residents love coming home to The Sylvestery, where they know their needs are taken care of. Discover the personalized care at Vinson Hall Retirement Community. Contact us today to learn more about Memory Support and our continuum of care.



CALL **703-935-5209** OR VISIT **VINSONHALL.ORG** TODAY TO PLAN YOUR MOVE

# DAY PROM

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Centreville junior Dulce Barrera-Zepeda (center, in maroon) happily greets a friend on the dance floor.



The students at left get an impromptu dance lesson while, (at far right), Chantilly senior Cordis Colburn chats with a girl.

## Music, Dancing, Pizza, Cake, and Fun with Friends

### Special-ed students enjoy Day Prom in Fair Oaks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It's that time of year when high-school girls put on pretty, new dresses and shoes, while their dates in spiffy sport coats and ties pick them up to go to their prom. Most special-education students, though, don't get that chance.

But that's not the case for those attending Fairfax County Public Schools, which offers a special Day Prom just for them. And although the pandemic prevented it from taking place since 2019, it finally returned last Wednesday, April 24, much to the delight of these students, their parents and their teachers.

It was held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Crystal View Wedding & Events Banquet Hall in Fair Oaks, and approximately 100 juniors and seniors with intellectual disabilities attended. They came from eight different high schools – Centreville, Chantilly, Edison, Hayfield, Justice, Lewis, Oakton and South Lakes.

"It's amazing – we're so happy," said Elisabeth Frostick, the lead intellectual disabilities and autism teacher at Chantilly. "The students get to experience something that everyone else does, and it's in a safe environment."

Chantilly brought 11 students – six girls and five boys – and they were treated like royalty to let them know how valued they are as people. Cosmetology students at the school's Chantilly Academy did the girls' hair and makeup before they left for the prom.

Then, said Frostick, "The parents set up a red carpet for the students to walk on from school to the bus taking them here. The students were thrilled, and everyone was excited at how beautiful they looked." They also got to enjoy a photo booth, both at Chantilly and at the dance.

Crystal View graciously offered its venue for free, and a dozen members of its staff volunteered their own time to help with the event. FCPS paid for the lunch of pizza,



From left, Chantilly High special-ed teacher Elisabeth Frostick poses with junior Caroline L'Heureu.



Centreville High special-ed teacher Rawan Almaghrabi with senior Kalina Andriamiadana.



Chantilly senior Cordis Colburn concentrates on his cake.



Chantilly junior Kate Westover



Centreville senior Shiv Vuppalanchi

SEE DAY PROM, PAGE 23

# Fatal Motorcycle Crash

**D**etectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal crash involving a motorcyclist that occurred overnight in Burke.

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 10:05 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of Old Keene

Mill Road and Shiplott Boulevard in Burke for a crash involving a 2007 Yamaha motorcycle and a 2005 Toyota sedan.

Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver of the Toyota was attempting to make a left turn onto Old Keene Mill Road from a shopping center when he

was struck on the driver's side by the motorcyclist. The motorcyclist was traveling westbound on Old Keene Mill Rd in the left through-lane.

The motorcyclist, Mohab Helmy 50, of Burke was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The

driver of the Toyota remained on scene and was uninjured. CRU detectives continue to investigate the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case.

Those with information are asked to please call our Crash

Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

There have been 10 traffic crash fatalities in the county to date in 2024. In 2023, there were 5 traffic crash fatalities year to date.

ROUNDUPS

## Car Seat Inspections on May 9

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, May 9, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary and parents will be taught how to install the seat. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for May 23, at the same place and time.

## Park and Bark at E.C. Lawrence Park

Dogs and their owners are invited to Park and Bark, on Saturday, May 11, from 1-4 p.m., in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. It'll be held at the park's Walney Visitor Center at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly. The fun includes live music by Lucas Mason, food and beer for purchase, forever-home adoptions, plus a variety of dog-themed vendors. This family-friendly event is a fundraiser for the nonprofit Friends of E.C. Lawrence Park.



**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

# You Deserve to Earn more

# 5.25 % APY\*

## 7-month CD

### New Money Only\*\*



**Call 800-383-6266**  
for more information

Visit us at the  
**McLean Location**  
6707 Old Dominion Drive  
or any of our other convenient locations.

---

**Monday – Friday / 8am–10pm Eastern Time**  
Visit [www.presidential.com](http://www.presidential.com) for additional terms, rates and details

\*Annual Percentage Yield/ \$1000 Minimum to Open  
\*\*New money is defined as funds not currently held by Presidential Bank and must be from an external source of funds

APY is accurate as of December 15, 2023. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal.



## SENIOR LIVING

# Senior Citizens Receive a Wealth of Information



From left are John Armstrong and Gordon Meuse of Rebuilding Together of Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church.



Kelly Mahoney of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.



Jason Scadron talks to a visitor about Village in the City, in which volunteers provide free services to help City seniors remain independent at home.

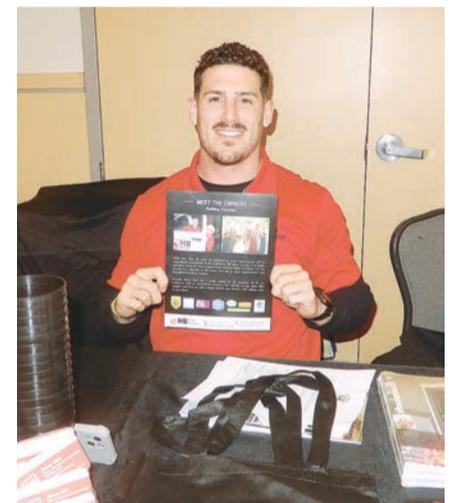
PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Representing RAFT (Regional Older Adults Facility Team) for people living with dementia, and their families, are (from left) Leela Avens, Emma Mahler and Sydney Palinkas.



Fairfax City's Chris Cohen offers information about the City's CUE bus system, plus getting around and communicating with City departments.



Johnny Hink of HB Home Services, which makes seniors' homes more accessible with, for example, handrails and "curbless" showers.



Pam Opiela and Irvin Varkonyi of AARP.



Arwa Landivar of The Key Home Care, which helps people age in place at home or in a senior-living community.



Mohamed Toure of Seniors Helping Seniors, in-home care for seniors by seniors. Caregivers stay active while both they and the recipients receive companionship.



Kathy Carter of the City of Fairfax Senior Center.

## SENIOR LIVING

# Senior Citizens Receive A Wealth of Information

The Home for Life 2024 Expo was April 12 at Fairfax City's Sherwood Center.

FROM PAGE 10



Inside Fairfax City Fire Department's Life Safety Education Trailer, Lt. David Arrington demonstrates kitchen safety to Bob Wilkinson (on left).



From left, Debbie Mossburg, Dean Salpini and Doris Bloch represent OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



Telling seniors how to prepare for an emergency are Jairo Ayala and Danielle Waite of Fairfax County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Division.

## Where Comfort & Family Values Meet!

**\$74** (Reg \$84)  
Don't Forget Your  
Safety & Maintenance  
**INSPECTION**  
Per System

**0%**  
APR FOR  
**36 MONTHS\***  
with equal payments.  
Minimum purchase of \$7,500.

**CARRIER REBATES**  
UP TO **\$2,100†**

Turn to the experts

### SALES | SERVICE | INSTALLATION

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Planned Maintenance Agreements
- Free Estimate on System Replacement
- FREE Second Opinion on System Failure
- Senior & Military Discounts
- We Service All Brands
- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee
- Up Front Pricing

SCAN CODE FOR MORE INFO

Call Today! 703-491-2771 | [www.brennansHVAC.com](http://www.brennansHVAC.com) | [info@brennanshvac.com](mailto:info@brennanshvac.com)

†System rebates ranging from \$0 to \$2,100 depending on equipment purchased. Rebates subject to change. Expires 6/28/24. \*With approved credit on qualifying equipment. Call Brennan's for complete details.

## County Budget FY 2025

By SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me regarding the County Executive's Proposed FY 2025 Budget. This year presents one of the toughest budget challenges since I took office. We're still recovering from the pandemic, facing increasing demands for County services, flatter commercial property revenues and rising costs. Like you, the County is seeing higher prices for everything from construction projects to the cost of copier paper.

Thank you to our County Executive Bryan Hill for initiating the FY 2025 budget process by asking each County department to propose a 7% spending decrease. These significant reduction considerations at the beginning of our process helped get us to our proposed budget today. By working together, we are able to propose a lower real estate tax rate increase from 4 cents to 3 cents per \$100 of assessed value and the Board will adopt this budget on Tuesday, May 7.

County investment in the Mount Vernon District has been extraordinary, improving services and the support we deliver to you. This year alone, we opened the new Lorton Police Station & Animal Shelter, a new trail segment from

Mount Vernon Estate to Richmond Highway, began Original MVHS renovations and celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Lorton Community Center, Senior and Teen Center, Library and Park. These types of investments are where your tax dollars are being spent, providing the resources Fairfax County residents need and expect.

Exceptional County staff are a critical component to help us achieve our goals; from Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Public Safety, Schools, Neighborhood and Community Services and others. 80% of our budget is devoted to the staff compensation necessary to recruit and retain the employees essential to support our residents and businesses.

Maintaining our world class education system continues to be a top priority. This year's school budget is equally challenging, and I know first-hand from my time on the School Board that they need to continue looking at the per student costs and increase teacher pay, while looking for ways to reduce non-teacher costs. A recent state study revealed Virginia state education funding falling almost \$2,000 per student behind national, regional and nearby state aver-



Dan Storck

ages. If we received full state funding by this measure or even existing required Virginia education minimum standards, we would be talking about substantial tax decreases today, not increases.

Some elements of this budget package still concern me. The consolidation of the Animal Protection Police Officers (APPO) to the Animal Services Department (ASD) and the reductions in the Fire and Rescue Department are two of those concerns. I will be monitoring these service levels and community impacts. As part of the APPO and ASD consolidation, I would like to see a co-responder system implemented, similar to our existing police and mental health co-responder model.

Looking forward, I will be ensuring that the County stays focused on finding cost savings and capturing all of our entitled existing revenue. Through my role as Chair of the Board's Audit Committee, we will be looking at costs, savings, efficiencies and revenue opportunities. As the Economic Development Committee Chair, we will be increasing our focus on office space repurposing, data facility needs and growing opportunities in AI and Space.

As always, I recognize that the buck stops with us on ensuring a vibrant, supportive and attractive community where folks want to live, learn, work and play. Greater affordability is crucial and getting a fairer deal from Virginia can help that. Currently, the state directly returns about 23% of what County residents contribute in state taxes, although indirect services for higher education, the justice system, etc., account for additional support. Refunding back to us just 1% of the state income taxes we now send to Richmond could allow us to reduce our real estate tax rate by \$.25! Increases in federal and state funding for our renowned schools, best in the U.S. public safety departments, mental health services, affordable housing, child-care, parks and many other priorities would make a big difference in reducing County funding for these services.

I have heard from many seniors and families during this budget process and we, as a Board, must do a deeper budget dive, advocate for more federal and state funding and find more progressive ways to fund County needs. I hope this information helps explain the many budget challenges we are facing together, even as my Board colleagues and I look for ways to reduce costs to you, our most valuable resource.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Shortage of Affordable Housing

To the editor:

I want to shed light on a critical issue that affects every member of our community: the dire shortage of affordable housing. This shortage impacts not only individuals and families struggling to make ends meet, but also drives inflation, exacerbates economic disparities, and hinders the well-being of working Fairfax County residents.

The root cause of this crisis lies in the fundamental economic concept of scarcity. Despite surging demand, our housing supply remains inadequate, leading to skyrocketing prices and forcing many to bear the burden of unaffordable living costs. I am one of the residents affected by such prices. Recently, I retired from the military and searched for housing that could support my family of five. Prices for four-bedroom houses hovered near \$1 million, and three-bedroom houses cost nearly \$700,000. With home ownership

out of my price range, I settled for a rental home at \$3,600 a month — higher than I've ever paid. Utilities cost around \$100 per service. I am fortunate to have a working spouse, older children without childcare needs, and retiree benefits. I cannot imagine how others could afford to live here.

It is crucial to recognize that no amount of wage increases, rent controls, or stipends can overcome inflation without addressing the underlying issue of insufficient supply. For decades residents have embraced the notion of unlimited space and suburban sprawl, fueled by a car ownership culture. However, the reality is that land is finite and scarce. We can no longer afford to build housing as we have grown accustomed to, with single-family homes boasting generous parking spaces and expansive yards.

Suburban sprawl fostered car dependency as people drove to

work, school, and shopping, while federal grants promoted car-centric transportation systems at the expense of mass transit. Car-centric devel-

opment ensured that parking would be considered with all housing plans. The result was more traffic, scarce land

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

### 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.

#### Send letters

Online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/)  
By email: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

By mail to: **Letters to the Editor The Connection**  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter  
[www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)  
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>  
<https://twitter.com/mtvernongazette>  
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

Never miss an issue, get a free digital subscription,  
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe/>

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

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Twitter @followfairfax

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

### NEWS DEPARTMENT

[fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mary Kimm

Editor and Publisher  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Bonnie Hobbs

Community Reporter  
703-778-9415  
[bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mercia Hobson

Staff Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

Mike Salmon

Contributing Writer  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Ken Moore

Contributing Writer

Susan Laume

Contributing Writer

### ADVERTISING

For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

### Classified & Employment

Advertising

703-778-9431

### Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

### Publisher

Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

### In Memoriam

Managing Editor  
Kemal Kurspahic

### Art/Design:

Laurence Foong  
Production Manager  
Geovani Flores

### CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

## LOCAL BUSINESS

# Baguettes and More Coming to Central Springfield

Local owner has all summer to perfect the new Paris Baguette.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Coming this fall, central Springfield will have another option for a morning snack when “Paris Baguette,” opens in the shopping plaza on Bland Street. Their menu has bagels, muffins, coffee, cookies and more, for a quick stop before jumping on I-95.

Franchise owner Euna Lee had a career going as a 15-year software consultant, but decided to open her own business after a conversation with her father. She was bored of doing the same thing every day in the computer world so she needed a change. “I was ready for something different,” Lee said. Lee had visited another Paris Baguette while living in London and it grew to be a favorite of hers. She has all summer to prepare.

So far, she’s navigating the business applications needed in Fairfax County, and is waiting for “bids from contractors,” she said. After that, she’s planning a four-month construction period before opening in



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Euna Lee grew up in Vienna, Va. and graduated from James Madison High School.

early fall. Lee grew up in Vienna, Va. so she is somewhat familiar with the central Springfield area. “I will look at opportunities to connect with the community,” she said.

SEE BAGUETTES, PAGE 15

CRYOXYGEN  
CLINIC



The Solution to  
Modern Living



WHOLE BODY  
CRYOTHERAPY



LOCALIZED  
CRYOTHERAPY



MILD HYPERBARIC  
OXYGEN THERAPY



INFRARED  
SAUNA



DRY SALT  
THERAPY



COMPRESSION  
THERAPY

Our philosophy is based on total balance,  
energy and proactive healing

[www.cryoxygen.com](http://www.cryoxygen.com)

**CONTACT:**

(703) 559-3669  
info@cryoxygen.com

**LOCATION:**

2674 Avenir Pl E,  
Vienna, VA 22180

## ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

# Discover Vibrant Living for Seniors

IN THE HEART OF VIENNA

Sunrise of Vienna is a brand-new senior living community conveniently situated on Maple Avenue. Expert assisted living care and a personalized lifestyle await in our beautifully designed community, featuring:

- Amenities including a fitness center, salon, and theater
- Engaging activities and unique programming
- Fresh, seasonal cuisine crafted by our talented culinary team
- Tango Pastry, a quaint street-level coffee shop

For a limited time, we’re offering exclusive pricing on select suites.

Book your personal tour by calling 703-719-8425 or visiting [SunriseVienna.com](http://SunriseVienna.com).

©2024 Sunrise Senior Living

# The AcceptAbility Gala

**Global Down Syndrome Foundation gala tickets available; policymakers, National Institute of Health scientists attending.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Global Down Syndrome Foundation (GLOBAL) will host the 2024 AcceptAbility Gala at the Marriott Marquis next Thursday, May 9. Policymakers, key National Institute of Health (NIH) scientists, and the Down syndrome community will attend. Tickets are available online, and donations are welcome.



**Isla Eager of Arlington, GLOBAL's 2024 Ambassador, is a preschooler with Down syndrome.**



**U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Dr. Diana Bianchi, Michelle Sie Whitten, and the GLOBAL Team at NIH hold a petition from thousands of families for more Down syndrome research funding**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED

Michelle Sie Whitten, president and CEO of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, said in an interview that the event's success includes the involvement of NIH and the creation of a petition for increased research funding. According to Whitten, GLOBAL advocates and lobbies the federal government for equitable and transformative funding for Down syndrome research. "But more needs to be done," she said.

The gala will support research and medical care funding for children and adults, like Isla Eager, GLOBAL's 2024 Ambassador, a preschooler with Down syndrome who lives in Arlington with her parents.

"We know there may be more medical challenges in Isla's future. We are grateful for the work the Global Down Syndrome Foundation is doing daily to ensure that when the day comes, we have the research and resources to receive the best medical care possible for Isla," said her parents.

The evening starts with a 6 p.m. reception and red carpet, followed by a 7 p.m. dinner, live auction, and special performances. Celebrities and elected officials include Grammy-nominated singer and actress Jordin Sparks and members of Congress. During the event, GLOBAL will honor young Ambassador Isla Eager, U.S. Representative Lois Frankel (D-Florida), and U.S. Rep. Richard

Hudson (R-NC), who will receive the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Awards for their advocacy and support for those with Down syndrome.

Whitten said that when her daughter, Sophia, was born with Down syndrome in 2003, the funding for Down syndrome research was around \$20 million. For the last two decades, it's been between \$16 million and \$20 million annually; in comparison, autism research was close to \$200 million.

"What's exciting is that in Congress and NIH, we have champions there who have helped us a lot, and now, in 2023, we were at approximately \$133 million — so, we are moving that needle up every year. In particular, there is a program at NIH called the Include Project, which is an NIH funding model, so that's super exciting," Whitten said. She discussed the lack of knowledge regarding medical conditions impacting people with Down syndrome, such as Alzheimer's and heart disease.

Frank Stephens of Fairfax is an actor and adult living with Down syndrome. In an interview, he shared the story of his involvement with GLOBAL and the personal impact of Down syndrome on his life. Stephens' experiences with GLOBAL started small and grew more extensive. He is a member of the



**Frank Stephens of Fairfax, member of the Global Board, a Global Ambassador, and a self-advocate, enjoys his specialty drink named after him at Artie's in Fairfax.**

Global Board, a Global Ambassador, and a self-advocate.

"GLOBAL is the world's largest fundraiser and supporter of Down syndrome research. It is responsible for the first comprehensive medical care guidelines for treating special issues we face," Stephens said. He mentioned that people with Down syndrome are much more likely than others to develop leukemia, which is cancer of the white blood cells, and experience heart problems.



**Grammy-nominated singer and actress Jordin Sparks to perform at the AcceptAbility Gala at the Marriott Marquis next Thursday, May 9.**

Stephens stressed that individuals with Down syndrome are not "cursed."

"We live full, happy lives. We dream the same dreams and enjoy the same things that everyone wants. Our lives might surprise you. I have had dinner at the White House and watched the sunset over Lake Como [in Italy]. On many Friday nights, you might find me at Artie's in Fairfax, where everybody can order a cocktail called Frank's Night Out."

## No Hold Comments by Chairman and Supervisors

FROM PAGE 6

a difference in people's lives and make a difference in the community. He referenced pickleball courts, the South County Police Station, and starting to fix the Old Mount Vernon High School. Storck also referenced collective bargaining and budget increases. He said they must become more competitive in their compensation packages by educating people that it is not just the wage they are taking home but the overall package.

Lusk said it would not be easy for the school board, but that is part of their job. They have to make the same tough decisions the supervisors are making.

**Kathy L. Smith, vice chairwoman, Sully District,** described how staff looked for budget reductions and found over \$34 million — more than a penny on the tax rate — by reducing staff by what she believed were "84 positions." She reiterated what others said — this was only the start. They must do more than just talk to the Virginia General

Assembly; they must educate constituents about how funding works through real estate and the county's need to receive state education funding.

McKay ended by saying that if the state were to fund its standards of quality and implement the recommendations of the JLARC study, they would be sending Fairfax County, by FCPS's calculation, a check for \$568.7 million annually that they owe Fairfax County Public Schools based on their own adopted standards. "That's the equivalent of 18 cents on the tax rate."

He said if that happened, Fairfax County could dramatically reduce its tax rate if the 18 cents that the state owes the county, according to their formula, arrived at the government center in the form of a check.

"That's why our residents are suffering with real estate assessments because they pay a lot in income taxes to Richmond, and then we have to charge them a lot for real estate tax assessments to pay to maintain a high-quality public school system and our own staff.

# LOCAL BUSINESS

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Paris Baguette



A warm glow inside

## Baguettes and More Coming to Central Springfield

FROM PAGE 13

### On the Menu

Paris Baguette specializes in bakery items, cakes, breads, gourmet sandwiches and salads. On the drink menu, there's hot coffee, tea, frozen drinks and seasonal beverages with whipped toppings.

Their mission is to "bring expertly crafted baked and brewed goods to our guests

through a warm and welcoming bakery café experience that delivers joy to everyone." They are big on the sense of community. "The desire to make the world a happier place drives everything we do," their saying goes.

In central Springfield there is a wide variety of food available for every sort of pallet so it is not going to be easy for a newcomer. There's seafood, Mexican and chicken a block to the north, Vietnamese

pho soup to the east, a new Baskin-Robbins ice cream to the west and across Backlick Road is sushi, kabobs, frozen yogurt, sub sandwiches, Dunkin' Donuts and smoothies. A little something for everyone, including Paper Moon, a locally famous "gentleman's club," that has sandwiches and scantily clad dancers. There are two Starbucks a few miles away too but it doesn't worry her. "We are focused on baked goods," she said.

This summer she will weigh the options and hone her business plan so she will hit the ground running in late September when they open.

Paris Baguette is a bakery café franchise with more than 4,000 units across the globe. The global brand first franchised in the U.S. in 2015 and has since established over 160 locations in markets across the country. Locally there are Paris Baguette locations in McLean, Fairfax and Herndon.

## Reach your audience in 2024

- EMAIL BLASTS
- DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
- FRONT PAGE SHOUTOUT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORED CONTENT

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!



For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

Mount Vernon Gazette

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Potomac ALMANAC

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising)

Same Company, Same Employees, Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS

### Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling




- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



**10% down**  
nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years

Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)



A unique crew of lawn care professionals eagerly embarks, after a few bleats to remind their shepherd, Cory Suter they are ready to work.



Beverly and Juan Rivera, of Springfield, appreciate nature lawn care and are repeat customers.



Owner and chief shepherd, Cory Suter, assists with removing rooted weeds, seen here with his rediscovered lost shovel and one of his young lambs.

# Quiet Mowing Available

Could your lawn care be easy and noise free?

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Is there a homeowner among us who doesn't hate the spring and summer chore of mowing the lawn? Or the too constant drone of neighborhood mowers drowning out the pleasant sounds of nature on a pleasant day? But there is an easy, quiet, noise-free suburban lawn care service, if you don't consider hearing a few bleats to be noise. It comes with the added benefit of simultaneous lawn fertilization. Consider the lamb mower.

A small company with its crew of compact and woolly lawn chewing experts has established itself with a new kind of foothold in the local professional lawn care industry — a hoof hold. Suter Innovations LLC is licensed and regulated in Fairfax County as a landscaping business for its Lambmowers, natural lawn care service. Established

in 2016, and now in its second year going mobile with the addition of the lamb trailer, Lambmowers employs adult sheep of both sexes. Lambs might join the crew, depending upon the season; since there are no applicable kid labor laws. Well, 'kid' does refer to goats, but I think you understand.

These 'employees' have great enthusiasm for their work; surely unmatched by their human lawn service competitors. It's an enthusiasm that must be monitored, advises returning customer Beverly Rivera of Springfield, who has used the service multiple times. Rivera says, "They're not exactly disciplined, we have a winterberry holly in our front yard and once they get a taste of that, there's no going back to lawn. But at least we get a good low pruning."

Rivera, a Fairfax Master Naturalist, appreciates the sheep "as a more tranquil alternative to mowers and leaf blowers"; noting "they also fertilize." Rivera's yard is ideally

thickly planted for the crew. So thick in fact that a small shovel lost during the last sheep crew visit was found during this year's session. Rivera invited friends and fellow master naturalists to her house for coffee and an opportunity to watch the crew in action. "Be sure that your camera is charged," she warned, "they're very photogenic." This reporter, leaving with a plethora of photos, can attest to that statement.

Goats may have the greater reputation for their indiscriminate ability to rid an area of all sorts of unpleasant brush and weeds, including Blackberry brambles, poison ivy and kudzu. They prefer browse; searching for their favorite tastiest treats, such as sugar laden buds on branch tips; and taller, woodier plants. If you need a bush hog, you want a goat. While sheep are the right-sized masters of grazing. "Modern Farmer," a non-profit organization that reports on

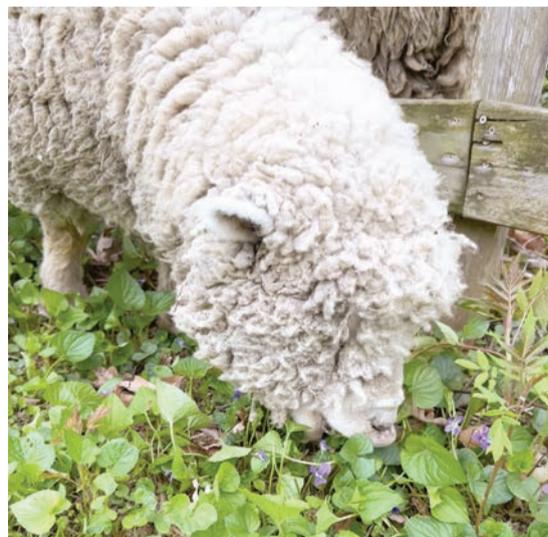
SEE QUIET MOWING, PAGE 17



Owner Cory Suter, a shepherd, answered the call to foster five-day-old goat kid Panda, who was rejected by his mother.



Sheep willingly work under low branches, ideal for pruning the Rivera's atypically treed front yard.



Sheep enjoy searching out young thorny brambles, tree seedlings, herbaceous weeds, bamboo shoots and onion grass in the spring.



While grazing may be their usual meal, they will raise their heads in anticipation of sweet grain treats.



Babydoll Southdown sheep, originally from Sussex England, are known for their small size, gentle nature, & being among the friendliest sheep breeds.

# Quiet Mowing Available



Kids are quick to nap after a bottle, and hard to resist holding, as shown by Nora Martin.

FROM PAGE 17

food and farms, compared the grass eating efficiency of grass eating species. They opined that to mow a 50,000-square-foot area in one day, it would require 38 goats, 83 sheep, seven cows, or 2,000 guinea pigs. Sheep may be a bit slower in their grazing than goats, being more scrupulous in the amount and equality of grass they eat. And who has room for cows, or could come up with, and herd, 2,000 guinea pigs?

If you want chewing grazers, you want sheep on the job. Lambmowers owner and chief shepherd, Cory Suter, describes his 19 member flock as, “small gentle sheep almost as adventuresome eaters as goats.” His Babydoll Southdown sheep “eliminate most young thorny brambles, tree seedlings, herbaceous weeds, and enjoy eating bamboo shoots and onion grass in the spring.”

Before you consider turning over your well manicured, fertilized weed-free lawn to these professionals, consider that they prefer a challenge. Suter says “they are better at weeds than lawn grass, depending upon the grass seed used, since many grass seeds are laced with endophytes.” Those additives enhance nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and disease and insect resistance in the grass. Unfortunately while the endophytic fungi produce chemicals that keep insects away, they produce an unpleasant taste and may be toxic in quantities to livestock. Suter does not allow his sheep to graze on plants that have been treated for pests or weeds within the last six months. Suter says, “Each yard is different, but our sheep do a good job reducing weeds in most yards.”

It may be those whose properties need more help, due to weed and bramble incursions, who see



Panda, still on a milk diet, has time to entertain as he's blown a kiss from admirers, Kingsley, Kelly and Susanne Thibodeau; and Amelie, 4, Maren, 1, and Turner, 6, with parents Nora and Shane Martin; with Juan Rivera.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Weed control is their primary job, but lambs are willing to meet their public, seen here with Kingsley, 2 1/2, and Kelly Thibodeau, of Springfield.

bigger results with a sheep crew on the job. But being truthful, many of us would hire the sheep crew on the strength of their cuteness alone. With names like Sunday, Sunshine, BahHumBug, Chocolate Chip, and the newest lambs Jack and Jill, they bring a joy that could never be found in the typi-

cal lawn mower. And before you go find your own cute sheep crew and pick out some cute names, be aware that Fairfax County restrictions allow only up to five sheep per acre, on lots of a minimum size of two acres.

For more on Suter's crew, go to Lambmowers.com.

## Route 29 Southbound Shared-Use Paths Fairfax County

**Virtual** Public Information Meeting

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 7 p.m.**  
<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/29SUPs>

**Find out** about plans to improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety, mobility and accessibility along Route 29 in Centreville. The project will upgrade the existing sidewalk/trail along southbound Route 29 to a 10-foot-wide shared-use path between the Newgate Shopping Center and the western Trinity Parkway intersection, as well as upgrade the existing sidewalk along southbound Route 29 between O'Day Drive and Stone Road to a 10-foot-wide shared-use path.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/29SUPs>. The project team will make a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions after the presentation.

**Review** project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1795 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or by **June 12, 2024** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 29 Southbound Shared-Use Paths" in the subject line.

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, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0029-029-458, P101  
UPC: 121884  
Federal: STP-5B01 (336)

*In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held  
Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at the same time.*

**Sign up for**

**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION  
to all of our papers**



[www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

## HERNDON

### 38th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception

The Town of Herndon honored 60 volunteers from 23 organizations at the 38th Annual Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception.

Josue Benavidez received the Distinguished Teen Volunteer Award for involvement with the ON Herndon Team and Leadership Team Meetings. He enhanced the community and advocated for issues relevant to his school and peers.

Susy Ledgerwood received the first Distinguished Service Award for her two decades of volunteerism with the Herndon Woman's Club, including leading the Wreaths Across America project, coordinating fundraising efforts and engaging the community to honor veterans at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Laura Poindexter received the second Distinguished Service Award. Poindexter, a dedicated volunteer, significantly contributed to Friday Night Live, the Herndon Woman's Club, and the Dulles Chamber of Commerce.

Gene Wiley, president of The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, Inc., celebrating its 50th anniversary of service in the Town of Herndon, accepted the Distinguished Corporate Volunteer Award on behalf of the organization. The Closet provides affordable items to families, supports local



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Gene Wiley, Laura Poindexter, Susy Ledgerwood and Josue Benavidez

charities, and assists those in need. The Closet has distributed millions of dollars to charities, awarded scholarships, and provided employment opportunities, significantly impacting the Herndon community.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston Honors 2024 Citizen of the Year

The Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston honored its 55th recipient, Renee Gorman, with the 2024 Citizen of the Year. Renee Gorman is the heart and soul behind the transformative non-profit organization She Believes In Me, founded in 2018. Rotary recognized Gorman for her commitment to children and families. Her vision nurtured a community initiative of hope supported by over a hundred volunteers.

## McLEAN

### McLean Project for the Arts

Co-chaired by Cynthia Steele Vance and Mandy Mafi, the

MPA's signature Spring Benefit, will take place on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at the McLean home of Mark Lowham and Joseph Ruzzo. Individual tickets are now available.

event will feature music from DC Martini, an exhibition of works by Chee Keong Kung, and more. <https://mpaart.org/springbenefit2024/>

## RESTON



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The 2024 Reston Farmers Market crew: Anne Strange, co-market manager (2020); Caroline Hockenberry, Farmers Market coordinator, FC Park Authority; and Fran, lead co-market manager (2003). Not shown: Keith Strange, co-market manager (2012); and Ben Miller, co-market manager (2024)

### Reston Farmers Market Opens

Center Washington Plaza parking lot in Reston.

The Reston Farmers Market, sponsored by Fairfax County Park Authority, opened at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, for the first day of its 2024 season at the Lake Anne Village

Center Washington Plaza parking lot in Reston. Buying local is a way to support a sustainable community. After closing at noon, Lovaas reported approximately 1849 people attended the market on opening day.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

### Earth Daze at Aslin

On Sunday, April 28, Rich Allridge and his family stopped by the Clean Fairfax tent at the Aslin Beer Company Earth Daze 2024 in Herndon's historic district. His wife Maureen, her sister Sarah Chun, who is holding the stroller handle with her four-week-old daughter Cece, and her husband Ben joined him.

Center, Jennifer Cole, the executive director of Clean Fairfax, said the nonprofit partnered with Aslin on the event. "The best time to ask if you can recycle something is before you buy it," said Cole.

OAKTON



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Vale Arts, Local Art at Its Best

The ValeArts Spring Art Show and Sale 2024, held April 26- 28, at Vale School House, featured works by participating artists (from left) Jenna Klimchak, Kim T. Richards, Lorrie Herman, Lori Goll, Laura Barringer, Andrea Cybak, Cathleen Lawless. Not pictured Anna Willard, and Linda Bullen. Watch for the Fall Art Show and Sale by visiting <https://www.valearts.com/artists>.

VIENNA



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

11th Annual Taste of Vienna Held April 27

The Poliner family (from left): Graham, Noah, Cami, Danielle, and Matt. "We love everything Vienna does," says Matt Poliner. On Saturday, April 27, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department presented its 11th annual Taste of Vienna, featuring food and drink vendors, food trucks, and a children's bounce house. The daylong fundraiser supported the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

GREAT FALLS



Great Falls Spring ArtFest

The vibrant Great Falls Spring ArtFest, April 27 & 28 at The Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike & The Artists' Atelier, 756 Walker Road. A diverse group of painters, potters, photographers, jewelry makers, fiber artists, sculptors, and others showcased a variety of media. Save the date for the Great Falls Studio Tour Oct. 19-20. @greatfallsstudios <https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/>



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Vienna Bowman House Potters' Spring Pottery Show

The Vienna Bowman House Potters held their first Spring Pottery Show on April 27 at The Bowman House. "The pottery classrooms were filled with unique wheel and hand-built pottery available for purchase. Funds raised support the Vienna Community Center and the Potters. There will be a fall sale in November," said the Bowman House Show and Sale coordinator Lori Westbrook.

# ENTERTAINMENT



“Alice: Dreaming of Wonderland” can be seen on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

## 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/>

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT COLVIN RUN MILL.

**Mill tours every weekend from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

May 19th and 19th; June 2nd and June 16th – Mill in Motion: the mill is operating, the miller is grinding grain, the Northern Virginia Woodcarvers and a local blacksmith are demonstrating their skills. On June 16th, Father’s Day, Mill in Motion welcomes fathers and grandfathers with free admission.

May 5 – Spring Tea Party: Families can celebrate Spring with a 19th century afternoon tea, crafts, and treats.

May 19 – Engineering Then & Now: Learn about engineers of the past, including Oliver Evans who invented the system that runs Colvin

Run Mill; speak with contemporary engineers and participate in engineering problem-solving.

June 8 – Brownie Badge Day: Girl Scouts can earn two badges.

June 15 and 19 – Colvin Run Before & After the 13th Amendment (12-Adult): Learn how enslaved and free African Americans helped build and maintain the mill and the Colvin Run community. Discover how, after slavery was outlawed, African Americans developed more connections to the community and created spaces of their own.

## PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

As spring blooms, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Master Gardeners extend a warm invitation to all gardening enthusiasts for a series of free Vegetable Garden Plant Clinics. These educational programs, offered in collaboration with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of gardening practices and foster a sense of community among green thumbs of all levels.

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following



Take a Suffragist Memorial Tour on Thursday, May 2, 2024 in Lorton.

Saturdays: May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Clinics will be held concurrently on each of these dates at eight locations across Fairfax County:

Pine Ridge Park, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale  
 Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston  
 Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
 Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria  
 Grove Point Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield  
 George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax  
 Hogge Park, 3139 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church  
 Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**Walk With Dr. Rinka Mehra.** 10 a.m. Meet at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Walk with Dr. Rinku Mehra is a new initiative aimed at encouraging families to participate in a monthly walk to promote a healthy community and encourage active lifestyles. Walk with Dr. Mehra offers participants the opportunity to engage in safe physical activity while gaining valuable health information and connecting with others in their community. Visit <https://www.themehraclinic.com/about>

## APRIL 19 TO MAY 4

**The Vienna Theatre Company presents “The 39 Steps”.** Don’t miss the fun as Monty Python meets Spy vs Spy. Get tickets at <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/tickets.html>

## FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

**The opening of the 2024 Farmers Market season is fast approaching and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, will have tons of fresh and healthy foods waiting for you at all 10 markets located throughout the county.**

This year, you can expect to find locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and prepared foods at the farmers markets. Additionally,

enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities from musical performances, games, and don’t forget to bring your food scraps to support our community composting efforts!

The 2024 season begins April 17 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

## WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon April 17-Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon  
 Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria  
 Oakmont May 1-Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon  
 Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton  
 Wakefield May 1 – Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.  
 Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

## THURSDAYS

Annandale May 2 -Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon  
 Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
 Herndon May 2 -Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon  
 Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

## FRIDAYS

McLean May 3-Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon  
 Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
 Kingstowne May 3-Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.  
 In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

## SATURDAYS

Burke April 20-Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon  
 VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke  
 Reston April 27-Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon  
 Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

## SUNDAYS

Lorton May 5-Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-noon  
 VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton

Visit the Farmers Market website for complete information about this year’s markets – including details on SNAP benefits for eligible households available at designated locations.

If you have any questions, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

## THURSDAY/MAY 2

**Suffragist Memorial Tour.** 10-11:30 a.m. At Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Join AARP in a Guided tour of the Memorial and learn the history of the women that fought for the right to vote through the eyes of one of them. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial commemorates all of the millions of women who engaged in the suffragist movement primarily from 1848 through passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 that allowed most women to vote. This memorial is both a visual symbol and educational tool that elevates them to their proper place in history. Visit <https://events.aarp.org/Tour05022024>

## THURSDAY/MAY 2

**“Alice: Dreaming of Wonderland.”** 6 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Get ready to experience an amazing journey in the crazy world of Wonderland! Based on the classic by Lewis Carroll, “Alice” is an action-packed theatrical circus full of surprises, amazing acts, video projection with 3-D mapping and live music. Visit the website, [aldentheatre.org](http://aldentheatre.org).

## MAY 2-4

**“Romeo and Juliet”.** At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. “Romeo and Juliet,” by far one of Shakespeare’s most famous plays, is a tale that transcends time and culture. As the Folger Shakespeare Theatre puts it, “In Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare creates a violent world, in which two young people fall in love. It is not simply that their families disapprove; the Montagues and the Capulets are engaged in a blood feud. Show times: May 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and May 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets available on [lbtheatre.com](http://lbtheatre.com)

## MAY 2-4

**2024 Play Festival.** Presented by the Capital Baptist Homeschool Co-op. Location: Capital Baptist Church, 3504 Gallows Road, Annandale. Dates: May 2 & 3 at 7 p.m.; Aesop’s (Oh So Slightly) Updated Fables & The Pirates of Penzance; May 4 at

# ENTERTAINMENT



**Big Truck Day** takes place Friday, May 3, 2024 in Herndon.



**The Perchfest Spring: A Retro Music and Mini Golf Festival** takes place May 3-4, 2024 at Capital One in McLean.

2 p.m. and 7 p.m.: All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in A Bad Play & The Pirates of Penzance. Led by veteran director, Barbara Schwartz, the students of Capital Baptist Homeschool Co-op are set to bring these comedic performances alive in a dazzling display of talent and charm.

## THURSDAY/MAY 2 Herndon Farmers' Market Opens.

8 a.m. to noon, and will run every Thursday through Nov. 7. At Historic Downtown Herndon, Lynn Street, Herndon. Vendors will offer a seasonal abundance of plants, produce, baked goods, meats and more - all sold by local growers and producers. New vendors include Bad Ass Pickles; BlackStone Honey Bee Farms; Chalkboard Wings & BBQ (Breakfast Sandwiches); and Happy Creek Cheeses. Returning favorites include Baguette Republic; Chef Eloy Kickin' Salsa; Family of Nuts; Grace's Pastries; House of Empanadas; J & W Valley View Farm; Luke & Son for Global Food (Egyptian food); McCleaf's Market; Memi's Company (Peruvian style gluten free cooking); Mt Olympus Berry Farm; Santacruz Produce; Sip Coffee; and The Fermented Pig (sausage, bacon & charcuterie). Visit the website: [www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket](http://www.herndon-va.gov/FarmersMarket)

## MAY 2, 4, 9, 11

**"Les Miserables."** 7 p.m. At Hayfield Secondary School Auditorium, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The Hayfield Dramahawks present the musical "Les Miserables." Come enjoy this show which will make you laugh, cry and everything in between! They also offer affordable concessions, making it a great way to entertain the whole family on a budget. Tickets available at [www.hayfielddrama.com](http://www.hayfielddrama.com) and at the door before each show.

## FRIDAY/MAY 3

**Big Truck Day.** 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in The Town of Herndon, at the Town of Herndon Public Works Maintenance Complex, 1479 Sterling Road, Herndon. Children will have the



**Brian Ganz: A Chopin Recital can be seen on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.**

opportunity to see big trucks up close. The event is free; however, attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations for communities in need. Large groups should call ahead. For more information visit the town's website at [www.herndon-va.gov/PublicWorks](http://www.herndon-va.gov/PublicWorks); call 703-435-6860; or email [public.works@herndon-va.gov](mailto:public.works@herndon-va.gov).

## MAY 3-4

**Perchfest Spring: A Retro Music & Mini Golf Festival.** At Capital One in McLean. Step back in time during Capital One Center's signature festival, Perchfest, with retro games, throwback decorations, and all the nostalgia vibes! Offering guests the ultimate festival in the clouds with putt putt, live music, craft beer from Starr Hill Biergarten, fitness classes, Made in Fairfax's pop-up shop, and so much more. Guests are encouraged to wear 80's and 90's attire for retro fun! Event Link: <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/perchfest-spring-edition-2024>

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Spring Native Plant Sale.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The sale will feature seasonal plants that are native to the region. All plants are raised and sold by Hill House Garden Nursery and include flowering perennials, native shrubs, and small trees

available for purchase. During the sale, attendees can enter a free drawing to win a native tree. For more information, email [CSC@viennava.gov](mailto:CSC@viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6300.

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Improvicon.** 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This event is a real deal competition of multiple improv groups throughout Northern Virginia. The show features audience participation and the hottest NOVA improv comedy groups!! Who will walk away with the title of Improvicon champion of 2024? This show will likely

sell out, so get your tickets early.

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**The Forestville Historic School House Celebrating 135 years.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Great Falls Grange, Great Falls. For a fun, educational and interactive day as we celebrate the history of the school house in the heart of Great Falls for the Love of Great Falls..

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Derby Day at Wren.** 4-7 p.m. At the 11th floor of The Watermark Hotel, 1825 Capital One Dr., Tysons. Break out the bourbon, bonnets, and bow ties by celebrating the 150th Kentucky Derby at Wren. The Tysons restaurant will host a Derby Day watch party with an array of specialty cocktails and Derby-inspired bites. Guests can sip on Maker's Mark Mint Juleps and other specialty cocktails, along with passed hors d'oeuvres, live music and plenty of TVs to view the "Run for the Roses". Tickets are \$75 per person. Guests are encouraged to don their best derby hats and fascinators to celebrate the races. The restaurant will have prizes for best hat and best dressed. For tickets, visit <https://www.exploretock.com/wren-tysons/event/477967/derby-day>

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Brian Ganz: A Chopin Recital.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts,

Fairfax. Pianist, scholar, internationally celebrated pianist, and devoted champion of Frédéric Chopin, Brian Ganz has illuminated the Polish Romantic-era composer throughout his career. Since 2011, Ganz has partnered with the National Philharmonic on a multi-year performance project striving to perform Chopin's entire catalogue. Widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation, Ganz has appeared as soloist with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors.

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Clifton Town 122nd Birthday Celebration.** 4-9 p.m. At the Clifton Barn, Clifton. The Town of Clifton turned 122 this year and they are ready to celebrate! Join your neighbors (past and present) for an afternoon cookout at the CBA barn! Please help them to prepare by filling out the RSVP form and be sure to take a look at the opportunities to help out before, during, and after the event! Visit the website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4E-AEAA2C7-49099456-clifton>

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**2nd Annual Tea Festival.** 12:30-6:30 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. The Elden Street Tea Shop is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Tea Festival. Features over 40 tea vendors offering a wide variety of tea-related products and accessories. Visitors can browse and shop for everything from loose-leaf teas and tea blends to tea sets, teapots, and infusers, as well as local crafts and unique gifts. The festival will also feature several workshops including tea making, tea enthusiasts classes, a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, as well as morning tea yoga sessions. Visit the website: <https://www.eldenstreettea.com/north-ern-virginia-tea-festival>

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Taste of Tysons Corner.** 12 noon. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Featuring food, beer, VIP tent and 40-plus restaurants. VIP: Purchase of a \$30 ticket grants you access to exclusive VIP lounge complete with complimentary pairings from full-service restaurants like Nordstrom Cafe, Earl's, Barrel & Bushel and Seasons52! Proceeds from ticket sales to

benefit Food For Others.

## SATURDAY/MAY 4

**Spring Farm Day.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Join the farm hands, friends and volunteers for an exciting family farmland adventure suitable for all ages. Witness the process of sheep shearing and get hands-on experience milking cows and goats. Enjoy amazing demonstrations of antique farm equipment and immerse yourself in creative crafts, thrilling games, and create lasting memories with many of our adorable baby farm animals. Advance admission is \$12 per person, and it's \$14 at the door.

## SUNDAY/MAY 5

**Westlands Awareness Day.** Noon to 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Discover the beauty and importance of wetlands. Bring the family and stroll through the forested paths and immersive boardwalk trail. Learn about plants and animals that live in the park. See live raptors, reptiles and amphibians up close and enjoy interactive displays and activities. Shuttle rides are available at Groveton Elementary to Huntley Meadows Park.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

**Union Jobs and Career Fair.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Free event to meet with Union recruiters and hear about and apply for exciting career opportunities.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

**"Parasite" Film.** 6:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Greed and class discrimination threaten the newly formed symbiotic relationship between the wealthy Park family and the destitute Kim clan. Winner of a Cannes Film Festival and Oscar award.

## FRIDAY/MAY 10

**Outdoor Spring Concert.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Smith Chapel Global Methodist Church, 11321 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served starting at 6 p.m. Michael O'Brien, a Christian Pop and Contemporary Worship Musician, will perform from the Church Gazebo. People attending are asked to bring a lawn chair.

# Seven Years Later

FROM PAGE 4

and COVID-related issues. Two years later, Comstock had not begun construction of any buildings.

As of April 30, 2024, a tall, solid fence surrounds a portion of Comstock's 4.675 acre project site. No construction is visible anywhere on the site, and the view through the blockade wood fencing includes weeds and broken pavement. Visitors and residents walking along the fence's exterior line facing the town's main street, Elden, must avoid broken glass and litter. Comstock's faded project banner has been announcing for two and a half years, "Excitement is building."

In mid-April, Herndon mayor Sheila Olem confirmed Comstock's pause ends on April 30, 2024.

## Snapshots of Comstock Companies

Comstock Companies manages, develops, and operates mixed-use and transit-oriented properties in Washington, D.C.

❖ Bisnow reported on Jan. 31, 2022, that Comstock controls over 60 development acres on both sides of the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station and plans to build 2.5 million to 3 million square feet of office space and 17,500 multifamily units. Construction is now underway for delivery in late 2024.

❖ Most recently, and according to Comstock Holding Companies, Inc. (Comstock), "The Grand Opening of its Sales Gallery for the JW Marriott Residences Reston Station" took place on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 1900 Reston Metro Plaza.

❖ On April 8, 2024, Comstock and The Lady Vintner, a woman-owned charcuterie and wine bar, signed a 1,300-square-foot lease at BLVD Forty-Four in Rockville, Md.

❖ On Feb. 27, 2023, Comstock Partners, LC, an affiliated privately held company, announced on its website that it had secured two 10-year lease agreements with CACI International and The Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State in Reston Station's Commerce District. "These two leases support Comstock's plan to add 1.3 million square feet of office space to Reston. The company is turning the 1990s-era office park Commerce District, next to Metro's Wiehle-Reston East station, into a highly amenitized, mixed-use, transit-oriented development," the company's website states.

❖ On Sept. 27, 2023, Gaming America reported, "Real estate company Comstock is seeking to develop a casino in Reston, where it owns 80 acres of land near the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station."

# CLASSIFIED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

## Yard Sale

### Community Yard Sale

Sat, May 18, 2024, at 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rain or Shine

Dominion High School Parking lot 21326 Augusta Dr, Sterling, VA, 20164

Buyers No admission Fee. Sellers get 2 parking lot spaces for \$30.

Contact Cristina.wyche@lcps.org

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

## Obituary

### Nancy J. Coughlan

On April 19, 2024, Nancy Judd Coughlan of Fairfax, Virginia passed away peacefully at The Virginian Skilled Nursing Facility at the age of 84. Mrs. Coughlan was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the daughter of the former Mr. Thomas W. and Florence R. Judd. A memorial service will be held at Clifton Presbyterian Church in Clifton, Virginia on May 4, 2024 at 11:00am, followed by a reception. Final interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband Peter at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (<https://englishempowermentcenter.org/donate/>). Share a memory with the family at [fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com](http://fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com)

## Legals

### Hearings for the Town of Clifton, Virginia Proposed FY2025 Town Budget and Proposed Amendments to Ch. 8 and 16 of the Town Code May 7, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold Public Hearings on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:30PM at the Town Hall at 12641 Chapel Rd. to consider the proposed FY2025 Town Budget and proposed amendments to Ch. 8 and 16 of the Town Code regarding the Cigarette Tax and Meals Tax rates, respectively.

The FY2025 proposed Town Budget and proposed amendments to Ch. 8 and 16 of the Town Code will be posted on the Town's website at [cliftonva.gov](http://cliftonva.gov) and a hardcopy will be posted at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearings to express their views with respect to the proposed FY2025 Town Budget and amendments to Ch. 8 and 16 of the Code. Written comments may be submitted via email to [clerk@cliftonva.gov](mailto:clerk@cliftonva.gov) and via regular U.S. mail to P.O. Box 309, Clifton, VA, 20124 no later than May 7, 2024. Written comments will be entered into the record but will not be read aloud.

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

**\$1000 OFF\***  
AND  
**No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months\*\***  
OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/24

**BCI BATH & SHOWER**  
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

\*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/24. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

**Jacuzzi** BATH REMODEL

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY. IN AS LITTLE AS **ONE DAY**

CALL NOW 877.460.5348

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**Waiving All Installation Costs**

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 6/30/2024.



**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

\*Terms and Conditions apply.

**LET THE PROS HANDLE IT!** LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

**20% OFF** + **10% OFF**  
Your Entire Purchase\* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!<sup>1</sup>

CALL TODAY FOR A **FREE INSPECTION!**  
**1-877-614-6667**

\* See Representative for full warranty details. \*\*One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR #036620922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC0649905, FL #RBC056678, IA #IC127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI #2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #R731804, MT #226192, ND #47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13VH09953900, NM #408693, NV #86990, NY #H-19114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069303, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFNM022Q, WY #WV056912

# Special-Ed Students Enjoy Day Prom

FROM PAGE 8

fruit, cheese and cake, plus gift cards for the volunteers.

Inside the gala banquet hall, the students danced to rock music provided by deejay Andrew Larris (MC Laz). And Frostick beamed, seeing them all having such a good time. “We’re just happy to be a part of it and hope we can do this every year for the students,” she said. “It meant so much to both the parents and kids to have this opportunity.”

Dressed in a beautiful pink gown with sparkly, silver jewelry and shoes, Chantilly junior Caroline LHeureu said, “I’m having fun. I like the dancing and talking with my friends.”

“It was wonderful to see how ecstatic the students were to get dressed up, have their photos taken, meet new people and dance,” continued Frostick. “And the moms were over the moon to go clothes shopping with their children. They were beyond excited – so many happy tears were shed along the way.”

Junior Kate Westover, wearing a lacy maroon dress, said it felt good being there. Before coming to the prom, she said she’d been “looking forward to having fun” and she was indeed “having a good time.” Kate said her favorite singer is Justin Bieber and what she liked best about the event was “dancing to the music.”

Senior Cordis Colburn said he was hav-

ing fun and enjoying the music, too. But, he added, he was especially excited about the cake – which he then focused on eating as soon as it was served to him, relishing every morsel before returning to the dance floor.

Centreville High brought a contingent of nine students – four boys and five girls, shepherded by special-ed teacher Rawan Almaghrabi. And although they don’t have cosmetology students at their school, she said, “Our students all came from home looking beautiful.” And she was as pleased to be at the prom as they were.

“I have a strong passion for kids with multiple disabilities,” she said. “And when I see them improving, I feel happy like I achieved something. Often, people think these students can’t do anything, but they do have skills and can learn. We prepare them for the future so they can get jobs and not just sit at home.”

For example, said Almaghrabi, “I have a student who waters the plants in the school – but in the beginning, it was hard to get him to leave the classroom. Now, though, he’ll go to the third floor and water the plants there, and he’s so happy. He’s autistic and could initially only say a few words. But now he’ll proudly say a whole sentence, ‘I water the plants.’”

She also noted another student who used to disrupt the class because he’d eat whatever he found on the floor. So instead, she

taught him to sweep that floor, “so he’d learn that trash goes in the trash can and you don’t eat it. He’s proud of himself for learning that, and he’s enjoying keeping the floor clean.”

Regarding the Day Prom, although Almaghrabi wished that more general-ed students were there “so it would be more inclusive,” she was delighted to see her students having fun. “I see happiness all over their faces,” she said. “Here, they have the same opportunity the general-ed students have. I’ll miss them during the summer; and when I think about this prom and them, it’ll give me motivation to come back in the fall.”

One of her students, junior Dulce Barreira-Zepeda, said she liked the prom and was having a good time, and then cheerfully headed to the dance floor to join her friends. Also enjoying himself was gregarious Centreville senior Shiv Vuppalachchi.

Calling the dance “good,” he said, “I like making friends, eating the food, dancing, having lots of fun, and having conversations with my friends.” His favorite songs are “Lose You to Love Me” by Selena Gomez and “Firework” by Katy Perry.

In his spare time, Shiv likes to do Tae Kwon Do and Jiu Jitsu, play basketball and tennis, do research on the computer, and participate in Best Buddies. Saying that he’d really been looking forward to attending the prom, he added, “Let’s have more day proms, every day.”

## Ticked Off



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For approximately 14 and half, years I experienced a very unexpected side effect from my ongoing cancer treatment. It may be a coincidence but ever since I began chemotherapy, my body chemistry apparently became unappetizing to two of our least favorite insects: ticks and mosquitos. Previously, I had been what seemed like a magnet to these two bloodsuckers. I realized that effect my chemotherapy was having (as they seemed to default to my wife instead) and enjoyed every unique minute of their disinterest. I am writing this column, to say that the party, such as it is, is over. And there is yet again a coincidence: I have been off my chemo/targeted therapy for four months or so. As such I am no longer medicated. My warranty, so to speak is up, and my body has once again become a relatively enticing and safe haven for ticks and mosquitos – and I’m not too happy about it. To invoke Don Imus: I am “torqued” off about this change.

In addition to killing cancer cells, the various types of chemotherapy, toxic as there were/are to me, they were even more toxic to the insects. Somehow the word/consequences of taking a bite out of me traveled around the insect world and I was – or so it seemed, off limits and/or the insect advisory was proceed/bite at your own risk. And this was quite noticeable. Instead of representing an unending chemical attraction to insects; all sudden, after a few months of infused chemotherapy, I became anathema to these insects. It was never so clear as it was that first summer (I began infusions in early March) when the insects need to establish their dominance in nature’s harmony or something akin to that. And for both ticks and mosquitos, the road to their afterlife involved biting and latching on to me like there was no tomorrow (and when I slapped or picked them off, very often there was no tomorrow). It wasn’t exactly a cure for cancer, but it was something of significance, something that made my life as a cancer patient more manageable (like the installation of mobile televisions at the infusion center mounted on flexible arms which enabled the patient to watch television while infusing away your day – and hopefully not your life. But in this context when your life is very much hanging in the balance, “one less thing,” as “Forrest, Forrest “Gump” said repeatedly matters disproportionately to the actual task at hand. And no more ticks and/or mosquitos, certainly qualified. Can you I imagine? No more swatting, slapping, spraying, picking “tweezing” and disinfecting. You were, for the first time in your life (and for me, that meant 54- and one-half years), the king of your castle. It truly was “Serenity now”/then. Right this second, I just picked a G. D. tick off my neck as I felt it crawling. It’s creepy writing about it but it’s creepier when it happens – in real-time, in your safe place no less, in my home office/domain.

This major inconvenience happens, as I said coincidentally with the stoppage of my cancer medicine, which creates its own rather disappointing scenario/problem. In addition to the discomfort (bug wise) I feel when I’m outside – now that the warmer weather is mostly here, I feel tremendous anxiety and fear, if I’m being honest, with respect to my now no-more-cancer-medicine-being-taken. And that medicine is not being taken because I’m cured. Hardly. It has stopped because a side effect of the drug used to treat my thyroid cancer was – and is, possibly damaging my kidneys. Well, those researchers were right. My kidneys are now down to about 25% of normal. Moreover, kidney damage is irreparable so all that the doctors can do, generally, is try and prevent the kidneys from further deterioration. Unfortunately, there’s no medicine for that – as there is for almost anything else. As a result, I am now left with untreated cancer, damaged kidneys, and more mosquito bites and tick “embeds” than I’ve ever had in my life. Talk about adding insult to injury. I can live with the cancer and kidney damage (though possibly for fewer years than I anticipated) but making me suffer while doing so seems like cruel and unusual punishment. (Is there a constitutional lawyer in the reading audience?) Whether there is or not (Jamie Raskin), I do need the best. Moreover, I need someone who can help me beat the thyroid cancer, the damaged kidneys and the encroaching ticks and mosquitos. And do so in a relatively timely manner because every day that I’m left to fend for myself is one less day that I feel like I’m beating the odds. And not beating the odds makes Kenny a very dull boy and one who really hates mosquitos and ticks – for all the wrong reasons.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

relegated to fewer homes, and restricted prosperity.

The housing shortage is the symptom, but banning responsible development makes it an incurable disease. The impact of this housing shortage extends beyond mere financial strain; it affects the very fabric of our communities.

The shortage forces many members of our community to commute long distances, live paycheck to paycheck, and consequently are unable to build emergency funds, save for retirement, or even afford necessities such as food and healthcare. Even long-time homeowners contend with ever-rising real estate tax assessments that consume their disposable incomes.

It is imperative that we support initiatives aimed at addressing this crisis, such as Supervisor Rodney Lusk’s proposal for an affordable housing development at the Franconia Governmental Center site. By approving projects like the Franconia development, which may provide approximately 120 affordable units, we take a significant step towards alleviating the housing shortage. Moreover, dedicating a portion of these units to vital professionals such as teachers, first responders, and medical professionals would provide critical services to our

community.

Consider the profound impact that affordable housing can have on our residents’ financial well-being. A mere \$500 monthly savings in rent equates to a \$9,000 annual pay raise (after accounting for state and federal taxes). This not only enables hard-working individuals and families to retain more of their earnings but also generates much-needed tax revenue for the county.

If assessed for even half the value of comparable properties, this development could generate as much tax revenue as 21 single-family homes, or over \$138,000 annually. I can think of no other policy that would put more money in the pockets of people while also growing the wealth of our county.

Addressing the housing shortage is not just an economic necessity, but a moral obligation. Housing is a human right. Fortunately, most of us don’t have to choose between two evils. By prioritizing the construction of affordable housing units, we can mitigate inflationary pressures, foster economic growth, and ensure a brighter future for all members of our community.

Jacob Harrer  
Springfield, Va.

## Be a part of our:

**Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

**Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.

### Questions?

E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS



# JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD

Direct: (703) 606-7901 | (703) 712-1757  
 JDCallander@gmail.com  
 Ed@NewNovaHome.com  
 www.NewNovaHome.com

#1 Agent Companywide  
 Top 1% Realtors Nationwide  
 NVAR 90+ Million Dollar Sales Club

#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



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

Per MLS

**Under Contract!**



Offered for...\$1,475,000

**1466 Kirby Road, McLean**  
 \*GORGEOUS\* 4BR/3BA brick home on 2 spacious finished levels situated on 1+ acre lot in sought-after Chesterbrook neighborhood. Expansive backyard featuring mature trees and beautiful plantings. Step inside and you'll be greeted by a sun-filled living room and dining room with a huge picture window overlooking the large back deck and backyard. Updated gourmet kitchen w/ ss appliance and new lvp. Large pantry/storage adjacent to the kitchen. Main level offers primary BR w/ ensuite; 2 add'l BR's and hall bath. The lower level features a huge rec room; 4 BR; full bath; and laundry room. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

**Under Contract!**



Offered for...\$2,439,000

**6025 Woodland Terrace, McLean**  
 \*SPECTACULAR\* 2016 Arts & Crafts home with 3BR/4.5BA on 3 spacious levels located on over a half acre in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! Designed by renowned architect Dwight McNeil and built by Joy Custom Design + Build. This finely detailed home features over 5300 sq ft of living space. The back of the house transitions beautifully to the sun-filled gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, and stunning family room. Spacious main level BR with en suite. Upper level features 2 BR's, each with en suite. Lower level offers a spacious family room, rec room, wine cellar, and full bath. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**



**FOR SALE!**

FRANKLIN PARK!



2049 Rockingham Street  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$4,695,000  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION!

**SOLD!**



Sold for...\$2,550,000

**6813 Tennyson Drive, McLean**  
 \*SPECTACULAR\* 8BR/5.5BA Craftsman, just a few blocks from the center of McLean. Boasting over 8000 finished square feet, this finely detailed and expansive home features 3 finished levels of naturally bright open floor plan design with 10 ft. ceilings and a beautiful 2-story foyer. Stunning family room with coffered ceiling and a wall of windows that opens to the gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances, oversized kitchen island, and custom cabinetry. Sprawling owner's suite on the upper lvl with expansive lux. spa like bathroom. LL w/ large rec, media, and 2 BRs. **Franklin Sherman, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

**SOLD!**



6144 Farver Road  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,550,000

**SOLD!**



6709 Pine Creek Court  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,200,000

**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!**



1313 Merrie Ridge Rd  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,637,500

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