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Going Up!
 Home for
 Osprey
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'Selective
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 Reporting'
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Encampment
 Scheduled for
 Shut Down
 PAGE 4

Notice zipped tied to Fairfax County No Trespassing sign at Reston tent encampment where a number of people experiencing homelessness have been staying.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18



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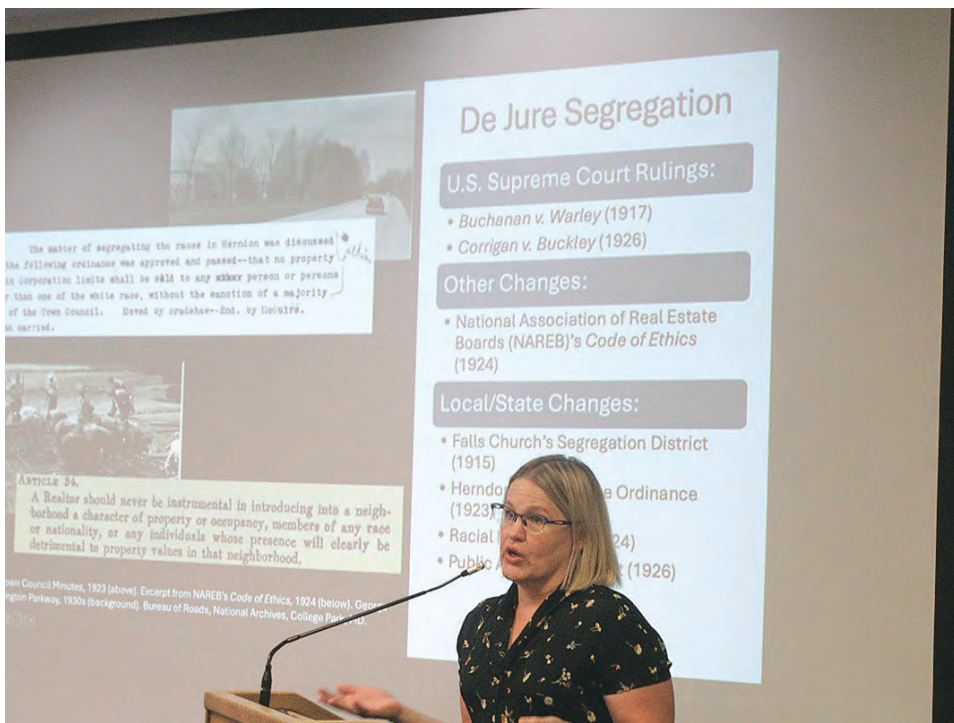
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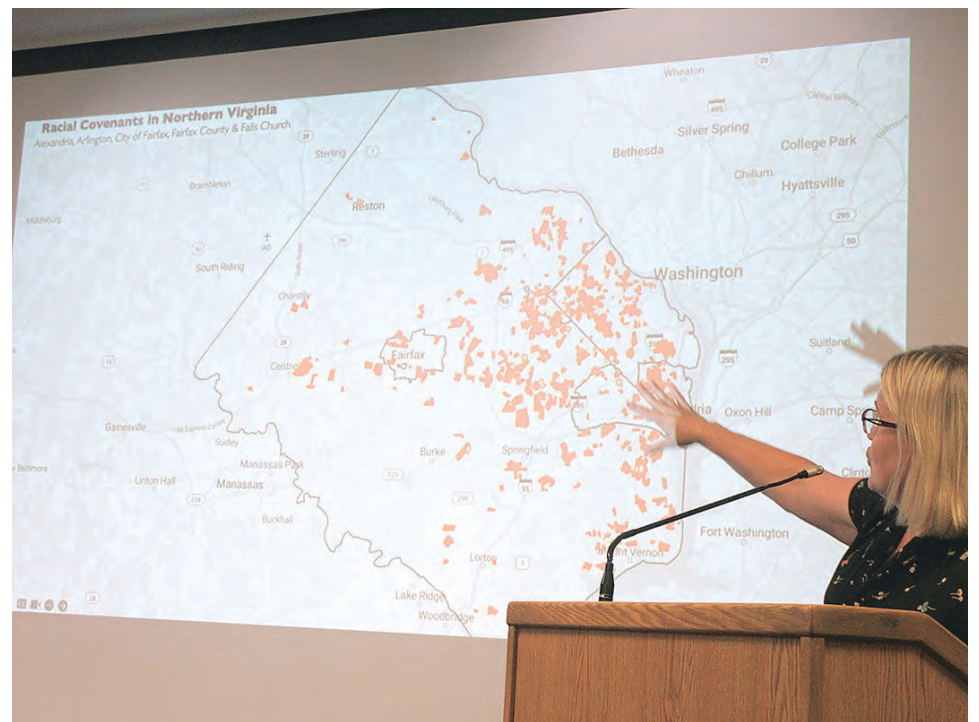
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Dr. Krystyn Moon covered the history of racial discrimination in housing in Northern Virginia.



Dr. Krystyn Moon showed a map of racial covenants in Northern Virginia.

The Legacy of Race-based Covenants

3 practices that created housing inequity: racial covenants; zoning; and limited access to mortgages based on race.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Some real estate developers and others selling property in Northern Virginia from 1900 through the 1960s used race-based, restrictive covenants to maintain segregation, and Virginia's state and local governments were enablers at times, Dr. Krystyn Moon, University of Mary Washington history professor told a packed room of 120 on August 27 at the Sherwood Regional Library.

In a talk titled "A History of Fairfax County's Racial Covenants in Property Deeds," she presented her research on the history and locations of racial covenants in Fairfax and Arlington counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. She has identified and geo-located racially-restrictive covenants across the region.

In introductory remarks, Lydia Lawrence, Nature Forward's Director of Conservation, noted that with EMBARK's redevelopment coming to U.S. 1, investments should be made "in an equitable way. We cannot treat something unless we understand the underlying cause," she said, adding, "We must understand the intentional actions that shape the community in a particular way."

Typical racial covenants were put into property deeds to prevent people "not of the Caucasian Race" from buying or occupying the land, Moon said. The covenants could have time limits or some would "run with the land," extend beyond the original owner.

Some covenants restricted sales to Jewish people.

"We built a system for privileged whites to

come to Fairfax County and covenants are part of that," Moon maintained. She cited three practices that created housing inequity, "why things are the way they are": racial covenants; land and aesthetic zoning; and limiting access to mortgages based on race.

Suburbanization and Jim Crow came together like a "perfect storm" in Northern Virginia, she asserted. Jim Crow refers to laws that legalized racial discrimination in the American South. In the 20th century, as roads and vehicles exploded and the state and federal governments encouraged road building, selling farmland to developers was more lucrative than farming and developers started converting farms to subdivisions. Also, in the 1940s, housing demand increased as people moved to the area for federal jobs.

"We built a system for privileged whites to come to Fairfax County and covenants are part of that."

— Dr. Krystyn Moon, University of Mary Washington history professor

In 1924, the National Association of Real Estate Boards adopted an "ethics" policy, declaring that Realtors should not introduce "into a neighborhood ... members of any

race or nationality, or any individuals whose presence will clearly be detrimental to property values in that neighborhood."

Advertisements often included coded language, Moon said, terms like "fully restricted," and "fully state of the art covenants," which euphemized the practice as "modern." Subdivision names today like "estates" or names of former plantations could be coded language as well, she suggested.

Covenants in Hybla Valley Farms

Moon highlighted developer V. Ward Boswell who in 1935 bought 125 acres along U.S. 1 next to the historically-Black Gum Springs community and built a subdivision called Hybla Valley Farms. She shared his 1935 deed for the lots which included this language: "No part of the said land shall be granted, leased, sold or conveyed to a person or persons of African descent, nor for the use and/or occupancy of a person or persons of African descent; and if any attempt to grant, lease, sell or convey any part of said land to a person or persons of African descent, the deed of said land shall revert to the grantor as though said deed or leased had not been made; and adjoining property owners may eject such person or persons of African descent from said property or cause them to be ejected by the proper actions in the courts of Virginia."

Citing a 1970 census of Hybla Valley Farms and nearby communities that included property owners' race, Moon concluded, "The restrictions had an impact." A street today ending on the east side of U.S. 1 still bears Boswell's name.

State Action

In 1912, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that allowed cities and towns to establish "segregation districts," to

COURTESY OF KRYSYRN MOON
Ad touts: "Restricted to the Caucasian Race"

designate specific neighborhoods for Black or White people. "A year after the maps were created, no Black individual or family could move into the white section of the town/city and vice versa," she explained.

In 1924, the Virginia Racial Integrity Act categorized people as "colored" or white, "the most extreme in the U.S.," charged Moon. "This informed racial covenants in Fairfax County," she contended, adding, "This room would be illegal in 1926." In

SEE HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Notice zipped tied to Fairfax County No Trespassing sign at Reston tent encampment

Reston Encampment To Be Shut Down Sept. 10

County officials don't answer the tough questions.

By MERCIA HOBSON
 THE CONNECTION

People experiencing homelessness and living in a tent encampment in Reston, located in the woods behind the INOVA Emergency Room on Baron Cameron Avenue, need to leave the area by Sept. 10, according to posted signs.

"Any property remaining on Sept. 10 will be considered abandoned and will be discarded," reads paper-posted signs in plastic sleeves attached to metal No Trespassing signs bearing the insignia of Fairfax County.

On Thursday, Aug. 22, Allyson Pearce with Fairfax County, emailed The Connection, saying that the county would begin closing the Reston encampment on Aug. 27, when the No Trespassing signs would be posted.

Walter Alcorn is the Fairfax County Supervisor for the Hunter Mill District, which includes Reston. "This is an important and necessary step forward towards ultimately building a new homeless shelter with permanent supportive housing in Reston," said Al-

corn in a released statement. According to a Fairfax County spokesperson, the North County Human Services Temporary Overnight Shelter opened in July to welcome individuals experiencing homelessness who resided on The Hill in Reston. Reportedly, "dozens of community outreach workers" spent countless hours meeting with all persons residing on The Hill. They assessed individual needs and connected people with customized services.

Q&A between The Connection and County Spokesperson

Q&A between The Connection and County Spokesperson

Q. What happens to those individuals on the property who do not want to go to a shelter or might not qualify for housing?

A. Outreach workers will continue meeting with neighbors to assess individual

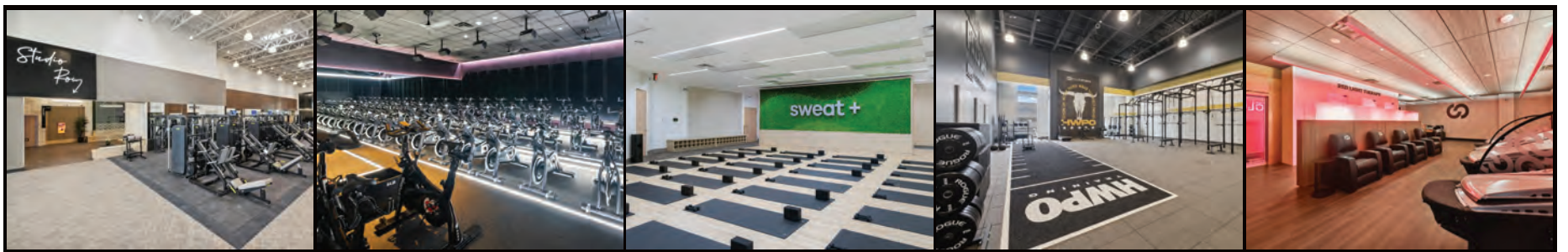


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PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

Proposed Amendments to Reston Association Design Guidelines

Reston Association seeks community input on revisions and additions to Design Guidelines.

Board of Directors Work Session
Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Avenue

Visit <https://www.reston.org/property-owner-resources> for more information on Design Guidelines.



Visit <https://bit.ly/3MiHoJc>
Scan QR code for more info.

Invitation to Bid Food Services Management Contract (FSMC)

Tysons Corner Children's Center (TCCC), a not-for-profit childcare and preschool facility with two locations (McLean and Vienna) is seeking a Food Services Management Company (FSMC) who will be responsible for preparing and delivering fresh fruit and hot and cold meals with milk in accordance with USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and TCCC requirements. The duration of this FSMC is for one year beginning October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

The FSMC will have an opportunity to renew this contract for up to four one-year periods. As part of this renewal process, the Consumer Price Index for Food Prepared Away From Home will be the factor used to determine the amount of any meal cost increase. Any variation from this factor will need approval from USDA's CACFP Office. The contract must be renewed before the contract expires. While contract renewals are permitted, TCCC is not required to renew the contract for an additional year. Renewal will only be done based on the FSMC's performance and the determination that the renewal is beneficial to the TCCC food program. If a contract is renewed for the fourth one-year period, it must be re-procured.

The Food Services Contract will be based on the potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the initiation to bid, price, contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, and documented record of past performance.

To submit a bid for the Food Services Management Contract at TCCC, please send your bid by **September 18, 2024** to: Canida Murray, TCCC, 8260 Greensboro Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Please be sure to include the names and phone numbers for at least two references and a list of the contracts your FSMC has had for the past two years.

Thank you

NEWS

Reston Encampment To Be Shut Down Sept. 10

FROM PAGE 4

needs with a goal of a compassionate and successful transition to the North County Temporary Overnight Shelter or other available housing options. Our goal is for everyone to make a successful transition.

Q. One of the nonprofit organizations is Cornerstones. What is their goal, and how are they going about it?

A. Fairfax County and its community partner, Cornerstones, have been working to compassionately wind down the encampment of people experiencing homelessness on the property known as "The Hill." During the past few months, outreach workers have spent countless hours meeting with each person residing on The Hill to assess their individual needs and connect them with housing options and customized services. Ultimately, our shared goal is for everyone to successfully transition to the North County Temporary Overnight Shelter or other housing options.

Q. What is the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness's goal in this matter, and how will it be achieved so that all unhoused individuals at the encampment and those living in vehicles in the adjacent parking lot have housing?

A. The goal of Fairfax County and its partners in this effort is to compassionately wind-down the encampment of people experiencing homelessness on the property known as "The Hill." During the past few months, outreach workers have spent countless hours meeting with each person residing on The Hill to assess their individual needs and connect them with housing options and customized services. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is in the community daily assisting people experiencing homelessness in all its forms. Our ultimate goal is synonymous with our name: to prevent and end homelessness in Reston and across Fairfax County.

Q. How is the housing funded?

A. Budget for the Temporary Overnight Shelter is from the Fairfax County General Resource Fund.

Q. What about unhoused individuals who may not have all the qualifying paperwork, such as those who may be undocumented?

A. Fairfax County follows its Trust Policy when it comes to supporting the needs of our immigrant community.

Q. Who are the other nonprofit partner(s), and what are they doing?

A. Other partners include the local faith-based community and various homelessness services providers. These partners have been supporting the effort in a myriad of ways: from donating food and clothing to providing access to employment assistance and daytime services.

Q. Some people living in the tents have accumulated many possessions. Will physical assistance be provided to help them move themselves and



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Tent encampment at "The Hill" in Reston, March 29, 2024

their possessions elsewhere? If so, please describe it.

A. As with any of Fairfax County's shelters, people experiencing homelessness are welcome to bring their belongings to the North County Temporary Overnight Shelter. Suitcases are provided for the temporary storage of personal belongings.

Q. And if any people refuse to move, then what?

A. Outreach workers will continue meeting with neighbors to assess individual needs with a goal of a compassionate and successful transition to the North County Temporary Overnight Shelter or other available housing options. Our goal is for everyone to make a successful transition.

Q. How will police involvement be limited?

A. Outreach workers will continue meeting with neighbors to assess individual needs with a goal of a compassionate and successful transition to the North County Temporary Overnight Shelter or other available housing options. Our goal is for everyone to make a successful transition.

Q. What happens if some of those who have lived at the encampment relocate to other areas in Reston, such as beside Target?

A. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness is in the community daily assisting people experiencing homelessness in all its forms. We will continue to compassionately support our community with a goal of transitioning people experiencing homelessness to a shelter or other housing option.

Related story: <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2024/apr/02/unsheltered-homeless-persons-at-reston-encampment/>

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HISTORY OF RACIAL COVENANTS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Dr. Krystyn Moon described the legal and legislative steps that made housing covenants illegal.



Around 120 people attended the Aug. 27 presentation.



Senator Scott Surovell and Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck attended and will act.



Dr. Krystyn Moon discussed her findings with Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk.



Ron Chase and Audrey Davis commended the presentation.

FROM PAGE 3

1928, the Board of Supervisors created a process to review plats for developing subdivisions.

Removing Covenants Today

Several court decisions and the federal Fair Housing Act eventually made using racial covenants illegal. Some Northern Virginians sued to remove them and organized pickets and petitions to promote desegregation and fair housing. In 1968, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved an "open occupancy" ordinance, designed to protect housing rights.

Though illegal, some covenants are still in legal records. In 2020, the General Assembly

passed a law to provide a simplified process for homeowners to remove racial covenants from their chain of title. The state Supreme Court has created a form for landowners to prepare deeds at <https://www.vacourts.gov/forms/circuit/cc1508.pdf>.

Virginia Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek will hold a workshop to help people who want to remove these covenants. "We intend to work with a local real estate closing company, title researchers and others to provide homeowners with the information and resources necessary to prepare and file these deeds in less than 30 minutes," Surovell said.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk attended the meeting and will propose that the Board

of Supervisors remove or redact racial covenants language from County property deeds. "While the covenants are not applicable, we recognize the importance of removing this legacy," Storck said.

Storck continued, "It was wonderful seeing so many residents engaged with our county and Mount Vernon history. I look forward to learning more and leading the county in updating our property deeds to remove or redact these racial covenants."

Ron Chase said, "It was an excellent introduction, describing the obstacles African Americans face and so many nuances. This is an introduction to the trials and tribulations people experienced in our evolving culture." Chase is president of the Gum Springs Historic Society and Museum.

Audrey Davis remarked, "The presentation shows us the many lessons we need to talk about. Most young people have no idea of this history. We still need to get some covenants removed." Davis is Director of the African American History division of the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Moon's book, "Proximity to Power: Rethinking Race and Place in Northern Virginia," will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2025.

Cosponsors were Nature Forward, the South County Task Force, Fairfax NAACP, Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society and the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum.

Information: <https://documentingexclusion.org>



One sponsor was the Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society.



A street that ends on the east side of U.S. 1 across from the Hybla Valley Shopping Center is named Boswell Avenue. Schelhorn Road terminates on Boswell Avenue.





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OSPREY



Ryce Zink operates auger to create deep hole to accommodate platform pole



Crew raises pole with osprey nest box attached



PHOTO BY SUSAN FARMER

Project crew celebrates osprey nesting platform installation on disc golf course before moving to the second pole installation



With auger retracted, the derrick with pole guides and winch maneuver the pole



County ecologist, volunteers and Dominion Energy crew conservation efforts bring osprey nesting platform to Laurel Hill Park; Dave Lawlor, Bill Beletsky, Jon Corpus, Ryce Zink, Erik Whitmev, Aiden Marshall, Bren Knight, Andre Miller



Dave Lawlor and Bill Beletsky attach osprey nest box to donated utility pole



Ground crew members Andre Miller, Aiden Marshall and Bren Knight guide pole on winch to placement



PHOTO BY BILL BELETSKY

Nike site osprey family rests together on nest platform before fledging this season

Dominion Energy & Park Authority Connect to Help Ospreys

Nest box platforms installed at Laurel Hill Park.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Recently, Dominion Energy teamed up with Fairfax County Park Authority's Natural Resources Branch and Laurel Hill Park volunteers to provide more potential nesting space for Ospreys (Pandion haliaetus). With multiple nesting pairs of the impressive raptors in the area, typically raising two or three chicks each season, it is hoped that additional nesting platforms will encourage young birds to return, pair, and breed here in coming years.

Dominion Energy's manager, John Higbee shares that they regularly look for community service projects in which to participate. "Giving ospreys a safe place

to nest keeps them from nesting on our facilities and protects our service to customers. Ospreys nesting here is evidence of strong ecosystems, and evidence that efforts under the Chesapeake Bay Act are working." The company donated recycled treated utility poles, use of specialized installation equipment and their crew's work to erect two nesting platforms in Lorton's Laurel Hill Park.

Watching a pair nesting on a light pole at the former Nike missile site over several seasons led Park Area 4 Maintenance and park volunteers to team up for a solo venture at platform installation last year. (See The Connection, Oct. 19, 2023). The team was successful in raising a 60 foot pole using only available equipment. Wanting to raise more platforms but real-

izing the shortfalls of their equipment, the team looked with envy at Dominion Energy's specialized digger derrick equipment and expert pole installation crews. When the County's wildlife ecologist Dave Lawlor reached out for a helping hand, Dominion Energy's construction and operations supervisor, Jonathan Copus responded positively.

Volunteer, Bill Beletsky of Springfield, built the nest boxes for placement on the poles, following a Cornell Ornithology Lab design for two boxes. For a third box, he made minor adjustments of his own design, including to the resting perch for the male to alight near the female laying on the eggs, and a central attachment design on the pole. The boxes were attached to the poles while on the ground; a few sticks added to the box bed to encourage

nest building. Then the full nesting platform and pole were hoisted into a six-foot hole augured to receive it.

Ospreys inhabit locations thorough-out the world, making a come-back from the ravages of the insecticide DDT in the 1960-70s, which devastated their numbers. The world's heaviest concentration of nesting Osprey's now is in our own Chesapeake Bay region. The Bay area supports 10,000 to 12,000 breeding pairs. As their numbers grow, more of the elegant fish hawks, which eat only fish, are making homes near other Virginia waterways. Osprey's are finding local rivers, lakes, and wetlands acceptable places to raise their young with their bounty of fresh water fish.

There are concerns about Virginia's menhaden fishery impacting food sources for the birds and other creatures. Menhaden are an important food source for

ospreys and many predator fish, bald eagles, dolphins, and whales.

Commercial interests harvest menhaden for use as fertilizers, animal feed, and bait for crab and lobster fisheries.

But the osprey population is in trouble in parts of the Chesapeake Bay where ospreys are producing far too few nestlings to sustain their numbers, said Robin Todd of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Recent research by Bryan Watts of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology indicates that a major cause is the industrial fishing of menhaden, a key food source for these birds.

Ospreys typically build nests near fish sources; on top of trees, telephone poles, buoys, or human-made nesting platforms. The Lorton platforms are within birds' view of the Occoquan River, Lake Mercer, Burke Lake, and Huntsman Lake. Nests

constructed by ospreys are large and make use of sticks, reeds, and grasses. The birds are notorious for also using man-made nylon or plastic netting, plastic bags and other garbage, often with disastrous results, when talons, or necks of young chicks, get stuck in the unyielding materials.

In a successful breeding season, a pair will hatch two or three chicks, feed them through fledging, then teach them to hunt on their own before their migration south for the winter.

Once they successfully raise chicks in a nest, the osprey pair will return to it year after year. As pairs successfully raise more and more chicks, available nesting spots for young birds are in demand. The Lorton volunteers hope the three new nest platforms installed in Laurel Hill Park will be occupied when young birds return from the Caribbean and South America next March.

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FCPS Superintendent Attempts to Unwind ‘Misrepresentations’

Dear Governor: FCPS outperforms state averages in all state-mandated subjects.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public School officials want to unwind selective data reporting the Aug. 20 Virginia Department of Education press event, “The Release of Virginia’s Annual Assessment of Student Performance, with a review of the 2024 Annual Standards of Learning Assessment Rates.

After the event, headlines such as these appeared online: Fairfax Co. Students See Major Drop in Test Scores, Fairfax School system saw declines in history and English writing, Fairfax County’s public schools are failing their most vulnerable students, and others.

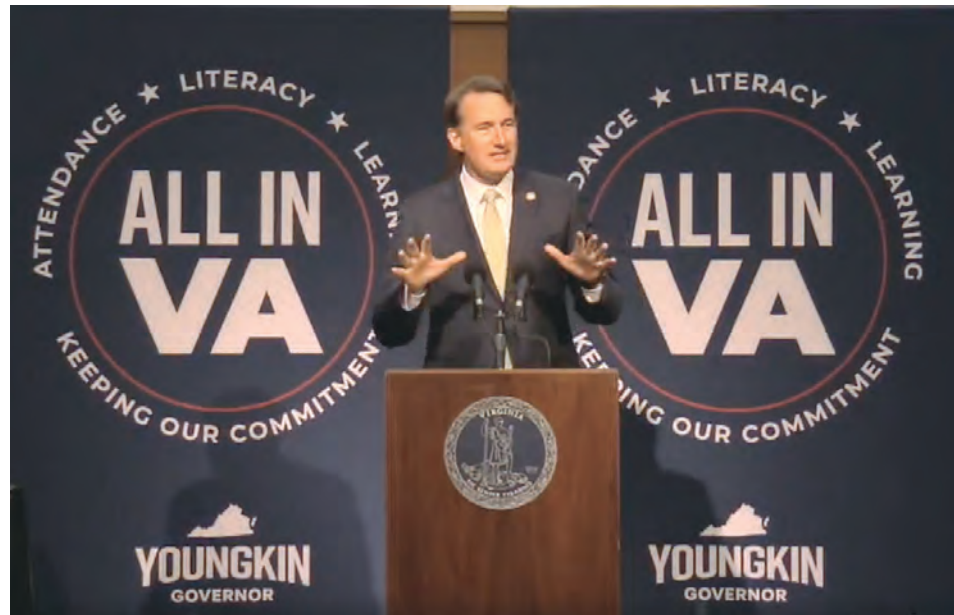
On Aug. 23, Dr. Michelle C. Reid, division superintendent of FCPS, wrote a letter to Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera and Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lisa Coons. Reid said, “Early this week, the VDOE released this state-wide data [Annual Assessment of Student Performance] to schools after hosting a press event where the achievements of large school systems like Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) were not recognized.”

On Aug. 30, Fairfax County School Board member Melanie Meren wrote in her weekly online newsletter, “Governor Youngkin and his education administration of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) were silent about the achievements of the majority of FCPS students ... during a media conference [This led to some] media misrepresent[ing] FCPS students’ achievement on outdated SOLs in writing (110 students) and history/social sciences (474 students) – while tens of thousands of students took VDOE-approved alternative assessments and continued to perform extraordinarily well This selective data reporting by Virginia’s leadership is a disservice to students, teachers, and taxpayers.”

According to FCPS online, the Virginia Assessment Program is commonly known as the SOLs or Standards of Learning. The tests measure student learning and achievement in math, reading, science, writing, and history/social science. Under Virginia law, the tests are administered to students in grades 3-8 and 9-12 for state and federal accountability. All students in grades 3-8 are expected to participate in SOL tests, and all schools must offer SOL tests to all students who need to fulfill federal or graduation requirements.

That is unless the students meet specific state criteria, such as students with disabilities eligible to participate in the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP).

Reid noted in her letter that in 2021, VDOE granted FCPS a School Division of Innovation (SDI). Students can demonstrate mastery using a variety of state-approved alternative assessments, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate



SCREENSHOT

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin



SCREENSHOT

Dr. Michelle C. Reid, FCPS superintendent



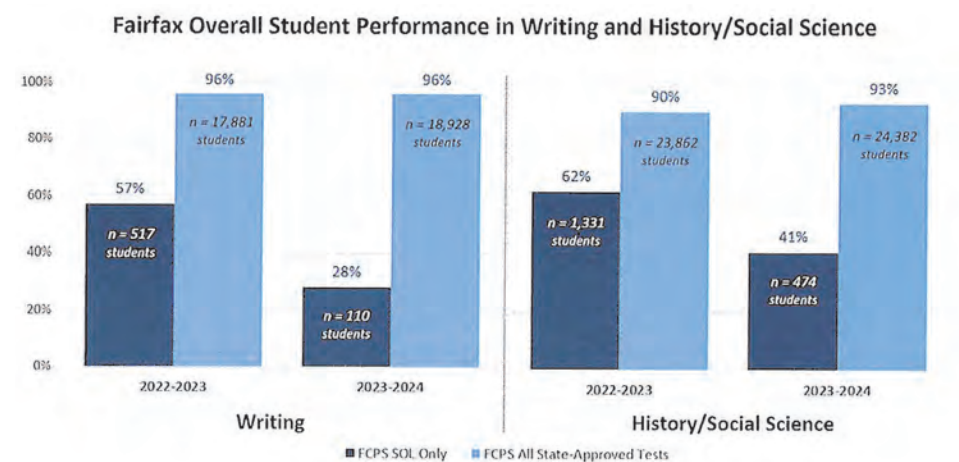
DOE.VIRGINIA.GOV

Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Coons



INSTAGRAM

Melanie Meren, School Board (Hunter Mill)



SCREENSHOT REID'S LETTER

Yearly comparisons, 2022-2023 & 2023-2024, of Fairfax County Public Schools overall student performances in Writing and History/Social Science; dark blue denotes FCPS SOL only, and the light blue denotes FCPS All State-Approved Tests

exams. The flexibility ensures FCPS students engage in rigorous assessments with higher performance standards than the SOLs.

Reid countered that VDOE’s writing SOL assesses the outdated 2010 writing standards. “FCPS has also elected to embrace VDOE flexibility in history/social sciences to offer more authentic assessment experi-

ences for our students, aligned with their classroom learning,” Reid said. She added that more than 18,000 FCPS students took VDOE-approved alternative assessments and continued to perform extraordinarily well, as indicated in the chart she provided within the letter.

”By omitting the tens of thousands of

students who performed exceedingly well on VDOE-approved alternative assessments and publishing only the fraction of students who took SOLs, the hard work of our students and staff is not recognized,” Reid said. “To be clear, FCPS, which is Virginia’s largest school division, continues to outperform state averages in all state-mandated SOL subjects.” Reid included a table that details FCPS results in reading, math, and science.

THE VDOE PRESS event featured three speakers. The first was Emily Ann Gullickson, the Deputy Secretary of Education. She recognized key education champions.

Gov. Youngkin followed, and he described public education in Virginia. He reviewed that over the last eight years, there has been a systemic reduction in the number of questions required to get right to determine proficiency on the standard tests, leading to an “honesty gap.” That is where students performed better on Virginia tests than on national assessments.

According to Youngkin, Virginia has experienced 40 percent increases in K-12 budgets since 2021, a 12 percent increase in teacher pay over the first two years with two subsequent 3 percent increases, the launch of the \$418 million “ALL In Virginia” initiative in response to learning loss from the pandemic, a 16 percent reduction in chronic absenteeism and improvements in reading and math scores.

Coons spoke next and provided data analysis of the assessment. She showcased very small school districts that experienced educational and school attendance gains, explained how Virginia’s student learning loss persisted last September, and the need for intensive tutoring.

”We know that our smaller divisions are showing improvements faster,” Coons said, calling attention to economically disadvantaged students. “We are seeing double rates of growth.”

Coons highlighted a handful of small school divisions, such as Bath County, [student population 504] “that leaned into the work ... creating intervention with tiered supports that supported their most vulnerable learners ... and used their ‘All In’ funds to expand the tutors.” Brunswick County [student population 1,419] hired instructional coaches to train teachers and hired more tutors. The Colonial Beach district [student population 580] provided early intervention for students who were off track, did home visits to create attendance plans and redesigned transportation to provide double bus routes.

“These case studies show the effort and hard work of our leading school divisions,” said Coons. None of the smaller divisions Coons discussed come close to the 181,000+ students Fairfax County Public Schools serves as the largest division in the Commonwealth.

'Selective Data Reporting'

FROM PAGE 12

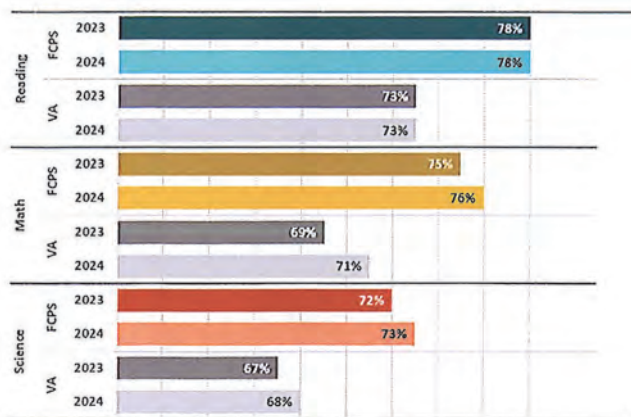
Youngkin closed the event, saying, "We are making progress... The reality is that when the foundations aren't in place, recovery is hard ... Sometimes, the smaller school divisions are more nimble and can move more quickly."

A VDOE spokesperson stated, "School divisions may offer students the opportunity to complete Board-approved substitute tests rather than the SOL Writing test to meet this state testing requirement. This is a local decision left up to each school division. However,

per U.S. Department of Education requirements, the substitute test results are not reflected in the SOL results that were released. Most Board-approved substitute test results are included in the state's Accreditation results, which will be released in September."

There are likely more opportunities for selective data reporting ahead. Meren brought forward a second concern in her newsletter: "The Governor's appointed State Board of Education voted Wednesday (8/28) to

Fairfax and Virginia 2-Year Comparisons, All Students Annual Pass Rates



SCREENSHOT REID'S LETTER

Two-year comparisons, all students annual pass rates.

change the established standards that measure school and student performance at unprecedented rapid speed and without dedicated funding resources for this major transition. The changes reposition how local schools will educate students, reverting instruction back to the defunct practice of using high-stakes, standardized testing as the measure of student learning."

Meren said options are limited in countering the change and urged the public to contact their elected officials.

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Another **THE CONNECTION** Community Partnership



Maryland's Dale Rogers uses steel along with an incredible imagination to weld and hand-finish larger-than-life whimsical, outdoor sculptures.

Alexandria Old Town Art Festival

The Alexandria Old Town Art Festival returns to John Carlyle Square for the 22nd year. The popular, free showcase featuring thousands of fine art works from local and national artists happens Sept. 14 - 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Presented by Howard Alan Events, the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Local and national artists will display their works in a show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and handcrafted apparel and decor. Art enthusiasts discover spectacular paintings, life-sized sculptures, jewelry, glasswork, photography, ceramics and more. All artists will be on site for the duration of the festival, allowing visitors to discover the inspiration behind each original piece. Admission for patrons is free, and ample parking is available.

Once again, The Art League



Fairfax painter Jill Banks uses daily life as inspiration for her breathtaking impressionistic oil works.

brings back its popular "Ice Cream Bowl" Fundraiser on Saturday, September 14. Patrons can visit their booth and select from hundreds of hand-made bowls lovingly created by the talented artists of The Art League's ceramics department — and enjoy an ice cream treat, all for only \$15 per bowl. Proceeds benefit the League's ceramics department.



PHOTOS FXCO ANIMAL SHELTER



PHOTO FXCO ANIMAL SHELTER

Is this your lost pet? Contact the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-0299.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter Hosts 'Clear the Shelters'

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter gives animals a chance to be part of a new cherished family, or return to them. From Friday, Aug. 23, through Sunday, Aug. 25, FCAS hosted its "Clear the Shelters" fee-waived pet adoption event at its two locations, the Lorton Campus and the Michael R. Frey Campus. The initiative, presented by NBC and Telemundo Stations, promotes pet adoption and raises awareness for animal shelters nationwide.

FCAS had more than 160 animals — cats, dogs, guinea pigs, mice, and rabbits — waiting to meet their new families and placed over the long weekend. Shelter director Reasa Currier said they were "thrilled to join in this annual celebration of finding loving homes for adoptable pets."

However, pets continue to arrive at the shelter.

Some are released by their owners for adoption, but the shelter also shelters found pets. The Fairfax County Animal Shelter shares photos of their recently found pets online. Perhaps one of these furry or feathered pets has been searching for you. To confirm your pet's location, either on the Lorton or Fairfax campuses, contact staff at animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-0299.

County residents can also contact the shelter to learn more about assistance keeping pets, finding them a new home, and what foster volunteers can do, such as providing extra care to shelter pets outside of the shelter on daytime adventures through their Power Hour Program or fostering.

— MERCIA HOBSON



Reston Association's dog paddle 2024 at Autumnwood Pool in Reston

Doggie Swims Underway by RA

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY RA

Reston Association (RA) announced ticket registration is open and space is limited for its dog days of summer annual swim events as pools close for the season. The fee is \$15/RA Members in advance or \$20 the day of the event if space is available and \$20/non-members. For vendor space or any questions, contact Events@reston.org or 703-435-6571. RA also announced that its splash pad at Shadowood Pool, 2201 Springwood Drive, is open to the public through Nov. 3.

— MERCIA HOBSON



When RA's pools close for the season for humans, it is doggie swim time.



Splash pad open to the public through Nov. 3.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Rocking the Poise

Local teen wins crown at recent national American Miss Pageant.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Springfield resident Alexandra Charecky has a few things to focus on while going into her senior year at West Springfield, starting with winning the National American Miss competition in Reston, and another pageant coming this November in Florida. She's taking the Auto Train but will still look forward to a feast over Thanksgiving.

"They do a Thanksgiving banquet," Alexa said.

Other concerns this year include applying for college, playing the bass guitar, putting in time at the Warrior Canine Connection with dogs and her upcoming service project putting on a "Beacon Buddy Bash." This is part of the National American Miss participation, where she's been involved for the past five years.

"Community service is highly emphasized," she said.

At school, Charecky participates in varsity track and field. At the beginning of spring track, Alexa blew her knee out at practice and had surgery at the end of April, and everyone was not even sure she would be able to walk normally, let alone in heels in time for the pageant.

"But, thanks to an amazing surgeon, physical therapists, and hard work and determination, she was able to walk gracefully and capture the crown," said her mother Katherine Charecky. Alexa looked to Olympic track star Anna Hall for inspiration. Hall also had a knee injury earlier this year and still medaled at the Olympics in the Heptathlon.

National American Miss competition

The pageants have all kinds of outfits the contestants wear and Charecky posed as a television reporter but she doesn't have aspirations in that area. Her interests include biology, German, and mental health. At West Springfield, she's part of the Mental Health Student Alliance and has a family member struggling with mental health issues.

During one pageant, she had to give a short speech during her personal introduction and the thirty seconds she had seemed like a lot longer.

"First time was a little nerve wracking," she said.

Her talent section involved the bass guitar and her main musical attraction is "metal," music which is a little hard core for someone who is also walking down the pageant runway.

"For this pageant, I did a groove with bass," she said. Her favorite group is a French band called "Gogjira."

Skills like clear communication, carrying yourself with poise, and speaking with confidence about herself and her passions are things that every young woman should have the chance to practice. National American Miss sets the stage to learn those skills they said.

Past winners have gone on to bigger things in life, attributing some of that courage to the National American Miss pageant. Camille Shrier was a winner in 2012 and went on to win the Miss America pageant in 2020. Past winner Serene Singh went on to be a Rhodes Scholar; Shirene Pimentel is now a Broadway star; and MacKenzie Maynard won in 2007 and went on to be a broadcast journalist at NBC and ABC affiliate.



Alexandra Charecky



One of the poses was a spokesmodel although Alexa has no aspirations towards this as a career.



She plays the bass guitar outside the pageant.

ates across the country.

The door is open to many options for Alexa so starting with the National American Miss program exposes her to other things that she may not have seen in Springfield.

"It really is a lot more than just a pageant," she said.

Springfield Commuter Garage
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- Pedestrian bridge to Springfield Plaza

Map labels: SPRINGFIELD BOULEVARD, OLD KEENE MILL ROAD, SPRING ROAD, Springfield United Methodist Church, Gas Station, Springfield Plaza Shopping Center

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Springfield Commuter Garage

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Commuting Center in Springfield Set to Open This Fall

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

After years of anticipation, the Springfield Parking Garage is opening this fall providing the commuters and community further transportation options in Central Springfield.

The new garage Near Old Keene Mill Road and Springfield Blvd is more like a transportation center, offering transportation options, parking options and community activity space that is needed in central Springfield.

The center has seven bus bays, over 1,000 parking spaces, secure bicycle room and bike racks, two commuter slug line loading zones, carpool waiting/short-term parking and a pedestrian bridge over Old Keene Mill Road.

The price tag for this center is \$58,375,220 which was funded with a combination of Federal, State, and County sources. The center will be maintained by Fair-



This week, Fairfax Connector drivers, Transdev and FCDOT staff were out at the soon-to-open Springfield Commuter Garage conducting test runs through the garage and at the bus bays.

fax County. The architectural firm was WDG and the contractor behind the construction was Manhattan Construction, based out of Arlington.

The project was delayed during the pandemic due to a suspension of office work and a halt in the regular commuting practices.

ENTERTAINMENT



"Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors" takes place Sept. 6 to Oct. 27, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



The Native American Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at Riverbend Park in Great Falls.

AUG. 10 TO OCT. 13

Life's a Stitch. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Life's a Stitch x4 looks at 4 very different ways that art quilts and fiber sculpture can use both humor and drama to express character and story. Website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/lifes-a-stitch>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

The Great Zucchini Magic Show! At 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Spend a morning filled with wonder and laughter during an entertaining magic show performed by The Great Zucchini. For more information, visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCross-Blood.org and enter: "McLeanCC" to schedule an appointment.

SEPT. 5-8

Tyson's Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. Tyson's Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.
Thursday, 5 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 6 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, 7 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 8 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Something Country. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. At Electric Palm Restaurant, 12745 Sea Ray Lane, Woodbridge. Rockin' country that gets you dancing.

SEPT. 6 TO OCT. 27

"Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. September: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. October: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m. Special October Twilight Performances: Dracula show combined with admission to the haunted trail that same eve-

ning. Filled with clever wordplay and pop culture references, Dracula is a gender-bending, laugh-out-loud reimagining of the gothic classic. In the treacherous mountains of Transylvania, a meek English real estate agent takes a harrowing journey to meet a new and mysterious client, the most terrifying and ferocious monster the world has ever known: Count Dracula! Famed female vampire hunter, Jean Van Helsing, and company chase Drac from Transylvania to the British countryside to London and back. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Lesson Zero. 8 p.m. to midnight. At The Backyard Grill, 13999 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. The music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero performs Saturday, September 7 from 8 to midnight. Admission is free and parking is available. For more information see www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

National Capital Model Soldier Society 63rd Annual Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Trophies and sponsored awards; Car/Ship/Train/Armor Club; GUNDAM Build Tables, Modeling Demonstrations, Hobby Vendors.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Third Annual Reggae on the Lake Festival. 12 noon to 9 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Third Annual Reggae on the Lake Festival, a vibrant celebration of reggae music, culture, and community hosted by TERRA Gives Back, the charitable subsidiary of TERRA Properties. Event Highlights Include:
Live Performances: Enjoy the beats of internationally renowned Reggae artists, setting the perfect backdrop for a fun-filled, musical day at Lake Anne Plaza.
Authentic Jamaican Cuisine: Savor traditional Jamaican dishes and beverages that will transport your taste buds straight to the Caribbean.
Kid-Friendly Activities: Bring the whole family to enjoy balloon twisting, face painting, and other fun surprises.
Vacation Raffle: Enter to win an all-expenses-paid weekend getaway to Azul Beach Resort in Negril, Jamaica for two adults! Each raffle ticket

is just \$50, and all proceeds go directly to support Cornerstones.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT DR. REID

Your voice matters, and Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid wants to hear from you! This fall, a series of Community Conversations will be held across the school division. These events are an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ask questions regarding Fairfax County Public Schools. Events are planned for the following dates from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:

- Monday, September 9, at Holmes Middle School.
- Monday, September 23, at Newington Forest Elementary School.
- Monday, September 30, at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.
- Monday, October 14, at Fairhill Elementary School.
- Monday, October 21, at Virginia Run Elementary School.
- Wednesday, October 30, at Herndon Middle School.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

38th Annual Reston Triathlon. At Lake Audubon, Reston. Push your limits and be part of this thrilling event, presented by CORE Foundation. There are three ways to get involved:

1. Compete: Test your endurance and take on the triathlon challenge!
2. Volunteer: Be the driving force behind this event—volunteers make it all happen!
3. Sponsor: Support local athletes and gain valuable exposure for your business.

Register to race: runsignup.com/Race/VA/Reston/RestonTriathlon
Sign up to volunteer: runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Reston/RestonTriathlon
Interested in sponsoring? Contact us at info@corefoundation.org

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Rec Center Open House. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Kick off the fall season by exploring everything that your neighborhood Rec Center has to offer. Come discover new opportunities to improve your wellbeing and forge new connections with your community by participating at the Fairfax County Park Authority Rec Center Open House event. Tour



Koo Koo performs on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

facilities and try out the amenities all day long for free. Come find your community connections at Park Authority Rec Centers by participating in drop-in fitness classes, connecting with a workout buddy. Enjoy lap swimming in our spacious pools or unwind in the spa or sauna. Also, learn about Rec Center personal training packages tailor-made to help you achieve your personal fitness goals.

During the Rec Center Open House, visit the membership table for giveaways, and participate in fun activities, such as fall-themed arts and crafts for the kids. Check out each Rec Center website for specific information on special programming. Here are just a few examples of what to look forward to:

Franconia Rec Center: Free carousel rides, Our Special Harbor spray park, a raffle and shallow water exercise demonstrations at Franconia Rec Center (6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria).

Providence Rec Center: S'mores, popcorn and cotton candy, pool games, an art walk, numerous fitness information stations, sample swim lessons and karate demonstrations at Providence Rec Center (7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church).

South Run Rec Center: Cornhole, table tennis, pool games and a kid's sports challenge with free prizes at South Run Rec Center (7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield)

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

NARFE Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, Vienna. Jennifer Gittins-Harfst, certified Professional Organizer, will deliver a presentation entitled, "Organizing for Seniors". Attendees will learn how to realistically bring order to their home, receive tips for getting organized and for maintaining progress, and learn about specialized resources for disposing of items. Afterward, attendees will be motivated (and better positioned) to organize, simplify, and enhance their lives!

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Mary Gauthier Performs. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E., in Vienna. Will play from her new album, Drag Queens In Limousines. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Guest Artist Series. 7-9 p.m. At Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Springfield Art Guild announces its September guest artist talk. Bryan Jernigan, an outstanding NOVA artist, will be demonstrating painting an impressionist landscape using soft pastels. The artist talks are free events, open to all. Visit the website: <https://www.springfieldartguild.org/>

ENTERTAINMENT



The 3rd Annual Fall Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at Tysons Corner Center in McLean.



Experience a Sound Bath on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

WEDNESDAY/ SEPT. 11

2nd Annual Charitable CRE Mini Golf Tournament. 2-7:00 p.m. At Capital One Complex, 11 stories up, Tysons Corner. Open to all commercial and multi-family real estate professionals in the DMV area. Fundraiser that supports the Family Youth Initiative, a nonprofit that pairs young adults aging out of foster care with mentors to help them navigate life's challenges. Visit the Website: <https://rescon-renovia-charitable-mini-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>



The McLean AAUW Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, and feature two speakers: Kathleen Chesnutt and MacKenzie Bills.



SEPT. 12 TO OCT. 6

"The Waverly Gallery." At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. In this 2019 Tony Award nominee for Best Revival of a Play, Gladys, the elderly matriarch of the Green family, has run an art gallery in a small Greenwich Village hotel for many years. The management wants to replace her less-than-thriving gallery with a coffee shop. General admission tickets are priced at \$25 (limited availability), \$40 (limited availability), and \$55. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Sculpture NOW 2024. 7-9 p.m. Opening Exhibition Reception. At McLean Project for the Arts. McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) and the Washington Sculptors Group (WSG) will open Sculpture NOW 2024. A non-thematic exhibition of new works finished within the last two years, Sculpture NOW includes pieces by more than 60 members of the Washington Sculptors Group working in a wide array of media and approaches. MPA and WSG will host an Artist Talk on Saturday, September 21 at 11 a.m., and a Tea & Talk on Thursday, October 24 at 11 a.m. All events are free and open to the public. Sculpture NOW runs through October 26, 2024. Visit www.mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Snack and Paint Night. 7-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks or just want to get your hands dirty with some paint, come on down to the Old Firehouse for our Snack & Paint Night. Led by a professional art teacher, you will be able to create your own masterpiece with your family while having tons of fun doing so. All materials and snacks are included in the fee. Preregistration is recommended.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

3rd Annual Fall Festival. 12 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. General Admission is free and open to the public. VIP Wine Tent + Tasting Experience Tickets Now On Sale. VIP ticket holders will enjoy tastings from 10 Virginia Wineries, receive a souvenir tasting glass and personal charcuterie box from Pauleen's. Enjoy live music from 9th gear trio, Craft beer sampling courtesy of Barrel & Bushel, Pumpkin painting, Giving Garden guided tours, Vendor market featuring 12 local makers, Face painting, Photo booth, and much more. <https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events/Details/573427>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Native American Festival. 10 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Experience the spirit of Virginia at the Native American Festival. Performance by the Rappahannock Native American Dancers and Drum group. Virginia tribal vendors will offer traditional crafts. Learn about present-day events and cultural heritage. Witness hands-on demonstrations, including bow and arrow use.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

The Slambovians Perform. 8 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams bring their rootsy rockin' show to Jammin' Java. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

NARFE Meeting. 1:30-3:30 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Active and retired federal and postal service employees: Want to hear how NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employee Association) works every day to protect your earned benefits? Join them for refreshments, networking and a great opportunity to meet Virginia chapter and Virginia Federation leaders to learn more about NARFE and how its programs may benefit you. Reservations requested but not required. To register, contact Nancy Palmerino at nancyolive0110@yahoo.com by September 9.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. Join your friends and neighbors at the best sale of the season! Shoppers will find fabulous bargains offered by 50 vendors, including household items, electronics, clothing, music, books, children's items, and collectibles. Visit Kids' Row, where 5- to 15-year-olds sell their gently used treasures— toys, games, sporting equipment, and other items. Shoppers can enjoy music by a live DJ, and apple cider donuts, hot cider and coffee by Mama's Donut Bites.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Exhibition Reception. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Studio

Building 5, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Lynn Goldstein for the opening of 'Just Because' at Workhouse Arts Center. Experience her abstract exploration of nature's beauty. Artist talk at 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on view from September 11 to October 6 at the Workhouse Arts Center. The Workhouse is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Visit the website: www.lynngoldstein.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Koo Koo Performs. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Often described as the Beastie Boys meets Sesame Street, Koo Koo is a dance party for the senses. Lifelong friends and collaborators Bryan and Neil tour the globe delighting fans with their high-energy music, infectious positivity and interactive live show.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Adat Reyim Gala. 8-11 p.m. At Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield celebrates four decades of its congregant-led choir with a medley of instrumental and popular music, including show tunes and folk-rock tunes. Cost: \$36-\$72. Visit the website: <https://www.adatreyim.org/event/adat-reyim-choirs-40th-anniversary-gala.html>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

The Accord Symphony Orchestra. 4 p.m. At Oatlands in Leesburg. Tickets are \$50 for VIP, \$20, for tent and \$15 for lawn. Rain date is September 22, 2024. Youth under 15 are free. With BRAVE, The Accord Symphony Orchestra will take audience members on a captivating musical exploration of the assertion, "Those who are brave are free." From Beethoven's Coriolan Overture to Spirituals sung by The Carter Legacy Choir, the concert will draw together musical moments celebrating the bravery of the human spirit. Tickets can be purchased at www.oatlands.org, or calling 703-727-0670.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Sound Bath. 4-5:30 p.m. At Work-

house Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come to deeply relax, lift, and rejuvenate your whole being. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

McLean AAUW Meeting. 2:30-4:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program topic, Gender, Women and Politics: Where Are We Now, will be addressed by two speakers: Kathleen Chesnutt, Program Officer on the Gender, Women and Democracy team at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and MacKenzie Bills who ran for the House in the Iowa legislature in 2022. She currently works for USAID as the Philanthropy Advisor. The meetings are open to the public. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, SEPT 15

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. Music of Joy and Peace. At GMU's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Tee Up for Equity. 11 a.m. At Topgolf Loudoun, 20356 Commonwealth Center Dr, Ashburn. Support United Way of the National Capital Area's Loudoun County Regional Council by joining this annual Tee Up for Equity signature event! Enjoy an afternoon of golf, raffles, and more while contributing to United Way NCA's programs that promote health, education, and economic opportunity for the Loudoun County community and beyond. Event cost: \$200. Visit the website: teeup@uwnca.org. How to register: : <https://unitedwaynca.org/tee-up-for-equity/#tab-1>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

The 17th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Avenue, Clifton. In memory of Erin Peterson who died 17 years ago in the Virginia Tech shooting. The faithful donations and participation have enabled them to give away 168 scholarships to date. They pro-

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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Live, On-Site - 9/05/24, 12:30 PM

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Legals

ABC LICENSE
Bread N Me Cafe Inc trading as Bread N Me Cafe, 1751 Pinnacle DR, McLean, Fairfax County, Virginia 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application - Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Eun Hee Youm, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Employment

Cvent, Inc. seeks Lead Software Engineer in McLean, VA. Telecommuting (Remote Work) permitted. Apply at <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref#99742>.

Employment

Cvent, Inc. seeks Senior Software Engineer in McLean, VA. Telecommuting is permitted. Apply at <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref#60617>

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE - Truist Bank, located at 440 Maple Ave E, Vienna, Virginia 22180, is in possession of assets owned by the following decedent, Patricia R. Dillard, who at the time of her death was domiciled outside of Virginia. In accordance with Va. Code Ann. § 64.2-609(A), Truist Bank hereby gives public notice of its intention to deliver the decedent's assets to the personal representative of decedent's estate, Michael J. Dillard, who has qualified as Personal Representative in accordance with the law of the decedent's domicile. Delivery is to be made after the lapse of thirty (30) days from the completion of due publication of this notice, pursuant to the Code, once a week for four successive weeks. Inquiries, including any notice of the appointment of a personal representative for decedent in Virginia or legal notice of any lien or encumbrance upon decedent's assets, should be directed to Truist Bank at the address above.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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ENTERTAINMENT



The Perchfest will be held Sept. 20-21, 2024 at Capital One Center in Tysons Corner.

FROM PAGE 17

vide facilitation and sponsorship to the Westfield High and Stone Middle schools Young Men's Leadership Group (YMLG), and Girls Reaching for Academic & Culture Excellence (GRACE) groups. EPF Koats for Kids program provides new coats to kids at Centreville Elementary and Stone Middle Schools. EPF gave away 24 new coats this year. For registration information go to: www.erinpetersonfund.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19 Sorensen Gross HOPE Golf

Tournament. 8:30 a.m. At Hidden Creek Country Club, Reston. Benefitting Hope for the Warriors. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. with check-in and a putting contest, opening ceremonies at 10 a.m., and a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start. Each entry fee includes breakfast, lunch and an awards dinner with a full round of golf. Sorensen Gross Construction Company was founded in 1925 and focuses on commercial, industrial, educational, medical, municipal, and multi-family residential building applications. Visit eventbrite.com/e/sorensen-gross-provides-hope-tickets-814094648007?aff=oddt-dt-creator.

SEPT. 20-21

Perchfest. At The Perch. At Capital One Center, 1805 Capital One Drive, Tysons Corner. Perchfest will feature mini golf in the clouds, local music, craft beer from Starr Hill Biergarten, a local fitness class, Celebrate Fairfax's presents curated pop-up shop featuring artisans and community vendors — and with a Shrektastic twist! This weekend kicks off Broadway in Tysons Season Four at Capital One Hall with five performances of Shrek the Musical Sept. 20 - 22 Visit the website: <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/capital-one-center-presents-perchfest-fall-a-shrektastic-music-mini-golf-festival>

SEPT. 20 TO OCT. 7

Circus Vazquez. At Tysons Galleria, 8025 Galleria Drive, McLean. The 2024 show features a brand-new cast, brand-new thrills, brand-new laughs and brand-new excitement! Now in its 55th year of entertaining audiences!

Circus Vazquez is currently run by www.connectionnewspapers.com

the five Vazquez brothers who are the third generation of their family to manage this circus. Circus Vazquez is currently the largest family-owned big top circus in the United States. Featuring incredible performers from Mexico, Columbia, Guinea, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and the U.S. All-human cast (no animals) Presented in the largest big top tent currently touring in the U.S., and it's air-conditioned!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

WB&A Northern Virginia Toy Train Show. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Greater Springfield VFD, 7011 Backlick Road in Springfield. Train layouts and a kids corner will be featured. Free train appraisals and "train doctor" available at the show. Door prizes drawing hourly. Admission is only \$5.00; free for WB&A members, Firemen and Military; and children under 12 and Scouts in uniform when accompanied with paid adult.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The annual Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates our rich diversity through song, dance, food and art. Learn about our mosaic of cultures as the community gathers for a delightful day in Reston Town Center. If you are interested in being part of the entertainment or storytelling, or craft vendors (quality product representing a culture) application forms will be on the website. All are encouraged to dress in attire that shares their pride in their cultural roots. Visit <https://restoncommunitycenter.com/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

2024 Taste of Annandale. 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Eileen Garnett Civic Space, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale. This free, family-friendly festival features live music and dance, food trucks and other food vendors, children's performances and activities, a 5-K race, beer and wine, a chili cookoff, a pet contest, local businesses and organizations, and more. Visit this page for more information: <https://tasteofannandale.com/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

National Dance Day 2024. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Old Town Square,



Circus Vazquez performs Sept. 20 to Oct. 7 at Tysons Galleria in McLean.



The 2024 Taste of Annandale festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

10415 North Street, Fairfax City. This free family-friendly event will feature a wide variety of dance groups performing outside at Old Town Square. Many will be teaching mini-lessons, too! This year they'll be joined by three exciting dance groups from George Mason University including the famous Masonettes Dance Team! At 2:30 p.m., you can join us onstage as they learn the official 2024 National Dance Day routine and then perform it all together (or watch others and cheer them on!) Visit the website for more information: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact us at megan.dubois@fairfaxva.gov or 703-273-6097.

FAMILY SKATE AND DANCE NIGHT

This fall, the Family Skate and Dance Nights at Franconia Rec Center will feature a lively schedule. Skaters of all ages will enjoy the festive themes, tasty food and fun music of these skate nights hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Join the fun and break out your quad skates, inline skates or dancing shoes (bring your own skates/footwear) and take a spin around Franconia Rec Center's gym floor. Each skate night includes music from a guest DJ, as well as food, snacks and drinks available for purchase (Please note that outside food/drink not permitted). Tickets for everyone (skaters, dancers, spectators and chaperones) cost \$10 and can be purchased in advance online.

Or you buy them at the door for \$15.
SCHEDULE:
Sept. 21: Come on Skaters, Let's Go Party! (Barbie themed) (6-9 p.m.)
Oct. 26: Halloween Costume Party (6-10 p.m.)
Nov. 16: Franconia Hold 'Em Skate and Dance Night (Country Night) (6-9 p.m.)
Dec. 21: Holiday and Ugly Sweater Skate and Dance Night (6-9 p.m.)

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

HO Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. The Potomac Module Crew will have HO gauge model trains on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SEPT. 26-29

Annandale Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Fall Book Sale. Offering a preview sale on Wednesday evening, September 25, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a \$20 entry fee per adult. Visit the website: georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com

Really Dina? Part II



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After finishing yet another piece of Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cake," one described on the Entenmann's website as a "sinfully good cake with a "Heavenly Marshmallow Frosting," Dina says to me: "That's pretty good cake" in her usual underwhelming way.

Really Dina? I've only been obsessing over locating this particular cake item for years while complaining how its availability locally is inexcusably limited - as in zero. "You're telling me?" The last time I found this cake, other than a week or so ago at my local Safeway (miracles do happen), I found it, actually good friends found it their local supermarket in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania a year or so ago. The purchase of which spawned two Kenny-columns which discussed in excruciating detail the exact circumstances surrounding this momentous occasion.

However, this random-type purchase is hardly sufficient to keep my "sweet teeth" satisfied. As such, I regularly stop at away-from-home supermarkets in search of this non-buried treasure. And though I can semi find, generally speaking the location of items within a certain radius on the Entenmann's site, it doesn't give me chapter and verse (address and phone number) so I can confirm the cake's presence and secure its purchase. Moreover, having called supermarkets before attempting to locate and confirm an item's availability, I have realized that searching in person is more reliable. Inventory control isn't quite up to the task, in my experience. Therefore, when convenient, I will walk into a store unannounced and "spy with my little eye" where the Entenmann's items are displayed and keep my fingers crossed. I've had some success finding this object of my desire. So, when away from home, I "stop and pop," to invoke a basketball play-by-play expression, and walk into supermarkets wherever and whenever.

Amazingly however, twice in the last month, out of the blue, at my local Safeway, I saw - and of course purchased, multiple "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cakes." I couldn't believe my eyes. After years of walking by the Entenmann's display and seeing the same old selections, there the cake was, as if it was waiting for me. I did a double take. After the second take, the cakes were still there and so I grabbed them, giddy in my good fortune. Unfortunately, I was alone at the point of purchase, so I had no one with whom to share my extraordinary find. I did so when I got home as I told/showed my wife, Dina; and I do so now with a somewhat larger audience, and one quite frankly, that's semi interested in what I have to say/write.

Perhaps you might understand the great pleasure I experienced when later that evening after dinner, Dina and I had the cake for dessert, and Dina uttered her assessment of the cake. It's almost akin to Mikey in the old Life cereal television ads in which Mikey was offered the bowl of Life cereal by his brothers who weren't interested in trying it, and voila: "He likes it." Mikey was a fussy eater which added an extra layer of doubt to the outcome. Dina is the opposite: not a fussy eater but rather one with a sophisticated palate (lamb kidneys was a particular family favorite growing up, which of course, I wouldn't touch or try) though somewhat worn-down over years of sharing meals with yours truly.

This cake comment was an example of Dina entering my food wheelhouse and agreeing with me. Not a common occurrence. In fact, hardly an occurrence at all. That's why it's so memorable - to me, anyway.

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



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FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$4,695,000

2049 Rockingham Street, McLean
Another *PHENOMENAL* new home construction by MR Custom Homes - the premier local builder in McLean! This *SPECUACULAR* 6BR/7.5 BA luxury home features breathtaking high ceilings, luxury hardwood floors, a 3-car garage and elevator-ready floorplan. The main level features a gourmet chef's kitchen with dual islands, breakfast bar, Wolf/Sub Zero appliances, custom cabinetry, quartz/stone countertops. Open floor plan to the family room with cedar beams and 42" stone hearth fireplace. Adjacent to the family room is the walk-out to huge screened porch. Stunning primary suite! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$1,550,000

1940 Foxhall Road, McLean
BEAUTIFUL 5BR/2.5BA home nestled on a quiet street in the sought-after Foxhall neighborhood. Boasting over 3700 sq ft with 4 lvls of expanded living space. Featuring multiple additions/renovations over the years; sparkling hardwood floors; an expansive family room with huge picture window and gas fireplace. The spacious kitchen includes cooktop, double oven, SS appliances, and a large breakfast room with French doors to the private deck. Upstairs is the primary BR with sitting area, vaulted ceiling and 2 walk-in closets. The 3rd lvl features 3 add'l BR's and bath. LL has 4th BR, half bath and laundry. **Kent Gardens, Longfellow, McLean!**

FOR SALE!



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

511 Great Falls Street, Falls Church City
Welcome home to this beautiful updated 1926 bungalow with classic appeal, nestled in the sought-after Sherwood neighborhood in Falls Church City! This well maintained property boasts over 3200 square feet, with gleaming hardwood floors, double French doors, skylights, a stone fireplace and more! The main level features a classic living room, den, 2 BR's and BA, and an updated kitchen. The expanded back of home offers a huge dining room with breakfast bar and wet bar, an expansive family room w/ skylights and private primary suite- plus a luxury bath. The LL offers a large rec room. **Falls Church City Schools!**

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2024

SOLD!



**6025 Woodland Terrace
McLean, 22101
\$2,350,000**

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



**311 Wrens Way
Falls Church City, 22046
\$1,080,000**

SOLD!



**6813 Tennyson Drive
McLean, 22101
\$2,550,000**

SOLD!



**1409 Layman Street
McLean, 22101
\$1,600,000**

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!