

THE CONNECTION

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Reston ♦ Vienna ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

The Herndon High School Band, affectionately called the 'Pride of Herndon,' marches down Elden Street during Homecoming 2024. It is the oldest band program in Fairfax County.



Could Co-response
Work Better?

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Traditions

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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A Fairfax County co-responder program team.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Is Fairfax County's Co-Responder Program the Right Fit?

Advocates, public cite concerns.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

It has been over three years since Fairfax County initiated its pilot co-responder program intended to help police respond to mental health emergency calls. Some county residents are raising multiple concerns about the program. The program

is a collaborative partnership between the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) and pairs a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained police officer with a CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist to respond to public safety calls related to behavioral health issues. The Fairfax County Co-Responder Program is not yet fully fund-



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF VIENNA
Rev. Vernon C. Walton.

ed and staffed.

"The program has grown from one team in 2021 to now having "four teams of co-responders as well as over 600 sworn officers who are CIT-trained," said a FCPD spokesperson in an email to The Connection on Nov. 1. More than four teams are needed for the program to be fully staffed 24/7 and equitably, like the

SEE IS FAIRFAX COUNTY'S.

Sample: Three Response Programs in the U.S.

Mental health leads, not police, and at a savings.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Models of how police respond to mental health crises vary in Virginia. In the four 2024 Virginia mental health crisis fatal police shooting cases as of Oct. 30, three police departments, Fairfax County, Richmond, and Prince William County implemented similar models to Fairfax County's Co-Responder Program.

A significant model difference is evident in the fourth Virginia jurisdiction, the City of Newport News, Va. In 2021, the city launched

its CARE program to provide initial crisis intervention services for those experiencing mental or behavioral health issues. Unlike Fairfax County's Co-Responder teams, CARE teams consist of paramedics and mental health professionals. Police respond also but will only sometimes take the lead.

A program similar to that in the City of Newport News is an alternative behavioral health response to police called CAHOOTS in Eugene, Oregon, founded in 1989. COHOOTS stands for Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets. The responders are unarmed, consisting of an unarmed mental health team, a medic and a crisis worker, who provide crisis intervention 24/7 and move as a team. The program is "staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. The relationship has been in place for nearly 30 years. The team answers suicide intervention and overdose calls, wel-

fare checks and most of the time without police backup. "CAHOOTS mobile crisis response is being recognized as an important and innovative public/private partnership delivering crisis and community health first response effectively and at significant cost savings," according to its webpage guide.

Denver started its own version of CAHOOTS, called STAR, the Support Team Assistance Response (STAR) program. "[It] is an alternative response team that includes behavioral health clinicians and paramedics to engage individuals experiencing mental health distress and substance use disorders. STAR responds to low-risk calls where there are no significant safety concerns. STAR is a civilian emergency response dispatched by Denver 9-1-1." according to Denver.org. City leaders from Oakland, Olympia, Washington and other places are considering similar pilot programs.



LEGACY.COM

Fairfax County police shot and killed Jasper Aaron Lynch on June 7, 2022.

Fatal Police Shooting in McLean Two Years Ago

Family's call for crisis help results in tragedy.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Using filtered matches from the Washington Post's Fatal Force, The Connection searched for any other fatal police shootings of individuals experiencing mental health crises in Fairfax County from 2015 to the present, other than the Wilson case. The results revealed only one other case in the nine years. On July 7, 2022, an on-duty police officer shot and killed Jasper Aaron Lynch in McLean

The video of the fatal shooting shown at the Aug. 4, 2022 press conference begins with the 911 redacted call on July 7, 2022. "911; what is your emergency?" [A caller gives his location, which is redacted] "We had an incident earlier where we called. We have one of the family members here is having a bit of a psychotic break. There were a couple of officers here earlier, and they weren't able to find him; he was upstairs. He's here now. So he is throwing some right stuff now. So, if you could get someone dispatched here, that would be helpful."

The end of the video shows that Aaron Lynch, a 26-year-old white man, had been armed with a bottle at his home in McLean, Virginia, just moments before an officer fatally shot him. The officer who shot Lynch had CIT training, said Davis. The county's Co-Responder Program's intervention specialist from Sharon Bulova Center for Community Health responded

SEE FAMILY'S CALL, PAGE 8

FAIRFAX CITY ELECTION



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Joining together on election night are (from left) Billy Bates, Catherine Read, Taylor Geaghan and Stacey Hardy-Chandler.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAP PETERSEN

From left, Carey Amos celebrates on election night with his son Anthony, Rachel McQuillen, Stacy Hall and Tom Peterson.

Read Wins Re-election as Fairfax City's Mayor

One Council seat is yet to be decided.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Incumbent Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read was elected to her second term last Tuesday, Nov. 5, beating challenger Susan Kuiler. Read garnered 7,042 votes and 57 percent of the total to Kuiler's 5,204 votes and 42 percent.

In the race for City Council – where 11 candidates vied for six seats – Stacy Hall received the most votes, followed by Tom Peterson, incumbent Billy Bates, Stacey Hardy-Chandler and Anthony Amos.

As of press time on Nov. 12, incumbent Kate Doyle Feingold and challenger Rachel McQuillen were still battling for the sixth seat, separated by just four votes and .01 percent of the total votes cast. Incumbent Jeff Greenfield, who's served on City Council for more than two decades, was not re-elected.

This election was also historic because, for the first time ever, two persons of color – Hardy-Chandler and Amos – will serve on the Council. And although Fairfax is a small city, its residents take elections seriously. According to the Fairfax City Registrar's Office, 71 percent of those qualified to vote did so. Of the 18,848 registered voters, 13,360 cast their ballots.

However, results are considered “unofficial” until they're officially certified to the state. Regarding the race between McQuillen and Doyle Feingold, the City's Electoral Board has until this Friday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m. to make a final determination of the election results. If the two candidates are still separated by just a handful of votes, the one with the lowest total could request a recount.

Meanwhile, elected to the Fairfax City School Board were longtime member Carolyn Pitches, plus Kristina Cecere, Sarah Kelsey, Amit Hickman and Lauren Bartelme.

And the ballot question of whether Fairfax City should issue \$220 million in general-obligation bonds for capital-improvement projects for the City school system passed, with nearly 70 percent of the voters saying yes. Some \$177 million will be used for much-needed major renovations for both Providence and Daniels Run elementary schools, with \$43 mil-

lion earmarked to replace Fairfax High's roof, which is nearing the end of its operational life.

❖ Below are comments from the election winners:

Catherine Read

“Fairfax City, you've affirmed our shared commitment to a bright and inclusive future for our community. I'm deeply honored by the trust you've placed in me, and I'm grateful to every voter who participated in this historic election. Together, we've chosen a path forward based on our shared Democratic values of transparency, accountability and a dedication to meaningful progress.

“This victory isn't just for our campaign – it's a victory for everyone who believes in a Fairfax City where every resident's voice is heard. We've shown that standing proudly by our values is what unites and empowers us. With this mandate, I'm excited to work with our re-elected and newly elected Council members to ensure we address the pressing needs of our City, from infrastructure to growth to community services.

“While I'm disappointed at the results at the national level, I know we'll continue to protect our progress at the local level and keep fighting for positive change. I thank Susan Kuiler for her commitment to public service and for encouraging vital conversations about our City's future. Now, it's time to come together as one community and continue building a Fairfax City we can all be proud of.”

Anthony Amos

“I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity to serve my community even more. I am thankful to the City of Fairfax for entrusting me with this responsibility, and I look forward to bridging the divide we've seen on prior Councils.

“I grew up with coaches and teachers that instilled the value of hard work in me. My success comes from my fantastic team, my campaign manager Mady, my partner Marena, and all the people who volunteered/contributed their time and money into this race. Our number-one goal was to be the hardest-working campaign, and I feel that we did that.”

Fairfax City Election Results

UNOFFICIAL AS OF NOV 11, 11:31AM

Mayor

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Catherine S. Read	7,042	57.04%
Susan Hartley Kuiler	5,204	42.15%
Write-In	100	0.81%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS: 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

City Council

TOP 6 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Stacy R. Hall	5,955	11.38%
Thomas D. “Tom” Peterson	5,777	11.04%
Billy M. Bates	5,415	10.35%
Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler	5,404	10.33%
Anthony T. Amos	5,221	9.98%
Kate G. Doyle Feingold	5,148	9.84%
Rachel M. McQuillen	5,144	9.83%
Jeffrey C. Greenfield	5,032	9.62%
Taylor A. Geaghan	4,835	9.24%
Jack F. Ryan	2,196	4.20%
Amini Elizabeth Bonane	1,915	3.66%
Write-In	279	0.53%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS: 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

School Board

TOP 5 FINISHERS

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Carolyn S. Pitches	6,586	22.03%
Sarah M. Kelsey	5,948	19.89%
Kristina M. Cecere	5,807	19.42%
Amit S. Hickman	5,570	18.63%
Lauren A. Bartelme	5,524	18.48%
Write-In	462	1.55%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS: 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

Public School Bonds

	Votes	Percent
Yes	8,617	69.72%
No	3,743	30.28%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS: 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

SOURCE: VPAP.ORG

SEE FAIRFAX CITY ELECTION, PAGE 5

FAIRFAX CITY ELECTION

FROM PAGE 4

Billy Bates

"I am honored to be re-elected to a second term on the City Council. I spent as much time as I could spare, talking to residents and listening to their concerns, and I prioritized making my political values and positions, as well as my record in office, clear to voters.

"I've lived in the City of Fairfax my whole life, and I look forward to continuing the progress we've made toward providing more affordable and market-rate housing, walkability and bikeability, crime reduction, and opportunities for vital and potentially lifesaving nonprofits in the City."

Stacy Hall

"I'm excited and honored to be joining City Council. Over the past two years on the School Board, I've had the privilege of engaging with so many residents, listening to their concerns and understanding what really matters to them. I've seen firsthand how much our community values its sense of connection, safety and quality of life. Whether it's local parks, the challenges of growing traffic or concerns about overcrowded schools, our residents care deeply about protecting what makes this community great.

"At the same time, many people I've spoken to feel their voices aren't being heard by our elected leaders, and I'm eager to change

that. I want to be a voice for our community to help ensure that growth is balanced with residents' needs, our neighborhoods stay safe, and we continue to nurture the kind of place where families can thrive. I'm committed to working together with others to protect and improve our community for all of us, especially our most vulnerable residents.

"I knocked on over 5,000 doors and attended neighborhood and community events and activities. Hearing directly from residents their ideas and hopes for the future helped shape my vision for how our City should move forward.

"It was about building trust and demonstrating my commitment to transparency, honesty and listening to the people I represent. My victory reflects the strong connections I built with residents, and I'm honored to be entrusted with the responsibility to serve our community in a new way."

Stacey Hardy-Chandler

"It looks like I'm the first African American woman to serve on the Fairfax City Council. I'm also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, which is also the sorority of Vice President Kamala Harris. I'm delighted that I ran this campaign in collaboration with the Democratic Committee. I've always said I'm not running against other candidates – I'm running for Fairfax City.

"I'm so happy to be centering on service

and on having run this campaign with integrity. I'm a social worker by profession and by leadership, and this is, I think, certainly not a victory for me or for the Democrats. It's a victory for Fairfax."

Tom Peterson

"It's a great honor to have been elected to City Council and I appreciate every vote cast for me. Running for public office gave me the opportunity to speak with thousands of residents who I might otherwise not have met. I can't say enough about their sincerity, warmth and insight. I'm grateful for the time so many took to share their thoughts, and the guidance they provided my campaign.

"The City of Fairfax will need to be at the top of its game to protect and advance our priorities, and City Council will play a vital role. We have a lot of work ahead, as well as a fresh opportunity to work together. The overwhelming majority of residents said they wanted the same basic improvements, and they were core to my campaign commitments.

"They included retention of the City's unique small-town character; rethinking of high-density development and land use; better protection of forests and the environment; help with high costs; oversight of City spending; stronger safety and police protection; resolution of homeless issues; and above all, better listening by City leaders and the creation of authentic opportunities for citizens to be involved in City decisions."

Two Dead in Reston Crash

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal vehicle crash that left two dead in Reston.

On Sunday, Nov. 10 at 4:09 a.m., officers responded to a single-vehicle crash at North Shore Drive and Charter Oak Court in Reston involving a 2016 Ford Explorer that left the roadway and struck a tree.

The driver, Shawn Ballard, 35, of Herndon, was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The passenger, Nicole Hamm, 48, of Reston, was transported to the hospital with injuries considered life-threatening. Detectives were notified later that evening that Hamm succumbed to her injuries sustained in the crash.

Preliminarily, detectives believe speed was a factor in the crash. Detectives are continuing to investigate to determine if alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)



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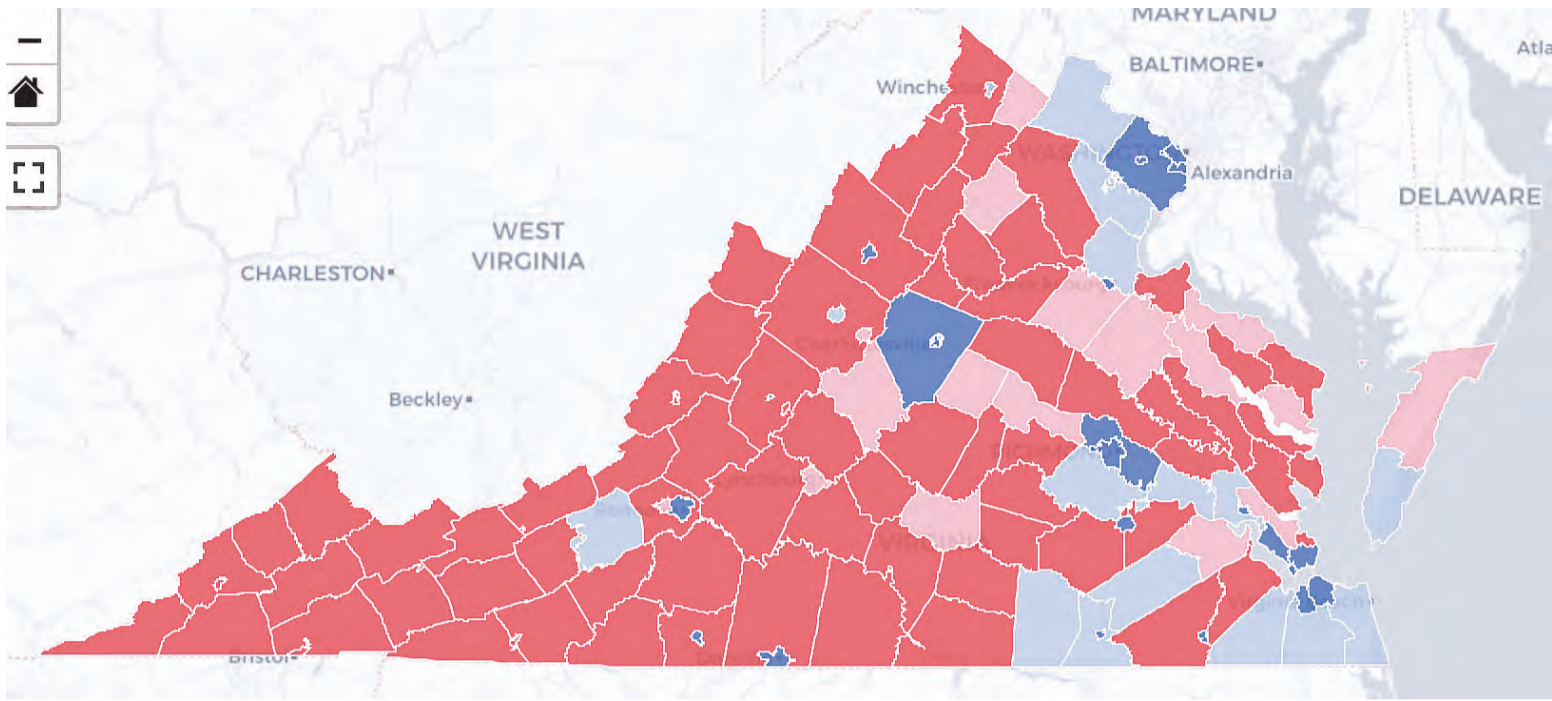
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ELECTION 2024



SOURCE: VPAP.ORG

US President Election Results

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Candidate	Votes	Percent
Alexandria		
Harris	60,264	77.29%
Trump	15,359	19.70%
Stein	760	0.97%
Oliver	397	0.51%
West	201	0.26%
De la Cruz	166	0.21%

32 OF 32 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Arlington		
Harris	97,228	77.89%
Trump	23,925	19.17%
Stein	1,254	1.00%
Oliver	790	0.63%
West	251	0.20%
De la Cruz	227	0.18%

54 OF 54 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Fairfax County		
Harris	377,522	65.76%
Trump	176,158	30.69%
Stein	10,178	1.77%
Oliver	2,844	0.50%
West	1,246	0.22%
De la Cruz	1,151	0.20%

264 OF 264 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Fairfax City		
Harris	8,583	64.89%
Trump	4,188	31.66%
Stein	188	1.42%
Oliver	70	0.53%
De la Cruz	47	0.36%
West	28	0.21%

6 OF 6 PRECINCTS REPORTING; 0 EARLY VOTES OUTSTANDING

SOURCE: VPAP.ORG

Fairfax County Bonds Election Results

UNOFFICIAL AS OF NOV 11, 11:31AM

	Votes	Percent
Transportation Bonds		
Yes	357,053	66.21%
No	182,198	33.79%

264 OF 264 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

	Votes	Percent
Public Safety Bonds		
Yes	374,957	69.60%
No	163,753	30.40%

264 OF 264 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

SOURCE: VPAP.ORG

Town of Herndon Election Results

UNOFFICIAL AS OF NOV 11, 11:31AM

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Mayor (Town of Herndon)		
Keven J LeBlanc Jr.	4,760	55.32%
Pradip Dhakal	3,746	43.53%
Write-In	99	1.15%

3 OF 3 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Town Council (Town of Herndon)		
TOP 6 FINISHERS		
Michael T Lloyd	4,821	13.45%
Clark A. Hedrick	4,259	11.88%
Alexis "Alex" Reyes	4,195	11.70%
Kelvin Garcia	4,087	11.40%
Cesar A. Del Aguila	3,931	10.97%
Stevan Michael Porter	3,857	10.76%
Naila Alam	3,847	10.73%
Soma Ramesh	3,312	9.24%
Tamim Chowdhury	3,216	8.97%
Write-In	315	0.88%

3 OF 3 PRECINCTS; 0 EARLY VOTES LEFT

SOURCE: VPAP.ORG

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

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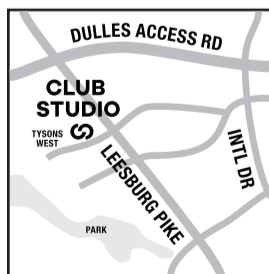
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Is Fairfax County's Co-Responder Program the Right Fit?

FROM PAGE 3

county's police and fire and rescue services.

Kevin Davis, the police chief of Fairfax County, said in an Oct. 20, 2023 letter to the Board of Supervisors that the program would need significantly more than "eight co-responder units required to maintain around-the-clock coverage in the community." With a population of 1,186 million people, if Fairfax County were a city, it would rank as the tenth largest in the nation, and it covers 391 square miles.

"Mental health should not be a risk factor for the use of deadly force," Vernon C. Walton said in a Nov. 4 email to The Connection. Walton made this statement as a community member and one of the ten former members of Fairfax County's Police Reform Matrix Working Group on May 12, 2023. He is also the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Vienna. Walton said he is concerned, and that the co-responder program has issues that require resolution.

The Washington Post Fatal Force database, 2015-2024, contains records of every person shot by an on-duty police officer in the U.S. since Jan. 1, 2015, with the capacity to refine search results by using filters, including mental illness-related only. Open to the public, the database is updated regularly as fatal shootings are reported and as facts emerge about individual cases, according to the Post.

From Jan. 1, 2015, to Oct. 31, 2024, after receiving calls requesting assistance, Fairfax County Police Department on-duty officers shot and killed two people experiencing mental health crises, according to the database. The Co-Responder Program was in operation but not fully staffed. In the U.S., 1 in 20 adults experience serious mental illness each year, according to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, citing a Samhsa.gov study.

Data on the victims by the Post:

❖ July 7, 2022, Jasper Aaron Lynch, a 26-year-old white man armed with a bottle, was killed in [his] house in McLean, Va., body cam footage. The footage confirms Lynch dropped the bottle seconds before the officer fatally shot him.

❖ Sept. 16, 2024, Sydney Wilson, a 33-year-old Black woman armed with a knife, was killed in [her] apartment building



A behavioral health clinician was not available to join police on the welfare check; a Fairfax County police officer, alone on the scene, shot and killed 33-year-old Sydney Wilson of Reston, armed with a knife on Sept. 16, 2024.

in Reston, Va.; body cam footage.

Chief Kevin Davis said during the Sept. 16, 2024, press conference to release the body camera footage of the Wilson fatal police shooting that the county's co-responder program is "normally a clinician inside of a police car with the police officer. ... Year to date there are already well over 2,200 calls for service." They are routinely dispatched to calls involving a person in a mental or behavioral health crisis, according to Davis. They can also self-dispatch if they hear a suspicious call and believe it may involve a mental or behavioral health crisis.

Fairfax County's co-responder program expanded in 2023 to seven days a week, from 12 p.m. to 12 a.m., said a spokesperson for FCPD.

Professional training for behavioral health clinicians surpasses FCPD officer training.

FCPD's officer training consists of the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program on how to respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis and how to de-escalate the situation. Davis said during the Sept. 16 press conference that 59 percent of the department's sworn officers are CIT-trained. Fairfax County officers also take a 12-hour ICAT: Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics course for situations involving persons who are unarmed or are armed with weapons other than firearms and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis. As of June 2024, Fairfax County police said in May that their entire department had received ICAT training.

Even though the annual number of all mental illness-related fatal police shootings in the state has decreased from 261 in 2015 to 136 this year as of Oct. 31, according to the Washington Post Fatal Force database,



FCPD PRESS CONFERENCE VIDEO 10.14.24
Kevin Davis, Chief of Police, Fairfax County.

2015-2024, individuals across Virginia with mental illness, including Fairfax County, continue to be shot and killed by police following a 911 or 988 call for assistance. Such a demonstrable role of mental illness, especially when the person is in crisis, leading to the use of deadly force by law enforcement against them can indicate the need to consider rethinking the type of response and policy protocols. and who has the "first touch" at the scene with the individual.

Walton said that families should "not have any pause about calling for assistance when family members are in crisis."

If the behavioral health clinician cannot physically co-respond to a mental health assistance dispatched call, could virtual or phone advice benefit responding police officers in the current Fairfax County co-responder model? Could this provide key advice in determining if and how an officer or officers could respond to an incident, whether to wait, or proceed? A behavioral health clinician was not available to respond to either the Wilson case or Lynch case, Davis said.

Restonstrong is a 501(c)(3) community action group co-founded by Sarah Selvaraj-D'souza, executive director. She, like Walton, has concerns about Fairfax County's Co-Responder Program. Selvaraj-D'souza posted, "This is a system failure yet again that ends in tragedy. ... It's time we treat mental health with the same urgency as physical health."

Selvaraj-D'souza's post states that the video footage of the Wilson shooting was "disturbing, to say the least," and their hearts were "breaking for both the victim and the officer involved Restonstrong has been advocating for a dedicated mobile mental

SEE IS FAIRFAX COUNTY'S. PAGE 13

Family's Call for Crisis Help Results in Tragedy

FROM PAGE 3

to the home earlier that evening. Davis said in the Aug. 4, 2022 video that the program had a single clinician who rode with a police officer on specific days and times of the week; however, the clinician was unavailable when the officer made a second visit to the house (20:33).

Nearly two years later, on April

5, 2024, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve T. Descano (D) issued a five-page report that said all five shots by Officer George were legally justifiable. Three officers who responded to the second call "acted in an objectively reasonable manner, based upon the totality of the circumstances."

On June 12, 2024, Patrick Winston Lynch, as Personal Represent-

tative and Administrator of the Estate of Jasper Aaron Lynch, filed a wrongful death lawsuit for \$10 million in the Circuit Court for Fairfax County. The defendants are Kevin Davis, three officers, and John Does1-3 defendants, "employees of FCPD charged with the responsibilities of training and developing training methods and, policies and procedures for the FCPD regarding

(1) the use of deadly force and (2) responding to individuals suffering mental health crises, and with properly supervising the Defendant members of the FCPD."

The plaintiff alleged that "the officers did not communicate with anyone who had specific mental health training or wait for someone with that background to arrive at the Lynch family home ...

[and that] Officer George fatally shoots Aaron, who was unarmed and restrained while attempting to flee. When the officers entered the home, despite his knowledge that he would be interacting with an individual suffering a mental health crisis, Officer George chose not to carry his FCPD-issued taser, which he instead left in the trunk of his patrol car."

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History Commission members presented retiring Chair Lynn Garvey-Hodge an award and flowers to honor her 24 years of service.



11th District Congressman Gerry Connolly urged attendees to tell the nation's true history.



Brian Hilton portrayed George Washington and challenged the audience to preserve the republic.

The 20th Annual Fairfax County History Conference

The Power of Place, Part 1

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

Where we live, where we grew up, where we are now, it's "the power of place," the theme of the Fairfax County History Commission's 20th annual conference held on Nov. 2. Around 130 attendees heard experts probe Fairfax County's past, some stories unreported and under-reported.

Opening the event, Commission chair Lynn Garvey-Hodge, quoted a Dakota proverb: "We will be known forever by the track we leave."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly said, "To love history is not to suppress it, to uncover the truth." The history that survives can be biased by those who write it, he noted, citing former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's history of World War II in which Winston Churchill was the central figure.

Much of the history of America's post-Civil War Reconstruction period was "imposed by Yankees, propaganda that led to 100 years of segregation and Jim Crow after the Civil War," Connolly offered. In reality, he said, "Reconstruction was a vibrant program, a transition from slavery into citizenship," a time when formerly enslaved people could vote, become literate and be elected to Congress. "There are forces today that want to censor history, censor books and doctor it to indoctrinate kids in the 'right' history," he asserted. "We're not going to do it again. Our mission is to tell our true history."

In a video message, Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, commended the Commission for telling "Fairfax County's complete history." The commission, established in 1969, is a board of 16 members appointed by the supervisors. Commission Chair Lynn Garvey-Hodge announced that



Nancy Mason, portrayed by Janis Harliss, said that her father, George, wanted girls to be educated.



George Washington and Linneall Naylor, a descendant of West Ford who was enslaved at Mount Vernon and founded the African-American community, Gum Springs. Naylor teaches at Riverside Elementary School.



Ron Maxwell, a filmmaker, urged audience members to avoid imposing their own biases on the reporting of history.



Smithsonian anthropologist, Dr. Douglas Owsley, described his study of human remains found at a Jamestown church site dig.

she is retiring from her 24-years of service.

KEYNOTER

Filmmaker Ron Maxwell, who directed "Gettysburg," "Gods and Generals" and

"Copperhead" encouraged people to "abandon preconceptions." He explained, "My credo: To take the past and use it to score points in the present is propaganda. To surrender to the past and discover what it has

been saying to us all along is art. It takes an open mind and open heart to do this work." He urged people to turn off the technology,

SEE HISTORY CONFERENCE, PAGE 11
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Fairfax History Conference

FROM PAGE 10

“to be an explorer and clear away the noise, the diversions of our lives and to shrink-wrap our present.”

18TH CENTURY NOTABLES

Conference-goers traveled back to the 18th century when “George Washington” and “Nancy Mason” in period dress and wigs recounted their lives.

Brian Hilton, who portrayed Washington while holding a “voice amplification device,” said he was one of the first residents of the county, having moved to what became Mount Vernon at age three in 1735. Citing his goal to unify the country and “not sow division among people of the colonies,” he said, “There is always work to be done. Human nature has not changed much since my day.” He quoted James Madison who wrote, “If men were angels, government would not be necessary.”

“Washington” applauded the 1774 Fairfax Resolves, resolutions largely drafted by county resident George Mason of Gunston Hall, protesting the British Parliament’s claim of authority over the American colonies. “The King counted on the colonies not uniting in a common cause,” he asserted. “They were sorely mistaken. The resolves were a powerful statement we made in Fairfax.” Reprints were stacked on every table.

Hilton referred to the first President’s moral struggle with slaveholding, reminding the audience that Washington freed his enslaved people in his will. Dubbing himself as a “lukewarm abolitionist,” Washington said, “My hope is that their children and children’s children will experience this country in a more different way.”

Referring to Washington’s leadership in the Revolutionary War, “The Cause,” he said he was “not an army of one, but I was a man of action. I am most proud of providing future generations a new vocabulary — equality, justice and liberty, the common currency that describes who we are.”

Moving to those present, he challenged, “You have come incredibly close to the vision of myself and compatriots of the early republic. The work is never really done. My

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Around 130 people attended the 20th annual Fairfax County History Conference



Dr. Owsley’s team identified people buried in a Jamestown church and other colonial settlers by analyzing their remains.

hope is that enlightenment has continued. Learn all that you can from the past, but keep your eyes on the future and endeavor to make it a better one.”

Janis Harless re-enacted “Nancy Mason,” daughter of George Mason and said that her father ensured that his girls got an education. “Father respected the minds of women,” she remarked. She said that her father viewed “slavery as an abomination, but father did not free his. The answer is ‘money.’ The truth just needs to be told.”

In an interview, Harless said that she made her outfit, including her bum roll, a bustle-like pillow over her butt and tied around her waist under her floor-length dress. Women of that era wanted to give the appearance of having wide hips, she said,

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Would you like to help a neighbor feel less lonely? Will you help someone get much-needed groceries? Form new connections and make a meaningful difference. Older adults in the Annandale, Falls Church, and Alexandria regions are waiting for volunteer social visitors and grocery shoppers. If you can give the gift of your time, consider providing invaluable support to someone in your community. Learn more about Volunteer Solutions at bit.ly/FXVSVOL or email Volunteer-Solutions@FairfaxCounty.gov or call 703-324-5406.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthyminds-fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. The Shepherd’s Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers’ Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net. Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner’s meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.



Chipped teeth found in the Jamestown dig helped archaeologists identify the individual as colonial Governor George Yeardly.

because men thought wide-hipped women could successfully bear children.

JAMESTOWN’S BONES

Dr. Douglas Owsley, Curator of Physical Anthropology at Washington’s Smithsonian Natural History Museum, described his forensic work to determine the identities of early Jamestown colony settlers by analyzing human bones interred at the site of three churches. Using multiple techniques, including CT scans and DNA and chemical analyses, he said, “I can read bones, the human skeleton.”

By identifying chipping or divots in recovered human teeth, Owsley confirmed the remains of George Yeardley, the 1618 British-appointed governor who died in 1627. Owsley concluded that the teeth belonged to someone who had repeatedly pulled a sewing needle through his teeth. Yeardley’s father had trained his young son as a tailor.

Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read reminded the group, “History is dynamic. Every day we discover something new.”

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/>

Next week: *The Power of Place, part 2, a sampling of Fairfax County’s historic African American communities.*

Homecoming Day, Fighting Hornet Style



The Herndon High School football team

Community, school spirit, lasting memories, and winning the game in Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

One of the most anticipated community annual events of the Town of Herndon's culture returned on Nov. 9 as area residents cheered the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade and Football Game 2024.

The homecoming spirit was evident as family, friends, and residents, Herndon High alums or not, lined both sides of the streets along the parade route. Porch parties raged from Locust Street to Elden in the town's historic district, offering that small-town vibe and an opportunity to come together as one

This year's parade theme, "Out of This World," for Herndon High School, delivered some imaginative floats and costumes. Judges presented trophies to the following first- and second-place winners:

First Place

- Civic**
Herndon Girl Scouts Service Units 51-9 and 51-11
- Performing Arts**
Herndon HS Step Team
- School**
Hutchison Elementary School
- Show**
Herndon High School Class '69
- Class**
Class of 2025

Second Place

- Civic**
Herndon Moose Lodge
- Performing Arts**
Herndon Optimist Youth Cheerleading
- School**
Dranesville Elementary School
- Show**
Friends of Madison Drive Space Duck
- Class**
Class of 2027

and socialize.

The parade began at 9:30 that morning with two units from the Herndon Police Motor Squad leading a lineup of 47 units, including community groups, the local high school marching band and football team, and vibrant floats. It ended nearly two hours later on Lynn Street near the Red Caboose, after the Herndon Town Council, state and national elected officials, and others ceremonially presided over the parade and judged units.

Del. Irene Shin posted on Facebook that she just loved seeing the "community come together and celebrate our schools, our small businesses, our families, and our diversity. Happy homecoming! Go Hornets."

In addition, the judges selected the Class of 2025 to receive the Richard F. Downer Theme Award, while the Major Robert E. Church Best in Parade Award went to the Herndon Class of 1969.

Mayor Sheila Olem, Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick, Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, and Keven LeBlanc, mayor-elect, as well as Fairfax County School Board member Robyn Lady, Va. Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-8), U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11), presided over the parade.

The Herndon Hornets put the icing on HoCo 2024 in a game they will be talking about for years against the Patriots of Yorktown High School, Arlington. The Herndon High School beat the Patriots 42-14 in their fourth victory in a row to raise their record to 8-2.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY WILLIAM LANGE

It is an extra point kickoff, as the Fighting Hornets lead Yorktown 35-0 in the third quarter, as seen on the scoreboard.



Open your eyes, baby Gideon Springmann, Herndon High School Class of 2042; you are sleeping through your first Homecoming Parade. Gideon is pictured with his grandmother, Karen Field.



PHOTO [HTTPS://X.COM/HERNDONHS/STATUS/1855302126894735753](https://x.com/HERNDONHS/status/1855302126894735753)

The Class of 2025's float at the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade went on to win the First Place Award in the "Class" category.



A little astronaut dresses for the Herndon High School Homecoming parade's theme, 'Out of This World,' and passes out a parade staple, candy.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION



Part of the Herndon Town Council gathers to judge the parade units (from left) Cesar del Aguila, councilmember; Clark Hedrick, vice mayor; Keven LeBlanc, councilmember and mayor-elect; Sheila Olem, mayor; and Pradip Dhakal, councilmember. (Not pictured: Fairfax County Fairfax County School Board member Robyn Lady and Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38).)



On Nov. 9, 2024, the parade banner officially kicks off the annual Homecoming parade for Herndon High School, a Fairfax County Public School.



The Herndon High School color guard executes a choreographed dance routine, twirling flags in sync with music during the Homecoming parade.



The Herndon High School Band, affectionately called the 'Pride of Herndon,' marches down Elden Street during Homecoming 2024. It is the oldest band program in Fairfax County.



You don't have to be a high school student to march in the inclusive Homecoming parade - Herndon Optimist Club Cheerleading.



Former Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel (2012-2020) holds a "wall party" that offers perfect seating to see the parade.



Students on The Class of 2025 float don't know it yet, but the judges will award them 1st Place winner in the 'Class' category during the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade 2024.



A group at Westgate plays pickleball regularly.



The pickleball court is ideal for seniors to get exercise and comradery.

Two McLean Parks Slated for Change

The pickleball courts at Westgate Park and Linway Terrace Park are going away.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Pickleball is sweeping the nation and courts are popping up everywhere as are complaints from non-enthusiasts about the noise, tennis court use and out-of-town players parking in neighborhoods.

Susan Zehnder lives in the Dranesville District and she's been leading the charge to keep the courts at Westgate Park and Lin-

way Terrace as is. She says there aren't many courts in that immediate area and there aren't many tennis players either, so taking away the courts to put in a field, potentially a soccer field, is not a good plan. More importantly, she said, the county isn't looking out for the 55 and older residents.

"We feel like the county doesn't care about people 55 and older," Zehnder said. Her petition has been signed by a little over 100 people so far.

Zehnder's efforts to reach out to the county and the park authority have gone unanswered, including Dranesville District Supervisor James N. Bierman Jr. When she emails his office, she gets the computer-generated response. "I haven't gotten a real response," she said.

Over at the Dranesville Supervisor's office, they did get word of Zehnder's pickleball court efforts and contacted the correct

park authority board member, said outreach coordinator Ben Wiles. The park authority reached out to Zehnder, but the answer may not have been the one she was hoping for.

Fairfax County Park Authority is sticking with the plan that is part of the Tysons Park System Plan approved in 2014. According to their current plan, the two pickleball courts at Westgate would be removed and replaced with a rectangle field and the courts at Linway Terrace Park will be relocated since they were the subject of noise complaints from the surrounding community; the courts are within the 200 feet of existing residences.

FCPA spokesperson Ben Boxer did note that "there are no imminent actions planned at either site at this time," he said, and Fairfax County Public Schools is moving forward with pickleball courts at Mason District Park



It's all about the paddles.

SEE PICKLEBALL, PAGE 19

County Honors Its Former Planning Commission Chairman

Peter F. Murphy: 'Not driven by ideology or politics'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

During its Oct. 22 regular meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented Peter F. Murphy, former Planning Commission chairman (1989-2023) and commissioner (1982 current term expiring Dec. 2026), with a resolution to honor and recognize him for his decades of service. He previously served two terms as Vice Chairman and three years as Commission Secretary. Commissioner Murphy represents the Springfield district.

"Simply put, I don't think that we would be the county we are today without Pete's leadership," Supervisor Pat Herryty representing the Springfield district said.

The board thanked and commended Murphy for his years of exemplary leadership, visionary service, and contributions to the county's planning and growth. Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay and Herryty, who requested the resolu-



SCREENSHOT

Peter F. Murphy, Planning Commission chairman (1989-2023) and commissioner since 1982, is surrounded by his family and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors after the Board honors him for his decades of service.

tion and read it aloud, signed the board's resolution on behalf of all county residents.

According to the resolution under Murphy's leadership, Fairfax County went from suburbia to a thriving economic hub, allowing residents to shape the community's future. Murphy has done so for 42 years of dedicated public service in Fairfax County with a commitment of unfailing service to the county's interest and its residents.

Herryty praised Murphy's leadership during discussion. "He's been a leader in forming land use policies and Fairfax County, not just in the Springfield district in cases like Fairfax Corner, Fair Lakes, but also county-wide cases like the Tysons Plan," Herryty said. He discussed Murphy's extensive understanding of the planning process and Fairfax County's foundation and how he contributed to how the commission operated, conducted business, and made decisions.

"His steady leadership is one of the critical elements that enabled our development success," Herryty said.

SEE MURPHY, PAGE 15

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NEWS

Former Planning Chair Peter F. Murphy

FROM PAGE 14

Supervisor Walter Alcorn, representing the Hunter Mill district, praised Murphy's collegiality and collaborative leadership. Alcorn explained that Murphy's dedication, humor, and service on various committees earned him respect from county staff, the public, and other commissioners. Alcorn emphasized that Murphy had the ability not to take himself too seriously, "even during long and continuous meetings." Murphy "played a key role in Celebrate Fairfax! Festival and chairmanship of the Telecommunications Task Force."

Alcorn said in all the years Murphy served, he demonstrated an unfailing commitment to the county, its interests, and its residents. "You never forgot it is public service," Alcorn said.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk repre-

sented the Franconia district acknowledging Murphy's models of servant leadership, mentorship, and community building. Lusk noted that Murphy's actions and words consistently prioritize doing what is right, supporting the community, and avoiding actions driven by ideology or politics. Murphy ensured the county did "things that must and should be done." Lusk said that he incorporated the lessons learned from Murphy into his professional life and when he thinks of Murphy, he envisions a person who prioritizes the needs of others.

Murphy thanked his family for supporting him. "It's wonderful to have a family like that beside you when you're leading the charge you have for the future."

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner now serves as Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Tyson's Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale

DEC. 5 - DEC. 8

Thursday, Dec. 5, 10 am - 5 pm

Friday, Dec. 6, 10 am - 5 pm

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, Dec. 8, 10 am - 5 pm: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less

Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests
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<https://www.tysonslibraryfriends.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/tysonslibraryfriends>

tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com

703-338-3307 for additional information and to volunteer

Proceeds benefit the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library and related activities.

Donations of books and media appreciated!

Volunteers welcome and needed!

Car Seat Inspections on Nov. 21

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Nov. 21, 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 themselves, 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 properly. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for Dec. 5, at the same place and time.

Driver Charged in Fatal Pedestrian Crash

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit have charged the driver from the Sept. 21 fatal pedestrian crash in Oakton with Failure to Yield.

Detectives determined Walter Bozarth, 72, of Maryland was attempting to make a left turn into a shopping center from westbound Hunter Mill Road when he struck Choon Kook, who was in the crosswalk. There was no pedestrian signal at the crossing.

SEE FATAL PEDESTRIAN CRASH, PAGE 19

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The cast of Fairfax High's Cappies play, "Much Ado About Nothing."



Posing in character are (top row, from left) Kat Pascual and Isaac Frenza, and (bottom row, from left) Kathryn Whitis and Nate Smith.

'Like an Adam Sandler Movie with Shakespeare's Language'

Fairfax High presents 'Much Ado About Nothing.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 65, Fairfax High presents Shakespeare's classic comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing." But this version takes place in modern-day Greece at a vacation resort, and it's also the school's Cappies show.

"I wanted to do the funniest and happiest story I could think of," said Director Chris Whitney. "The students make me laugh, every single day, and they've tackled Shakespeare's language like pros. And because we've set it in modern times, it'll be relatable and easy for the audience to understand."

Show times are Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 20, 21, 22, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 23, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are students, \$10; adults, \$12 or \$15 (prime seating) at the door at via www.fxplayers.org.

In this play, a war has ended, and soldiers are visiting the resort. One of them, Claudio, falls in love with Hero, the resort-owner's daughter. Claudio's best friend Benedick doesn't believe in marriage, so he broke up with his girlfriend Beatrice. But a general, Don Pedro, plans to trick Benedick and Beatrice into falling in love again. Planning their own wedding, Claudio and Hero also want the couple to reunite. Meanwhile, Don Pedro's half-sister plots to break up Claudio's wedding plans by telling him Hero's been unfaithful.

Scenes take place outside the resort, at its swimming pool and during a big party

in its courtyard. "We're also doing a thrust-style stage, where the audience sits on three sides of the stage," explained Whitney. "It gives them a more intimate experience and gets them closer to the action. The moral of the story is that even good people can make terrible mistakes but can find redemption through love. My goal is to make it feel like an Adam Sandler movie, but with Shakespeare's language."

Senior Isaac Frenza portrays Benedick. "He's fun-loving and doesn't take anything seriously." Said Frenza. "He's like a frat guy and doesn't want to get married; he just wants to date. But because he was in the military, he has some trauma trusting someone enough to marry, or even to be a best friend, because he lost so many friends in the war. So he doesn't want to get close to anyone."

Frenza says he, too, loves hanging out with people and having fun, but he's not afraid of commitment. "Playing Benedick has brought me closer to the students I'm acting with," he said. "And it's a nice challenge because of the acting choices I can make playing him – adding in physical comedy while telling a joke."

"The whole cast loves this production. We're having a great time with it, so that'll transfer to the audience. And we're creative with the way we interpret our characters. Each character – even ensemble members – has their own backstory, which adds even more depth to them, and everyone's doing a great job. We'll actually go up and talk to

the audience members and let them in our jokes firsthand."

Playing Beatrice is senior Kat Pascual. Beatrice and Hero are cousins, and Beatrice's uncle owns the resort. "It's the first time Beatrice and Benedick have seen each other since breaking up," said Pascual. "They still secretly love each other but are both stubborn and headstrong. She's independent and adamant that she can do things on her own. But she cares a lot about her friends and Hero, and she's fiercely protective of what she believes in and the people she loves."

Pascual enjoys her role because "Beatrice is so witty, and it's fun constantly trading funny jabs with Isaac as Benedict. She's way more confident than I'll ever be. Beatrice says what she means and doesn't care what other people think about her. And there's also a part where she gets to give a really intense speech."

Describing this show as energetic, Pascual said, "What I love about Shakespeare is that you constantly discover new ways to play with his language and find the jokes in it. And our show has a different setting from the original – and even a real pool filled with water."

Senior Kathryn Whitis portrays Hero. "She's lovesick and romantic and wants to get married," said Whitis. "She respects her parents' wishes, is shyer than her cousin and is innocent and sweet. I'm excited to play her because this is my first bigger role in a play."

"Being one of the leads is hard because you have to understand the meaning of Shakespeare's lines to really understand the character," continued Whitis. "But I like that Hero's similar to me in her hopeful, optimistic personality. She just wants what's best for others and wants them all, including herself, to be happy."

Noting that the cast interacts a lot with the audience, she said, "The thrust stage lets them get up close and personal. It's a really fun show, and we do it in a way that people will be able to understand the storyline, even if they don't get all the words."

Portraying Claudio is junior Nate Smith. "He acts tough but is soft," said Smith. "He has a big heart and doesn't always know how to control it. He sometimes has outbursts, can confuse himself about love and who he cares about, and can sometimes make bad decisions. But in the end, it's because he cares, and his intentions are always good."

Identifying with his character, Smith said, he, too, has a big heart and sometimes makes "questionable decisions because of that. So I think Claudio's one of the most human characters in the play. I've experienced both love and loss, and I get to show that through Claudio and also get to know myself better through him."

Overall, said Smith, "This play tells a relatable story about something we've all experienced, through the lens of comedy. And it's very lighthearted and fun."



FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/COMMUNITY-SERVICES-BOARD/SERVICES/CO-RESPONDER-PROGRAM

Fairfax County is 391 square miles, and has only four co-responder program teams to cover the entire area, and they do not work 24/7. The program will be expanding.



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How can I support you today? ”The CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program in Eugene, Oregon, consists of an unarmed mental health team, a medic and a crisis worker. The team is a mobile health unit and provides crisis intervention 24/7 in a wide range of services including crisis counseling, welfare checks, suicide prevention, assessment, and intervention.”

Is Fairfax County’s Co-Responder Program the Right Fit?

FROM PAGE 8

health crisis unit for Reston since 2021. We don’t need wellness checks to end in death. Supervisor Walter Alcorn, please consider a dedicated mental health crisis unit for Hunter Mill [District].”

A third Fairfax County resident raises concerns about the Fairfax County Co-Responder Program. Adrian Steel, a former member of the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group, which disbanded in 2023 and the first chairman of the Police Civilian Review Panel, discussed challenges and potential actions regarding the county’s co-responder program, primarily in light of the Wilson case. He questioned several aspects of the program, including the police department’s knowledge of an incident involving Wilson the day before her fatal shooting, as well as why the officer was alone and did not have a Taser or other less-lethal options available.

According to FCPD General Order 540 – Use of Force, “officers shall carry their ECW at all times. ... Exceptions may be made by commanders based upon safety factors relative to mission objectives or where a sufficient number of functional ECWs are not currently available to equip all operational officers within their purview.”

Steel emphasized the importance of examining the co-responder structure and scrutinizing the dispatch process to ascertain whether the call went to the 988 crisis line or 911. He discussed the police chief’s lack of neutrality, the chief interjecting his opinion during his statements when releasing the Wilson case body-worn camera footage. The transcript shows several instances during which Davis opines. For example, Davis commented, “My (12:33) personal thoughts about, ‘Would a co-responder have,



SCREENSHOT FACEBOOK

Sarah Selvaraj-D’souza, co-founder of Restonstrong, asks for a dedicated mobile mental health crisis unit for Reston.



FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/FAIRFAXCOUNTY/

Adrian Steel questions why the officer in the Wilson case acted alone and further why he did not have a Taser or other less-lethal options available to him.



INSTAGRAM.COM/SUPERVISORLUSK/

Supervisor Rodney Lusk says the co-responder program will be “expanding to include more teams and extended hours of service.”

“made a difference”? I’m not too sure that it (12:38) would have.” He says the comment before the criminal and administrative investigations into the incident and the review by the county’s Office of the Independent Police Auditor.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk, chair of the Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee, said on Nov. 8 in an email to The Connection that he had the opportunity last week to ride with a co-responder team and see firsthand how they operate.

“Since Supervisor Alcorn and I proposed the Board Matter that initiated this program, I have always believed that it was the right thing to do, and seeing them in action has only reinforced that conviction. I am extremely proud that the Board of Supervisors not only approved but has continued to support this program, which has gained widespread support. This includes expanding the program to include more teams and extended hours of service.”

Lusk said he will continue to look for ways to support the co-responder program in coordination with the Fairfax County Police Department and the Community Services Board to ensure its continued success.

“The Co-Responder Program aligns with other Fairfax County initiatives, including the Diversion First continuum of services. The Co-Responder Program also aligns with the Marcus Alert. Virginia law requires 9-1-1, crisis call centers, law enforcement, and behavioral health agencies to work together to improve responses to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises,” according to the county web page devoted to What is the Fairfax County Co-Responder Program?



CAHOOTS is a mental health first response and mobile intervention model that responds to non-violent crises instead of police, such as welfare checks, public assistance and transportation to services. “The program mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic, or EMT) and a crisis worker with substantial training and experience in mental health.”



From left, Macee Schmidt, Hannah Crawford, Antonio Agosto-Reyes and Breanna Zazzara rehearse a scene.



From left, Macee Schmidt and Hannah Crawford (as sisters Ismene and Antigone, respectively) argue about their brother's burial.

Reimagining of a Classic Story in Futuristic Setting

Centreville High's Cappies play is 'Antigone: 3021.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's the year 3021, and a civil war has just ended in Thebes, Greece. Antigone wants to bury her brother, Polyneices, but Chancellor Creah says anyone who buries this traitor will be put to death. Antigone does it, anyway, brazenly broadcasting her crime on the public cloud and thereby risking her own life.

That's the premise of Centreville High's upcoming play, "Antigone: 3021," which takes place in a futuristic world where people use technology to document what's happening and express their views. And in this creative retelling of the Sophocles tragedy, "Antigone," the Greek chorus is instead a TV talk show and the characters communicate via virtual projection.

The show features a cast and crew of 30, and Director Patrick McGee is proud of all of them. "This was originally written in 2020 as a play that could be done on Zoom," he explained. "So it's been cool to take some of their moments and bring them to the stage."

The curtain rises Friday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are adults, \$12; students, \$10; at the door or via www.theatrecentreville.com. Due to mature themes, it's recommended for middle-schoolers and above.

It's also Centreville's Cappies entry. "The last two years, we've done musicals for Cappies, so I wanted the actors and techs who do more dramatic shows to have their chance to shine," said McGee. "Our theater

season's theme is 'A Mythical Season,' based on myths, history and folklore."

"I also wanted to expose the students to the classics, but with a modern adaptation to make it more accessible to them," he continued. "And setting it in the future lets their creativity come through – especially in the technical elements, such as props, LED lighting and even the way they arrive onstage via hologram."

McGee's also been pleased to see the actors "doing their homework as performers – researching their characters and the play's themes, plus connecting to the original play by Sophocles. That's enhanced the work they're creating onstage, and the hard work they've done to learn their monologues is really paying off."

The scenes take place in the teenage bedrooms of Antigone's sister and boyfriend; the set of a TV news program, the Vista; Creah's office; Antigone's jail cell; and the Octagon Room (a play on the Oval Office).

"The question is, how do we honor someone's life after they're gone?" said McGee. "And how can people be true to themselves?"

Senior Breanna Zazzara plays Chancellor Creah. "She was related to the former ruler and, after he died, she appointed herself ruler," said Zazzara. "She says what she believes in and is a bit self-centered. She thinks she's above everyone else and no one else's opinions really matter.

"She's not afraid to step over the line as a ruler, and she throws Antigone in jail and plans to have her executed. In Creah's eyes, Polyneices was a traitor because he disagreed with the chancellor before her. I enjoy this

role because Creah's loud and demanding and likes bossing people around. It's the opposite of my personality, so it's nice to step out of my comfort zone. Playing a villain is really fun."

Zazzara said this play teaches many lessons, including that "people can have different opinions without being criticized and/or punished. Audiences will also learn about what could go through the mind of an unjust ruler – that if they think they're above others, no one can stand up to them. It's really interesting to see how the storyline plays out. You're wondering what'll happen next and what each character will do."

Portraying Antigone is senior Hannah Crawford. "She's 17, impulsive, has a fiery personality and isn't afraid to stand up for what she thinks is right," said Crawford. "She's the daughter of Oedipus, the former chancellor, and is Creah's niece. Antigone was really close to her brother, and they shared many of the same viewpoints. She loves him and wants him, and everyone, to have the respect due them."

"Antigone is mean sometimes because of the anger built up inside her, so finding different ways to show that has been fun," said Crawford. "It's been a lot of work, but I feel honored to be in a lead role. It's super special to me, and I'm excited to play her."

She said the show's message is about "staying true to who you are, even when others tell you you're wrong. It's important to stick to your values, and I think the audience will appreciate how many levels there are in the story. You have to pay attention to it. There are lots of moments that give you goosebumps and leave you thinking about the way people treat each other and how important your own voice is. People tend to think they're just one person, so their voice doesn't matter, but it really does."

Sophomore Macee Schmidt plays Antigone's sister Ismene, a vlogger who "puts every second of her life online and also describes what's going on in her family and with Creah's new law that decreed no one can bury her brother. She also tells what she and her sister think about it. Ismene's vlog is so popular, she believes she won't get in trouble for expressing her feelings, and she's reflecting the general reaction of the city residents.

"She's bubbly and out there – an energetic, loud extrovert, passionate about what she does. She's also a little self-centered; but deep down, she cares a lot about her sister and the people close to her. It's fun playing Ismene and embracing her quirkiness, loudness and silliness. As an introvert in real life, it's refreshing to play such a confident character."

Schmidt said audiences will like this show because "it's dark and dramatic, with a disturbing undertone. People can use their own experiences to connect with the characters and become more immersed in the storyline. And we use modern-day speech and technology, so it's easy to understand."

Portraying Antigone's boyfriend Haemon is junior Antonio Agosto-Reyes. "He has a history of being rash and not thinking before he speaks," said Agosto-Reyes. "His relationship with Antigone has become a little less stable, but they still care about each other. He's initially cautious and reserved with people; but once he's passionate about something, words just flow out of his mouth."

Agosto-Reyes especially likes playing Haemon toward the latter part of the show when he gets to be "loud and more expressive and show the instability in his train of thought – because in the past, when he's said the wrong things, he's had to deal with the consequences."

Driver Charged in Fatal Pedestrian Crash

FROM PAGE 15

Bozarth was charged with Failure to Yield to a Pedestrian. He was served a summons and released.

According to the initial police report, on Sept. 21, around 8:42 a.m., police responded to the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and Lynnhaven Place in Oakton for a pedestrian who was struck by the driver of a vehicle. The driver remained at the scene.

Preliminarily, detectives determined that Choon Kook, 80, of Vienna, entered the crosswalk at the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and Lynnhaven

Place. The driver of a Ford F-150 was attempting to make a turn into the Oakton Shopping Center from Hunter Mill Road and struck Kook. Kook was transported to the hospital and was later pronounced deceased.

Speed and alcohol do not appear to be a factor for the driver. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor for the pedestrian.

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 – 703-246-4676

Pickleball Controversy

FROM PAGE 14

as well as realigning the tennis and pickleball court at Wakefield Park.

Fairfax County is keeping up with the sport's popularity. According to the park portion of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presentation dated Oct. 18, 2024, FCPA increased pickleball capacity from 28 courts in 2021 to 88 courts by 2024.

The pickleballers wrote a letter to Chairman Jeff McKay advocating to convert tennis courts to pickleball courts. They wanted pickleball courts in Nottoway Park in the Providence District. They stated that this sport has grown by 158 percent and urged Fairfax County to support pickleballers on the level that Fairfax City does. They claimed that Fairfax City converted an asphalt court to multiple pickleball courts for \$100,000. "We are sure Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would be able to find the resources to convert the two tennis courts adjacent to Nottoway Park Office to six dedicated pickleball courts," they wrote.

PICKLEBALL AMBASSADORS

Helen White is a pickleball aficionado in

Northern Virginia whose influences ranged from Burke, where she was the Director of Pickleball at the Burke Racquet and Swim Club, to the founder of Pickleball for Life, a company immersed in the sport. Her title now is the official Pickleball Ambassador in this area. She's aware of the controversy at Westgate and has dealt with a few other similar pickleball situations, namely Walter Reed Park in Arlington and another park in Annandale.

The Westgate Park is far back enough that noise wouldn't be a factor but parking might be at prime pickleball hours. "During game times there would be parking issues," she said. The title "Pickleball Ambassadors," sounds like it was born in Washington, D.C. but this is the term "USA Pickleball," assigned this volunteer position. "The main prerequisite is a love of the sport and the desire to share our game with others of all ages," it says on the USA Pickleball website.

Virginia is in the Mid-Atlantic division, monitored by Regional Director of Ambassador Engagement Nick Perez and Regional Director of Tournament Operations Carlos Morales. There are 12 regions across the country.

FCPA increased pickleball capacity from 28 courts in 2021 to 88 courts by 2024.

'Antigone: 3021'

FROM PAGE 18

Because of this play's many monologues, "People can focus on one character at a time and really get to know them," said Agosto-Reyes. "They'll also like how the entertainers in the TV show, 'The Vista,' comment on 'Antigone 3021's' action, in place of a traditional Greek chorus. Audiences will love their scenes because the actors in them really knock it

out of the park."

Junior Madelyn Regan, the play's marketing manager, had multiple social-media accounts created for each character on Instagram. "We're also showcasing information on the first two plays in Sophocles' 'Oedipus' play series so audiences can get a better idea of the story before seeing the production," she said. For a list of these accounts, go to @theatreville.

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ENTERTAINMENT



The Holiday Kick-Off Celebration takes place Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 at Tysons Corner Center's Plaza in McLean.

NOV. 2 TO JAN. 12, 2025 10th Annual Glass International.

At Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Gallery, 9518 workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center is proud to present the 10th Annual Glass International, an exhibition highlighting the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural glass art. In celebration of Workhouse Arts' 10th year exhibiting glass from artists throughout the United States, in 2024, they opened eligibility to include artists working internationally.

FRESH EVERGREEN WREATHS AND DECORATIONS

Assistance League of Northern Virginia (ALNV) is partnering with Lynch Creek Farm to offer a variety of fresh evergreen wreaths and decorations for your home or as holiday gifts. Lynch Creek offers a beautiful assortment of fresh wreaths, centerpieces, swags, and tabletop items, all hand-crafted from natural materials such as noble fir, pine cones, berries, and white pine. These long-lasting arrangements are perfect for autumn and Thanksgiving or the winter holidays. ALNV, a non-profit providing assistance to needy students across the region, will receive 15% of the proceeds from your order. Use the following link to place your order: <https://tinyurl.com/LynchCreekBeauty> To order by phone, call 1-800-426-0781 and mention our campaign ID #9630516. Orders will be sent directly to your selected recipients. You can specify the dates that your orders will ship, and you can include multiple recipients in the same order. Standard Ground Shipping is offered to the contiguous 48 states for all orders at a flat rate of \$4.95 per item. The deadline for submitting orders is December 15, 2024.

POTOMAC HARMONY CHORUS IS SEEKING SINGERS

If you enjoy holiday music, this is for you. Potomac Harmony Chorus will be rehearsing holiday classics during November and December

and you can sing along! No experience necessary! No cost! Just a love of music required! They sing a cappella, are an open and safe environment for women and non-binary singers, and love what they do. Singing brings joy, so come get some! Contact Jackie Bottash at JackieBottash@gmail.com.

THRU JAN. 12, 2025

Winter Lantern Festival. At Tysons Corner Center, 8025 Galleria Drive, McLean. Thursdays to Sundays, 5-9:30 p.m. The Winter Lantern Festival is a must-see display of electrifying lights made from more than 1,000 handmade Chinese lanterns. Guests will enter and wander through a wonderland of light and color inspired by Chinese myths, legends, and zodiacs. Attractions will include a bounce house, sugar paintings, dino ride, interactive light swings, see-saws, tunnels, and many majestic creatures. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment by the Zigong Acrobatic Troupe, a new treat for this year, along with food, drinks and gifts.

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.

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.)

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Financial Challenges in Retirement.

6-7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In this dynamic session they will discuss the financial challenges today's retirees face and strategies to overcome these obstacles. You have worked hard. What do you need to do now from a planning perspective to ensure you have the retirement of your dreams? Instructor: Courtney Heykoop, Clover Leaf Wealth Strategies.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

MCA 110th Anniversary Celebration.

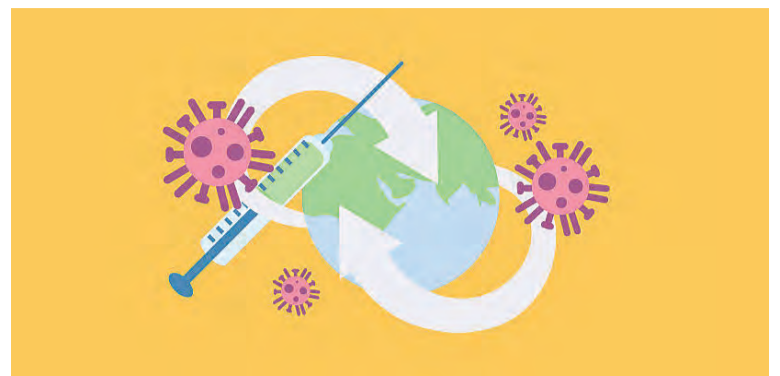
7 to 9 p.m. At McLean Community Center Community Hall, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. There will be a brief program as they highlight past accomplishments and celebrate the people and organizations who have shared in our progress.

NOV. 14-17

"Metamorphoses." At George C. Marshall High School Auditorium (Door 13), 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. "Metamorphoses," by Tony Award-winning playwright Mary Zimmerman, brings Ovid's tales to stunning visual life, weaving together ancient myths with contemporary language, making the stories of gods, heroes, and mortals feel relevant and resonant for modern audiences. Dates: Thurs., Nov. 14th - Sat., Nov. 16th - 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 16th Matinee - 2:00 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 17th Matinee - 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at ETix.com or can be purchased at the door. Prices are \$20.00 for general admission, \$15.00 for students, and \$15.00 for senior citizens.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Jigsaw Puzzle and Lunch. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Reston Association Headquarters, Reston. Do you like to put together jigsaw puzzles? You can work individually or as a member of a team to see if you



A discussion on "Great Decisions: Pandemic Preparedness" can be seen on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 at Reston Regional Library.



Former Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn will speak on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024 at Pohick Regional Library in Burke.

can complete the puzzle in the time allotted. Enjoy coffee and conversation while doing one of America's favorite pastimes. Lunch will be provided.

FALL HOLIDAY BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Thousands of books at bargain prices. Bag sale on Sunday - fill a grocery bag with books and DVDs for \$10. Fiction and nonfiction for all ages, DVDs, gift items. Friday, Nov. 15, 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, 1-4 p.m.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Friday Night Flights: Dessert Wines.

7 - 8:30 p.m. At the Winery at Bull Run, Centreville. Take a "flight" around the globe during this guided tasting experience of Dessert Wines, led by General Manager and Virginia Winemaker, Dean Gruenburg. Your ticket includes the curated six-wine tasting with the wine educator, a tasting passport with detailed descriptions of the wines and their origin, and small bites to enjoy during the event.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Holiday Kick-Off Celebration. 6 - 8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join in an enchanted evening to celebrate the start of the Holiday season! Enjoy Santa's

grand arrival, Holiday performances, complimentary s'mores and custom beverages, a fireworks display, retailer market, giveaways, and more. This season's annual event is sponsored by Creative Collective, who will have 12 local artisans displaying their wares beginning at 2 p.m. on event day.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

"Great Decisions: Pandemic Preparedness." 1-3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a discussion of "Pandemic Preparedness: Ending the Deadly Cycle of Panic and Neglect" by Carolyn Reynolds. Leading the talk will be Dr. Beth Cameron, Professor of the Practice and Senior Advisor to the Pandemic Center at the Brown University School of Public Health. A short film on the topic will be shown at 1:00 p.m., followed by a discussion at 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Eileen Filler-Corn Speaks. 3-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. All are welcome to a program with Eileen Filler-Corn, former Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates. She will be the guest of the Springfield-Annandale branch of the American Association of University Women.

Ms. Filler-Corn will speak about her personal involvement and experi-

ENTERTAINMENT



Classical guitarist Adam Levin will appear on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

ences, as well as the current state of the State. She served in Virginia representing the 41st District from 2010 – 2024.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Native American Heritage Month Film – American Masters “Buffie Sainte-Marie: Carry It On”. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Experience the story of the Oscar-winning Indigenous artist from her rise to prominence in New York’s Greenwich Village folk music scene through her six-decade groundbreaking career as a singer-songwriter, social activist, educator and artist.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

McLean Citizens Association’s 110th Anniversary History Walk. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Begins and ends at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Co-sponsored by the McLean Historical Society, the history tour will take approximately one hour in the Central McLean Business District (CBD) highlighting MCA’s participation in early and today’s McLean.

NOV. 16-17

Virginia Opera Presents “Carmen”. At Center for the Arts, George Mason University, Fairfax. Virginia Opera is thrilled to announce its second opera of the 2024-2025 50th Anniversary Season, Carmen, returning to the stage after a ten-year absence. Set against a vibrant new design by acclaimed scenic designer Steven Kemp, this traditional staging of Carmen will be conducted by Virginia Opera’s Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, Adam Turner, and directed by Kyle Lang, who is also helming this season’s first production, Don Giovanni. For more information, visit www.vaopera.org or contact the Virginia Opera Box Office at 866-673-7282.

SUNDAY/NOV 17

Howard University Gospel Choir. 4-5:15 p.m. At St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. For almost five decades, the Howard University

Gospel Choir has set a very high standard as a premier performing arts ensemble, singing at a wide variety of venues in and around the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Visit the website: www.standrews.net

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge model train display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5. Seniors and military (active and retired), \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXS-RR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

Traditional Celtic Music. At 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA in concert, which has transported audiences to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Mann, Brittany, Asturias and Galicia, and explores the Celtic cultures of the New World. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <https://oldbrogue.com/celtic-concert-series-fall-2024> - \$21 plus tax general admission.

SUNDAY/NOV 17

Adam Levin, Classical Guitar. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Billboard chart-topping recording artist, Fulbright scholar and worldwide performer, Adam Levin, brings a beautiful and thoughtful concert to our chamber music series. Levin’s repertoire and expertise span J.S. Bach to contemporary Spanish music. Plus, he’s a professor, so you know the commentary will be enlightening.

NOV. 18, 25, AND DEC. 2 AND 9

Pet Nights with Santa. 6 – 8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center in Santa’s Chalet – Lower Level near Wasabi, in McLean. Tysons Corner Center invites your furry friend to dress in their holiday best for photos with Santa – Sponsored by the Vet-

erinary Emergency Group. This beloved event has become a signature theme night during the Tysons Holiday season. Shoppers can bring their furry friends for memorable photos with Santa, along with treats and fun giveaways. Visit the website: www.Tysonscornercenter.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

Senior Movie Day, featuring, “Fly Me to the Moon.” 10 a.m. At the movie theater at Reston Town Center. Sponsored by Reston Association. Free for 55+. Registration is not required. Just show up.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Jeremy Denk Master Class. 2-4 p.m. in Harris Theatre at GMU, Fairfax. Observe as Jeremy Denk leads a master class with four George Mason University Dewberry School of Music students, working respectively with them in 30-minute sessions. This event is free, but registration is required. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

Line Dancing. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, Centreville. Boots, experience, and tickets not required when you come and join instructor Karen, with BOOM Fitness, for line dancing lessons in country, hip hop, and pop in our Main Tasting Room. Come out and enjoy wine, hard cider, and boot scootin’ fun!

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Holiday Gingerbread House Decorating. 10 a.m.-Noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingle-



IONA, which performs traditional Celtic music, will be featured in concert on Sunday, Nov 17, 2024, at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls.



Enjoy Holiday Gingerbread House Decorating on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

side Ave., McLean. Celebrate the holidays with us! Families decorate a gingerbread house to make their own one-of-kind designs. We’ll supply a pre-built house, frosting and traditional and not-so-traditional toppings. Price is per gingerbread house. Note: Parental supervision is required for children ages 16 years and younger. Products may contain dairy, gluten, eggs and other allergens.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Ronn McFarlane on lute and Carolyn Surrick on the viola da Gamba are compelling per-

formers who have both immersed themselves in music from the Renaissance and Baroque as well as music from the Celtic lands, adding their own compositions as they evolve. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <https://oldbrogue.com/celtic-concert-series-fall-2024> - \$21 plus tax general admission.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Holiday Vendor Market. 12-5 p.m. At the Winery at Bull Run, Centreville. Enjoy the joyous company of friends as you get a start on your holiday shopping. Don’t miss out on exclusive discounts and unique finds for everyone on your gift list!

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22

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Obituary

Lois (Helen) Teachout, 83, of Herndon, VA, passed away peacefully on November 6, 2024, surrounded by her family. Helen was born on June 29, 1941, and grew up on a farm on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She was the loving older sister to seven siblings: Carl, Lowell, Edna, Warren, Frances, Barbara and Philip. She graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Bay St. Louis in 1959 and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg in 1963 with a degree in Home Economics.

She enjoyed secondary education, but later found an exciting new career in software instruction and technical writing. Health issues forced her into early retirement, but never one to sit idly, she found a new passion in volunteering at her church and at the Reston Regional Library. She even recruited her husband to these causes once he retired. Helen was small in stature, but she had a big loving heart, as evidenced by her devotion to her family, her Catholic faith, and charities that were dear to her.

She is survived by her husband of sixty-one years, William (Bill) C. Teachout, Jr. Their loving marriage has served as a great example to their children and their spouses; Libby (Emmett), Aimee (Steve) and Kate (Ryan). She is also survived by her eight grandchildren, Ken, Kelly, Grant, Jake, Skylar, Don, Kaitlyn and Ryder as well as her great granddaughter, Copeley.

Helen is joined in rest by her father, Carl, her mother, Geneva, her brother, Carl Jr. and her sister, Edna, along with her nieces, Kaitlyn and Jami and her nephew, Dylan.

Funeral services will take place at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road in Reston at 11:00 am on Thursday, November 14, 2024 followed by a reception at Chantilly National Golf & Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. Online condolences and fond memories may be offered to the family at www.moneyandking.com

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Cvent, Inc. seeks Lead Data Engineer in McLean (Tysons Corner), VA. Telecommuting is permitted. Apply at <https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/Ref#76537>.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

Secure a ticket now, and let the holiday cheer begin at The Winery. Tickets are only \$10 and include your first glass of wine, a raffle ticket for our All-Vendor raffle basket, and access to the fantastic artisan vendors at the Holiday Market.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24
"My Father's Dragon." 1 and 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Nine-year-old Elmer Elevator is on a mission to rescue a baby dragon held captive on Wild Island. How will he pull off such an adventurous rescue? With pure luck—plus chewing gum, lollipop sticks, and rubber bands! Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24
Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Ronn McFarlane and Carolyn Surrick. Both of these distinguished artists have been champions of their respective instruments for decades: McFarlane on lute and Surrick on viola da gamba. Visit the website: www.lfcm.us/ronn-mcfarlane-and-carolyn-surrick

SUNDAY/NOV. 24
Washington Balalaika Concert. 3 p.m. At St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Fall concerts revolve around The Mystery of Romance, celebrating the joy it can bring, as well as its more sorrowful moments. The program includes Tchaikovsky's familiar "None but the Lonely Heart," the heart-rending "Adagio in G" attributed to Albinoni, and Rachmaninov's "Harvest of Sorrow." To purchase tickets go to www.balalaika.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29
Reston Town Center Holiday Parade and Events. 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Tree lighting at end of Reston Holiday Parade. A day of celebration, beginning with the nationally ranked holiday parade (perennially a USA Today top 10) and ending with the tree lighting and other festivities. Train and carriage rides, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, ice skating, great shopping, and more throughout the day. Visit the website: <https://www.restontown-center.com/event/3797/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 30
Canadian Brass: Making Spirits Bright. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Canadian Brass kicks off the holiday season with a program of original arrangements and signature takes on beloved classics such as "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Christmas Time is Here," "Silver Bells," "Jingle Bell Rock," and songs of Hanukkah. Visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30
Second Annual Beaver Boogie 5K. 10 a.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) will host its second-annual Beaver Boogie 5K at Lake Accotink Park. More than just another fun run, the Beaver Boogie is a great opportunity to join with

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

family, friends and neighbors in supporting one of Fairfax County's largest and most visited parks. The event runs through the park, creating a scenic and picture-perfect atmosphere for all runners and walkers to enjoy themselves while being active. Registration is \$25 for each participant for the 5K Fun Run/Walk. Additionally, racers may also purchase a \$10 pasta dinner meal deal to be hosted at Kilroy's on Friday, Nov. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Turkey Trot 5K. 9 a.m. Meets at Langley High School, McLean. Join McLean Crew Club and Langley Crew Club for a Turkey Trot 5K. The friendly rivals are joining together as one team to support and strengthen rowing in the McLean and Great Falls community. Proceeds from the event will be shared equally between the two teams. In addition to a scenic 5K run, there will be a deejay with music and a coffee truck for specialty coffee and hot chocolate, starting at 8 a.m. on the day of the trot. For those who cannot join in person, consider registering for the virtual trot. Registration Fee: 5K is \$50 through Race Day. All pre-registered runners will receive a commemorative shirt. Register here: <https://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2024-langley-crew-turkey-trot-5k>

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Small Business Saturday. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Building 16 and Building 11, Lorton. Shop Small and Support Workhouse Artists on Small Business Saturday! Save 20% on one-of-a-kind handcrafted artwork and retail merchandise. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org>.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Take 6. At 2 p.m. At GMU's Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The most awarded a cappella group in history, Take 6, brings its superlative vocal genius to the Center for a gospel-infused holiday concert.

EXPERIENCE THE HOLIDAYS AT COLVIN RUN MILL

Embrace the spirit of yesteryear with festive activities at this historic site. Join us for lantern tours, a children's holiday shopping experience and meet Santa himself!

Holiday Lantern Tour: Dec. 6-7, 5:30 or 6:30 p.m., \$12

Children's Holiday Shopping at Historic Colvin Run: Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$7

Santa at the Mill: Dec. 14 (3-5:30 p.m.) & Dec. 15 (2-4:30 p.m.), \$10

Sensory-Friendly Santa at the Mill: Dec. 14 (12:30-2:15 p.m.) & Dec. 15 (11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.), \$40 per group (up to five in a



The Winter Lantern Festival takes place thru Jan. 12, 2025 at Tysons Corner Center in McLean.

group).

HOLIDAY ON THE FARM AT FRYING PAN FARM PARK

Celebrate the holidays with an evening of wagon rides, animal interactions and visits with Santa. Enjoy food, indoor activities, and cozy campfires. Dec. 6-7, Dec. 13-14, Dec. 20-21, 4:30-7:30 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

WINTER WONDERLAND AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Climb aboard the Holiday Express for a train ride, spin on the Carolers Carousel, play Gingerbread Man Golf and savor s'mores by the fire. Meet Santa, sip hot chocolate and enjoy the season's warmth. Weekends: Dec. 7-8, Dec. 14-15, Dec. 21-22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

DEC. 5-7

Winterfest. At Brown's Chapel Park

in Reston. This three-day event promises to be even bigger than last year's event. Don't miss your chance to walk the Light Up the Park trail, enjoy s'mores at the firepits, sip on local adult beverages, listen to live musical performances, visit with local vendors, or bring the kids to visit with the Grinch and Santa. Free for RA members; \$8 for non-members ages 3-17; \$18 for non-members 18+.

DEC. 5-8

Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Dates: Thursday, 5 Dec., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 6 Dec. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 7 Dec., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8 Dec., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Visit <https://www.tysonslibrary-friends.org/>

"Cheese and Crackers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I remember it like it was a few weeks ago rather than the three-plus decades it has been. It was the moment when I understood – for the first time, a phrase my father had been saying for years. We were driving east on Rt. 9 from Framingham, Ma. on the way to Rt. 128 (the beltway of Boston sort of) as I was joining him on a business trip to Newport R.I. I was sitting in the passenger seat of my father's Buick Grand Marquis, we were just talking when in response to something (I can't remember that), he said it: "Cheese and crackers." Immediately I looked at him and said: "Is that what you've been saying all these years? Cheese and crackers? I thought you were saying Jesus Christ. I started laughing. I must have heard him utter this exclamation a thousand times. Yet, on this day, I heard it differently, you might say. (Say it fast, with a partial stutter, like my father always did and it might sound the same to you. I sure did to me – for years.) Add to the fact that my father regularly made-up words that were not in any dictionary ("surgerize," and "confliction" come to mind) and half the time you weren't sure what the heck he was saying. On this day, while riding in the car, I understood – for once.

Rarely would Richard or I accompany my father on his driving trips to visit clients and prospects throughout New England. Aside from the fact that we were both living in Washington, D.C., these trips home to Ma. were timed to occur during his business trips (he sold jewelry/was a manufacturer's representative) when he would be away from home for two-to-three nights. We came home while my father was away to keep mother company so she wouldn't be alone. Having suffered irreparable nerve damage in both ears years before, my mother (I was going to say "she, again" but I can still hear my father admonishing us: "Don't call your mother 'she'") was hearing impaired. As you might imagine, being home by herself was a bit scary for my mother. As an example, how could she call for help and engage in a conversation over the phone or even hear a fire alarm. Certainly, she could speak but she wouldn't be able to answer any questions and provide the kinds of answers that might ultimately save her life.

But this trip home was for my father's benefit. He was nearing aged 70 – when he was planning to retire. Yet five days a week, he drove all over New England selling jewelry. Most days he would drive hours in the morning, hours between appointments, and more hours in the evening on the way home. He never complained. He loved what he did. After owning a jewelry store in downtown Boston ("Barry's Jewelers") for over 20 years, this outside sales alternative/lack of overhead was perfect for him. Nevertheless, my mother always worried because "(A) she was a worrier and (B) my father wasn't getting any younger and she could see the toll it was taking on him. And when he told the story about driving on Rt. 9 and somehow ending up on the crossroad below, asleep at the wheel, not remembering even taking the exit, we all worried some more. My father's business was all about driving. There was no plan (B). He was the sole source of income and needed to make money so my parents could retire to Fl. This drive to Newport was in pursuit of that family goal. Since the trip there was up and back in the same day, I went along and then drove home the multiple hours back home in the late afternoon so my father wouldn't have to. My brother made similarly timed visits. It was a win-win. We got to spend time alone with our father and it helped our parents manage their lives/reach their financial goal while approaching their retirement. And the lobster roll we'd have for lunch in Newport was just a side benefit. I can still see my father taking his first bite.

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

TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due

Thursday, December 5, 2024

We continue to receive a high number of tax complaints that either no paper tax bill was received, or that mailed payments did not make it to city hall.

When paying, please consider using our 24-hour drop box located at 10455 Armstrong Street (at the front of City Hall, next to the flag poles) in lieu of the USPS. (Checks only, no Cash)

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10% late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, **payment in full must be received or postmarked by close-of-business on Thursday, December 5, 2024**

Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City Treasurer's Office (City Hall, Suite 234) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Thursday, December 5, 2024

For Additional Information, please check the City website at www.FairfaxVA.gov or call (703) 385-7900

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 or call 703-778-9431

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#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



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

Per MLS

FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$1,699,000

1448 Highwood Drive, McLean

Discover this stunning classic 4BR/3.5 colonial home located in the highly coveted Chesterbrook Woods neighborhood. Nestled on a corner lot, this residence offers 3250 sq ft of beautifully finished living space on 3 levels. The main level features gleaming hardwood floors; formal dining room; living room w/ fireplace and walkout to deck; gourmet kitchen w/ breakfast bar and ss appliances; large family room w/ brick woodburning fireplace. Upstairs is the primary en suite with 3 additional BR's and hall bath. LL offers a spacious rec room; office; full-size bath; laundry w/ walk-up to spacious backyard. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean!**

FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$1,474,900

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 levels 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 features SS appliances, and a large breakfast room w/ French doors to the private deck. Upstairs is the primary BR with sitting area, vaulted ceiling and 2 walk-in closets. The 3rd level features 3 BR's and bath. LL has 4th BR, half bath and laundry. **Kent Gardens, Longfellow, McLean!**

SOLD!



2049 Rockingham Street
McLean, 22101
\$4,350,000

FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$1,375,000

6239 Kellogg Drive, McLean

GORGEOUS 5BR/3.5BA colonial home on 3 finished levels in sought-after Potomac Hills community! This welcoming home has a updated gourmet kitchen, dining area with bar area, and spacious living room with fireplace and walkout to back patio. Add'l walk-out to a covered private patio with skylights and ceiling fan from the dining room. The third level offers an updated private ensuite with a beautiful bath. There are 3 add'l BR's on this level with a hall bath. The first level features a family room or bedroom with a fireplace and updated bathroom. Private backyard w/ patio/decks. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

SOLD!



2307 Barbour Road
Falls Church, 22043
\$1,199,000

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!



2910 Cleave Drive
Falls Church, 22042
\$910,000

SOLD!



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

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