

THE CONNECTION

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Sweet Relief

PAGES 16, 17, 18

At the Fairfax City Chocolate Festival, from left, Gloria Enoch, 3, just ate a chocolate-dipped Rice Krispie treat, while friend Freya Sparks-Morrison, 4, finishes her chocolate ice cream.

Heartbreak After Crash at DCA

PAGE 3, 5

Day in the Life of a Delegate in Session

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OPINION, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 20 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 22

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

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Community Mourns Young Ice Skaters Gone Too Soon

Two Woodson High students die in tragic plane crash.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When an Army helicopter collided with a passenger jet at Reagan National Airport last Wednesday, Jan. 29, the tragedy killed 67 people. It ended their future hopes and dreams in an instant and forever changed the lives of those who knew and loved them.

The victims included friends Edward Zhou and Cory Haynos, both 16. They attended Woodson High in Fairfax, skated at the Fairfax Ice Arena and were members of the Skating Club of Northern Virginia (SCNV).

They were among 14 ice skaters returning from watching the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Wichita, Kan., and participating in a developmental camp there for young skaters. Compounding the loss, the parents of both young men – Kaiyan Mao and Yu Zhou, and Stephanie and Roger Haynos – were also aboard the plane, perishing along with their sons.

Expressing how “saddened and devastated” it is, Fairfax Ice Arena issued a statement saying, “We are mourning the heartbreaking loss of members in our skating community, who were some of our nation’s brightest rising stars in U.S. Figure Skating. Our deepest condolences go out to the victims’ families, friends and the figure-skating community.”

Edward Zhou

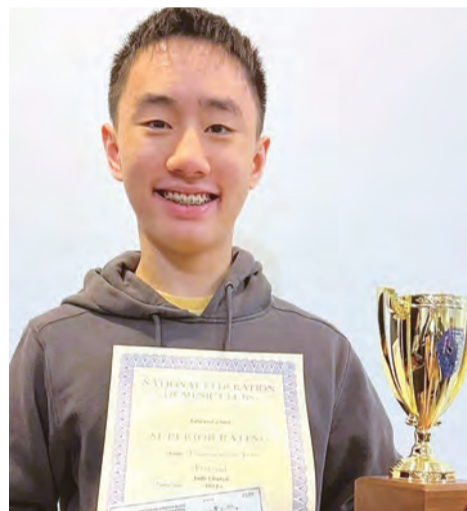
The Skating Lesson, an ice-skating website popular with the ice-skating community, wrote that Edward “was tiny when he first learned how to skate, but he was fearless and unafraid of trying anything new. It’s been said that his coaches loved coaching him because he always smiled and laughed every time he fell. Edward was known for relentlessly cheering on the other skaters. He was an only child, and his parents were always at the rink; [the three] traveled together everywhere.”

Woodson junior Cat Boyett has been friends with Edward since they were in seventh grade at Frost Middle School. “What stands out to me was his unyielding kindness to all his friends and everybody he met,” they said. “He was one of the most outgoing people. Whenever I saw him in the halls at school, he’d give me the biggest smile and wave. His smile was infectious and just lit up the room.”

Cat and Edward both belonged to SCNV and skated together at its home rink – the Fairfax Ice Arena – until last year, when he moved to the MedStar Capitals Iceplex in Arlington. “He was such an amazing skater; he’d gone on to the National Development Team in the past,” said Cat. “Edward and other skaters from all over the country had qualified for the National Qualifying Series, www.connectionnewspapers.com



Edward Zhou at a 2023 competition.



Edward Zhou with a skating certificate and trophy.



Edward Zhou before a piano concert.

and they got to go to the developmental camp in Wichita because of it. The camp ended last Tuesday.”

PSA Airlines Flight 5342 – carrying Edward, Cory, plus other local skaters and their families home to the Washington Metropolitan area – was some 15 seconds from landing on the runway at Reagan, last Wednesday, around 9 p.m., when the military helicopter collided with it.



Edward Zhou celebrates his mother's birthday with his dad.

FAMILY PHOTO IN NY TIMES



Friends Edward Zhou and Cat Boyett at the SCNV picnic in summer 2023.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARI BOYETT

The impact caused the plane to break in two, plunging it and the helicopter into the icy waters of the Potomac River. A massive search-and-rescue effort ensued. But ultimately, the plane’s 60 passengers and four crew members and the Black Hawk helicopter’s three soldiers all perished.

“I found out Thursday morning when my mom told me,” said Cat. “I’d heard there’d been a crash, but didn’t know the details. And then I had this sinking horror and realization that Edward wasn’t coming back from Wichita. I had to leave school early – I was crying all day. And ever since then, I’ve been up and down.”

“Thursday, at the ice rink, they’d set up a

memorial table of flowers – which has now grown exponentially – and it was good to be with my community. A poster board was set up for each of the kids that skated there – Edward, Cory, Olivia and Brielle – with their photos on it, so people could write messages on it. There were also videos of each skater set up.”

Olivia Ter, 12, and mom Olesya of Maryland, were on the plane, too, as were Brielle Beyer, 12, and mom Justyna of Aldie. “Last week, I was watching Olivia skate,” said Cat. “It’s just so surreal that I won’t see them again.”

SEE ICE SKATERS, PAGE 4

Community Mourns Young Ice Skaters Gone Too Soon

FROM PAGE 3

Cat said Edward started skating at age 6. “He loved skating and being on the ice,” said Cat. “Edward was the reason I kept skating because he was my first friend at the rink, and we skated freestyle sessions together.”

He was also a standout student, plus an accomplished pianist. His piano teacher, Livia Lai wrote on Facebook, “Edward was only 3 when he first joined my Yamaha group music class. He was funny, intelligent, compassionate, curious, enthusiastic and kind. Edward will be deeply missed.”

Indeed, Cat’s mom, Shari Boyett, called Edward “an outstanding, conscientious student with a passion for doing well in all areas of his life.”

“We’re both AP students, and he took classes like AP chemistry and computer science,” added Cat. “He wanted to someday do something in the STEM field [as a career]. Edward’s parents pushed him to excel in skating, piano and academics, but he loved it all. We were talking two weeks ago about how he felt about computer science and that he’d finally gotten a handle on it. He also got 100 percent on his AP chem test. And in November, he’d landed his first triple lutz. We were always thrilled for each other’s achievements academically and on skates.”

Now, said Cat, the atmosphere at Fairfax Ice Arena is “so sad. A lot of the coaches there saw these kids growing up and basically raised them. I feel like there aren’t even words to describe how hard it is for me to know I’ll never get to see or hug Edward again.”

“He exuded so much joy. He could be silly – like when one of the coaches was filming a skating-skills test and he did funny things to avoid being on the video. He was thoughtful, too. For my 16th birthday last January, he got me a seafoam-green Polaroid camera because that’s my favorite color.”

On Sunday, the Fairfax Ice Arena skaters gathered for a private memorial to share their memories of their lost friends. And that same night and again this Friday, there’ll be counseling sessions at the rink. Woodson will also have counselors available.

To honor Edward, Cat will “keep on skating and striving toward my academic and skating goals. And I’ll hold the love Edward had for skating in my mind.”

Boyett said Edward’s parents came to the U.S. from China to study in graduate school and to have a better life. “They wanted a child for so long, so when Edward came along, he was their precious jewel. And it’s important that we keep his memory alive and keep him in our hearts.”

Since the crash, she said Cat’s received countless texts and phone calls from people expressing their support for them. “The arms of love extended from family, friends and the skate community have been tremendous,” said Boyett. “We have to grieve and feel our feels, but it’s my fervent hope that Cat will be able to live and skate joyfully in Edward’s honor.”



From left, Stephanie, Cory and Roger Haynos.



Cory Haynos on the ice.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF LANCASTER



Cory Haynos at a 2023 competition.



Cory Haynos enjoying the outdoors.

AIMEE CHO/NBC-4



Cory Haynos at home.

AIMEE CHO/NBC-4

Cory Haynos

Cory Haynos qualified for the U.S. Figure Skating training camp in Wichita after placing third in his division at a sectional competition last November in Massachusetts. Former Swedish national medalists Kalle Strid and Mikael Olofsson were his coaches. And the day before the crash – on the last day of training camp, he landed a triple axel. He’s survived by his sister Emily, a college student in Ohio.

The Skating Lesson described him as “a powerful skater who dreamed of making it to Nationals as a competitor.” And Robin Wilson wrote online that his mother Stephanie served on the board of the Skating Club of Northern Virginia, and his supportive father Roger even cut music for his son’s routines.

“I remember Cory and his father Roger well,” added Wilson. “Dad used to pick up Cory from school to take him to skating practice or out-of-town competitions. His parents would send me clips of his performances. They were so proud of his talent and put their heart and soul into promoting his successes. May they all RIP and their memories be eternal.”

There was an outpouring of condolences for Cory and his family on The Skating Lesson’s Facebook page. Cindy Rose called the crash devastating and sent prayers for all who died – and “especially for Emily, who lost her whole family.”

Nancy Kelskey said the tragedy was “just heart wrenching in every way.” And Betty Morgan noted that Stephanie Haynos subbed

at her former school and Roger worked in IT before retiring from FCPS. “May they all rest in peace,” she wrote.

“I sat next to the parents for hours [last] weekend at Nationals and we talked about the balance of skating and high school,” said Sarah Hamilton. “They were so very proud of their son and his accomplishments. I was heartbroken for their daughter, Cory’s sister.”

“They were part of our local skating world; I’ve known them about 12 years, since their daughter skated,” said Haley Perez. “They volunteered and helped out everywhere and were so devoted. I just can’t imagine what Emily is going through.”

SEE ICE SKATERS, PAGE 23
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

67 Dead After Airplane Collides with Army Helicopter

Wreckage and passengers plunge into the Potomac River.

BY JAMES LIBRESCO AND
NOAH STERNBERG
THE CONNECTION

Officials said there are no survivors after a commercial jet with 64 passengers and an Army helicopter carrying three soldiers collided shortly before 9 p.m. on Jan. 29 outside of Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA) in Arlington and plummeted into the Potomac River.

An Alexandria Police Department dispatch at exactly 9 p.m. described the event as a “mass casualty incident” and deployed Alexandria fireboats and ambulances.

An initial investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration found that air traffic controller staffing at Reagan National Airport during the crash was “not normal for the time of day and volume of traffic,” according to the New York Times. One air traffic controller was covering two different positions at the time of the collision, but a former FAA air traffic manager, told CNN this was a common practice. The airport reopened the day following the crash and is at full operational capacity, though several airlines canceled some scheduled flights.

The airport had 19 fully certified controllers as of September 2023, according to a report to Congress, which is well below the FAA’s target of 30. But as one of his first actions as president, Donald J. Trump froze hiring for groups of federal employees including air traffic control personnel. Trump, at a press conference in the White House, blamed Barack Obama, Joe Biden and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for the crash.

Washington’s Fire Chief John Donnelly confirmed the worst possible scenario at a separate Thursday morning press conference.

“We don’t believe there are any survivors,” he said, adding that “extremely frigid conditions,” including “heavy wind” and “ice on the water,” made the rescue operation difficult to manage.

Horrifying audio from the police scanner the previous night revealed that divers found multiple people still buckled into their seats. As of Feb. 2, 55 victims have been identified, Donnelly said at a press conference. Donnelly said that after officials extracted the plane the following day, they would be able to “recover everyone.” That task was complete on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

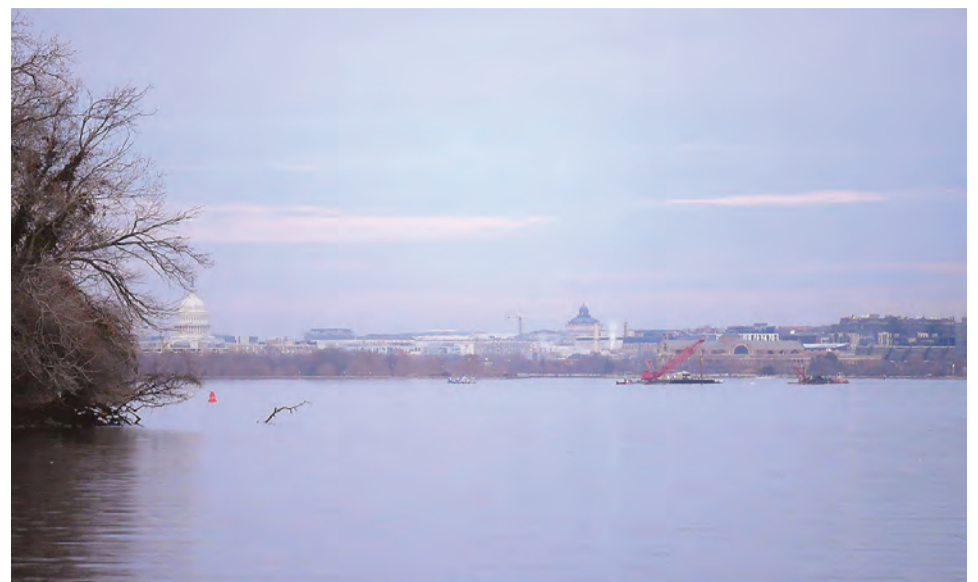


PHOTO BY NOAH STERNBERG/THEOGONY

Officials used a floating crane Feb. 7 to remove the wreckage of American Airlines flight 5342 and the Black Hawk helicopter that collided midair.

“Three of our FCPS students and six of our FCPS parents were lost, affecting multiple schools and departments here at FCPS. Two of the parents were current or former FCPS staff members. Multiplying the grief are the siblings” and others ...

— Michelle Reid, superintendent, FCPS

Three students and six parents — including two school officials — from Fairfax County Public Schools were on the fatal flight, with several returning from a figure skating camp, according to a statement from the FCPS superintendent of schools.

It is still unclear if any Alexandria residents were involved in the crash.

“Our prayers are with everyone affected,” said Alyia Gaskins, Alexandria’s mayor, in a statement. “This devastating loss is felt by all of us.”

This article was first published in Theogony, Alexandria City High School’s student-run newspaper.

Helicopter Involved Flew out of Fort Belvoir

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The helicopter involved in the tragedy at Reagan National Airport operated out of Davison Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir.

Fort Belvoir put out a statement on social media following the crash. “While performing a training mission a United States Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from Bravo Company, 12th Aviation Battalion, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Va., collided in midair with an American Airlines Bombardier CRJ700 regional jet Flight 5342 Wednesday night at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The FAA, NTSB and the United States Army will investigate. The NTSB will lead the investigation. We are working with local officials and will provide any additional information once it becomes available,” it said.

According to the Army, the three soldiers aboard the helicopter have been identified. They were Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin O’Hara, 28, of Lilburn, Georgia, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd Eaves, 39, of Great Mills, Maryland and Captain Rebecca M. Lobach, 28,



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

The helicopter which collided with the plane at Reagan National Airport flew out of Davison Airfield which is across the street from the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, which displays some of the Army helicopters such as this one.

from Durham, N.C. was the third pilot on the Army helicopter. It is not known if all the remains have been recovered yet.

Helicopters have operated out of Davison for years and have been the subject of noise complaints from housing in the immediate area, most of which was built years after Davison was in service.

Former CIA Analyst Pleads Guilty To Transmitting Top Secret National Defense Information

A former CIA analyst pled guilty Jan. 17 to retaining and transmitting Top Secret National Defense Information to people who were not entitled to receive it; information was publicly posted on a social media platform in October 2024.

According to court documents, Asif William Rahman, 34, of Vienna, was an employee of the CIA since 2016 and had a Top Secret security clearance with access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI).

“Asif Rahman is pleading guilty in federal court three months to the day [after] he disclosed top secret American documents,” said Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the

Eastern District of Virginia. “Mr. Rahman’s actions placed lives at risk, undermined U.S. foreign relations, and compromised our ability to collect vital intelligence in the future.”

Assistant Director David Sundberg of the FBI Washington Field Office said: “This is a good reminder to all clearance holders that the FBI and our Intelligence Community partners will spare no resource to immediately find and hold accountable those who violate the law and disclose classified information without authorization, no matter where in the world they are located.”

According to court docu-

SEE FORMER CIA, PAGE 7

Meeting on Georgetown Pike/ Great Falls Library Pedestrian Refuge Improvements

**Crosswalk project heads
toward finalization.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A community meeting on Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Great Falls Grange brought the Georgetown Pike - Great Falls Library Pedestrian Refuge Improvements project closer to its construction start date. For more information, visit the project webpage.

Project Manager Mohamad El Kaissi of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation presented the planned design requirements to the Great Falls Citizens Association members, interested residents, and Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (D-Dranesville).

The 2025 plan is to install a high-visibility crosswalk, pedestrian crossing warning signs, ADA curb ramps, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and a pedestrian refuge island, FCDOT states online.

“The project also includes minor sidewalk extensions and minor drainage improvements east of the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Great Falls Shopping Center, removing the right turn lane to Great Falls Library, and curb extensions to reduce crossing distance. Other

improvements are updated - new pavement markings and signage at the entrance to the Great Falls Library.

The project aims to make library trips safer and easier for vulnerable road users. The National Safety Council broadly defines a vulnerable road user as anyone not protected by an outside shield, like a car. The term includes pedestrians, cyclists, those in wheelchairs, strollers, and the like.

The project is part of Fairfax County’s \$100 Million allocation for active transportation projects, and is fully funded at \$895,000. Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff expects project completion in spring 2027.

Dranesville Supervisor Jimmy Bierman attended and participated. An online survey for project feedback is open until Friday, Feb. 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GFCA

FCDOT Project Manager Mohamad El Kaissi presents the planned Georgetown Pike - Great Falls Library Pedestrian Refuge Improvements.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GFCA

Exhibit board Georgetown Pike - Great Falls Library Pedestrian Refuge Improvements.

Come One, Come All to the Mount Vernon District Town Meeting!

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

Come out and learn what we have in “common” at our 38th Annual Town Meeting. This year’s event on Super Bowl Saturday will go for the win and share important District and County information, including a reveal of the new name, logo and identity of Original Mount Vernon High School. Established by my predecessor, Gerry Hyland in 1988, the Town Meeting has become a cherished community tradition that I am fortunate to host year after year to connect with residents and honor his legacy. We will begin the program with a tribute to him, recognizing his decades of dedicated service to our community and the lasting impact of his leadership.

Join us Saturday, Feb. 8 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (NEW START TIME) at Mount Vernon High School (MVHS) (8515 Old Mount Vernon Rd.) to see your neighbors, meet your local elected officials and engage and learn about the County budget, schools and other issues important to you. Our popular Exhibit Hall runs from 8:30 – 10 a.m. featuring many County agencies and local service providers. The Park Authority will be conducting onsite interviews for the highly anticipated reopening of the Mount Vernon Rec Center. Take a moment to check out the KidBiz Young Entrepreneurs Expo which features many “small” business owners selling homemade



treats and products. While walking around and engaging with your neighbors, stop and listen to the music by the MVHS Chamber String Quartet.

The program runs from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., featuring special recognitions and the flying virtual tour of the District with updates on recently completed, current and future projects, followed by Q&A panels with local leaders. You will hear from Congressmen Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly, Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill and Mount Vernon School Board Member Mateo Dunne who will be speaking and answering questions from residents.

Join us in-person or stream from your home on Facebook @SupervisorDanStorck and Channel 16 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream>.

We are excited to show you all that is happening in the District.

By now you should have received my annual Advisor in your home mailbox, highlighting major accomplishments and projects from the past year, as well as our focus for 2025. Be sure to check it out and if you have any questions, comments or want to connect with Team MVD, be sure to join us for the 38th Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting! <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/38th-annual-town-meeting>

NVSO Elects New Chairman, Reveals Dates for 2025 Events

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) committee recently elected Rod Hupp of Falls Church 2025 Chairman. Hupp, 72, is a retired IT Project Manager and an active NVSO participant having entered 22 events in 2024 and winning many gold and silver medals. Hupp is also a member of the Elks and does Civil War reenactments.

The NVSO committee has set 2025 dates as Saturday, Sept. 13 through Sunday, Sept. 30.

Hupp said, “The end date could change to accommodate possible new events and the growing participation.” He also said, “We set a new record for participation last year at 1,040 and expect to set a new record again.”

To participate in NVSO events senior adults must be 50 years old by Dec. 31 and live in one of the sponsoring Northern Virginia jurisdictions (see website at nvso.us). Registration remains the same at \$20, is online only and will open July 7, Save the Date.. Over 70 indoor and outdoor events, most by gender, some co-ed and in five and 10 year age groups. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded after each event.

Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington will host opening day festivities Saturday, Sept. 13, followed by track and rowing events. Remaining events will take place during the following two weeks at venues throughout the sponsoring jurisdictions. Volunteer opportunities are available (see website) as is information on how to become a Gold, Silver or Bronze Patron. Additional information is available at nvso1982@gmail.com.

www.nvso.us

Former CIA Analyst Pleads Guilty To Transmitting Top Secret National Defense Information

FROM PAGE 5

ments, on Oct. 17, 2024, Rahman accessed and printed two Top Secret documents containing National Defense Information regarding a U.S. foreign ally and its planned actions against a foreign adversary. Rahman removed the documents, photographed them, and transmitted them to individuals he knew were not entitled to receive them. By Oct. 18, 2024, the documents appeared publicly on multiple social media platforms, complete with the classification markings.

After Oct. 17, 2024, Rahman deleted and edited journal entries and written work product on his personal electronic devices to conceal his personal opinions on U.S. policy and drafted entries to construct a false narrative regarding his activity. Rahman also destroyed multiple electronic devices, including a personal mobile device and an internet router he used to transmit classified information and photographs of classified documents, and discarded the destroyed devices in public trash receptacles in an effort to thwart potential investigations into him and his unlawful conduct.

Beginning in the spring of 2024

and continuing through November 2024, Rahman repeatedly accessed and printed classified National Defense Information, including documents classified up to the Top Secret level, to take them to his residence. There, Rahman reproduced the documents and, while doing so, altered them in an effort to conceal their source and his activity. Rahman then communicated Top Secret information that he learned in the course of his employment to multiple individuals he knew were not entitled to receive it.

Rahman was indicted by a grand jury on Nov. 7, 2024, and was arrested by the FBI as he arrived to work on Nov. 12, 2024. He has remained in custody since his arrest.

Rahman pled guilty to two counts of willful retention and transmission of classified information related to the national defense. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 25. He faces up to 10 years in prison for both counts in the plea agreement. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.



38th Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2025

NEW TIME

8:30 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open

10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. – Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour

Mount Vernon High School

8515 Old Mount Vernon Road

Mount Vernon, VA 22309

Live on Channel 16 & Facebook

More: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/

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Call: 703-780-7518 (TTY 711)

Email: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Make a Difference in Your Community!

Run for a Seat on the McLean Community Center Governing Board



PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION

MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD
SMALL DISTRICT 1A-DRANESVILLE
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



This **OFFICIAL NOTICE** of election to select members of the 2025-2026 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (the Governing Board) is given to residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District 1A"). The McLean Community Center (MCC) operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Governing Board. On February 8, 1984, the Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the election. MCC is funded by residents of Small District 1A in Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A bond referendum.

Absentee Voting will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, and will conclude at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9, which is the DEADLINE for all Absentee Ballots to be received into the ballot box in the MCC lobby. Residents may request absentee ballots for their own household by U.S. mail, email (elections@mcleancenter.org), online (mcleancenter.org) or phone (703-790-0123, TTY: 711).

In-person voting will be available from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, May 16 (Carnival Rides) and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 17 (McLean Day) at Lewinsville Park.

Candidate Qualifications:

Each resident who lives within Small District 1A is

eligible to run for a seat on the all-volunteer Governing Board within the appropriate category. If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District 1A, please contact MCC at **703-790-0123, TTY: 711**, or by email at elections@mcleancenter.org.

ADULTS: Candidates must be residents of Small District 1A and must be at least 18 years of age on or before May 16, 2025.

TEENS: Candidates must be 15,16, or 17 years old on May 16, 2025 (born May 17, 2007 to May 16, 2010), live within Small District 1A, and live in the boundary area for either Langley or McLean high schools. You **do not** have to attend either high school. You may attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District 1A, or you may be home schooled. You can only run for the seat representing the high school boundary area where you live.

Available Governing Board Seats and Terms:

Three (3) adult Governing Board seats will be filled through the election. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board.

One (1) Governing Board youth seat representing the Langley High School boundary area will be filled for a one-year term.

One (1) Governing Board youth seat representing the McLean High School boundary area will be filled for a one-year term.

Candidate Petitions Requirements:

ADULTS: Must collect the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 18 years old or older on or before May 16, 2025.

TEENS: Must collect the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 15,16, or 17 years old on May 16, 2025 (born May 17, 2007 to May 16, 2010), and live in their respective school boundary area (McLean H.S. or Langley H.S.)

Candidate Packets containing a petition, instructions and all pertinent paperwork may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, **starting on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m.** Candidates must pick up and return their own petitions in person.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board shall file a completed Candidate petition with MCC at the address shown below by **5 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2025:**

McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101

For more information about the election, please call **703-790-0123, TTY: 711**, go to mcleancenter.org, or email MCC at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Katie Gorka, Chair
Elections & Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board



From left: Bonnie Hellman Brown who stars as an American tourist in “Susana,” Geraldo Coello Escalante and Amadine Thomas, co-producers of the film. “Susana” premiered at Sundance on Jan. 22.



Geraldo Coello Escalante and Amadine Thomas enjoying a moment during a break while making “Susana.”

Local Filmmaker Premieres ‘Susana’ at Sundance Film Festival

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

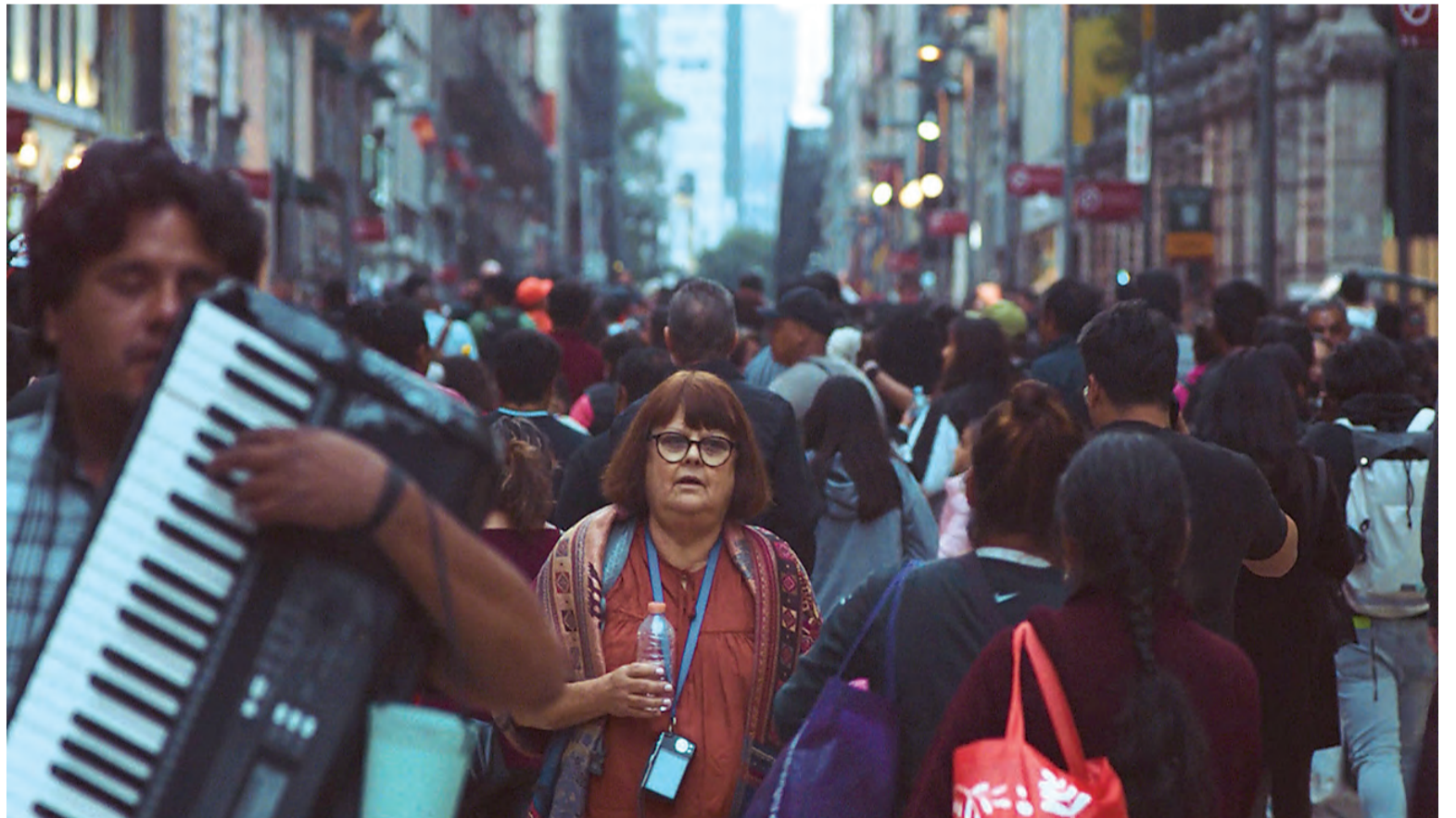
Amadine Thomas walked into the library auditorium at Park City, Utah where her short film “Susana” was premiering the first day at the Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 22.

“It was very exciting, surreal to see the space taken over by friends, the press.” She says 15 of the film crew of 25 were able to attend the festival as well.

Thomas says she and her creative collaborator of “Susana,” Gerardo Coello Escalante, had a film, “Viaje de Negocios” that also premiered in the Sundance Festival last year and was shown all over the world. It was the first of a trilogy of films exploring the complex relationship between Mexico and the United States.

As a result of attending Sundance last year, Thomas says they know a number of people who are attending the festival this year. “There is a good platform here for filmmaking and supportive relationships. They are faces we have worked with and love; it definitely feels like a reunion. It’s a special feeling.”

Thomas, who grew up in the Arlington-McLean area, is now 31-years-old and a full time filmmaker splitting her time between Mexico City where Escalante grew up and New York City. Thomas co-wrote, co-produced and co-directed and edited “Susana” with



Susana walks the streets of Mexico City as a lone tourist exploring the city and herself.

Escalante. “Susana” takes place in Mexico City where an older solo female traveler is trying to find herself and encounters a number of new and exciting experiences. “It touches on the impact of foreign tourism and what it does to the local population in a place experiencing rapid changes due to the explosion of people.”

While she was growing up,

Thomas acted in plays in McLean but there was never a time when she didn’t want to be in the film industry. “It was always my reference point.” Thomas graduated from McLean High School at 16 and headed to New York University for acting. “I didn’t go to school for film so I really learned by working on sets.”

“Susana” was shot in Decem-

ber 2023 in a number of locations around Mexico City, edited for a few months with post-production in July. “It took a year to get it done.”

She says because it takes so long to produce a film from start to finish that they are always working on several films at the same time in different stages. “It’s a lot of work.”

Coming up next Thomas says

she and Escalante are working on a documentary short which will be released soon about her grandmother getting into a romance online. “The romance turned out alright.”

Thomas says it was great to see their film in a different venue. “We didn’t produce “Susana” with the idea of going to Sundance. It was a surprise. We were over the moon.”

NEWS

Ready Fairfax Takes Part in MLK Day of Service A labor of preparedness.

— MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT READY FAIRFAX @READYFA

The Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security official account, Ready Fairfax, announced last week that they participated in Volunteer Fairfax's annual MLK Day of Service, packing 1,400 emergency preparedness kits to support their youth preparedness program.



SCREENSHOT READY FAIRFAX @READYFA

On MLK Day of Service, folks at Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security step up to pack items needed in an emergency that will be distributed.

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Foster Named Fairfax's Acting City Manager

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Bryan Foster has been named the acting City Manager of Fairfax City. The announcement was made after a closed, special meeting of the City Council on Jan. 21. It was convened so the Councilmembers could discuss interviews for various City boards and commissions, as well as other personnel matters – including the hiring of an acting City Manager.

At that time, the Councilmembers unanimously approved Foster's appointment to the position



Bryan Foster

and revealed their decision following their meeting. He was hired through a contract agreement with Baker Tilly Advisory Group LP, a public-sector executive-recruitment firm. Foster began his new job on Monday, Jan. 27.

He has 28 years of local government experience, most recently serving as deputy city manager for the City of Manassas until his retirement in early 2024. He previously served as director of public utilities for the City of Portsmouth, Va.; county administrator for Halifax County, Va.; and town manager of Altavista, Va.

"After questioning him, he aligned with the City's values, so we're happy to have him," said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. "The vote was 6-0 to approve his hiring. And I think, now that we've settled on an interim acting City manager, the mood in City Hall is so much lighter – and I like it."

Foster will lead Fairfax City through its FY 2026 budget process, which is currently underway. He'll officially present the proposed FY 2026 budget to Council on Feb. 25. Then, after a series of work sessions and public hearings that'll begin March 4, City Council will adopt the final budget on May 6.

Fairfax needed a new person to assume the role of City Manag-

er after the previous City Council fired Laszlo Palko, Fairfax's former City Manager, on Dec. 10. Before him, Rob Stalzer held the post for five years, retiring in March 2024, after a 43-year career in public service. Palko took over the reins the next month, serving for nearly eight months.

However, in December, Palko was officially terminated "without cause" via the "convenience" clause in his contract, meaning that an employee may be let go when he or she is seemingly no longer a good fit for the job. Read later explained it by saying, "The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the Council."

The reasons for his firing have not been made public. But cities

don't take such actions lightly and, indeed, Palko was the first City Manager in Fairfax's history to ever be terminated.

Still, following his departure, Fairfax's Deputy City Manager Valmarie Turner was only able to serve as Interim City Manager for about a month. That's because – even before Palko's firing – she'd already accepted a position to become the City Manager of Roanoke and began her new job there in mid-January.

As a result, Fairfax needed someone for its Acting City Manager as soon as possible, and Foster filled the bill.

As of Jan. 23, Read said the search for a permanent City Manager had not yet begun.

Cancer Survivor Helps in Many Ways as Road to Recovery Driver



Darlene with Carol Morris, a patient she drove last spring and summer.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

From behind the wheel of her car, cancer survivor Darlene Parker was going back and forth with lighthearted banter from her passenger about the football season. He was a Dallas fan and she's a Commanders fan so the back and forth continued as they drove to the cancer treatment center, like Parker does several times a month as a driver for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program.

"He's a Dallas fan, I'm a Washington fan," Parker said. They've become friends from the driving experience and won't even let football come between them.

At age 71 she's become immersed with the American Cancer Society in various ways and she isn't looking back. Volunteering, driving and becoming friends with other survivors is one part but she's also branched out to be an advocate too. This includes a trip to Richmond on Jan. 21 to

promote House Bill 1725, known as the Medical Debt Bill. She met with delegates to promote the bill and it passed in the house. "That was exciting," she said, "it was wonderful to think you could make a difference."

The Medical Debt Protection Act prohibits a large health care facility or a medical debt buyer from charging interest or late fees on medical debt. The bill requires a large health facility or medical debt buyer to offer a payment plan to any patient with medical debt and sets required time frames for certain extraordinary collection actions, as defined in the bill. The bill provides that a violation of its provisions constitutes a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act, it read on the Virginia Legislation website.

Road to Recovery

It all started in 1977 when she was 23 and diagnosed with breast cancer. At the time, she lived in Montgomery County in Maryland and started volunteering with the



Cancer Action Network Day in Richmond on January 21.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

American Cancer Society. Now she lives in Reston but retired last year from her job as the Director of Partnership Development at the National Captioning Institute, a non-profit organization that provides closed captioning for deaf and hard of hearing people for live television and other media.

She continued her efforts as a volunteer driver. "It's incredibly rewarding," she said.

According to the American Cancer Society the lack of transportation is a major barrier to completing cancer treatment. According to a study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, delayed care due to lack of transportation is associated with increased emergency room use and mortality risk among adults with and without a cancer history.

Cancer survivors with transportation barriers had the highest risk, according to the study by scientists

at the American Cancer Society and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The Road to Recovery program is one way they are making things work for patients. In 2024 in the U.S., 3,678 American Cancer Society volunteer drivers gave 47,198 rides to treatment for 4,322 cancer patients. Demand for rides is always high.

This fall she found herself on the football field during halftime of the Commanders-Bears game doing the halftime show with other cancer survivors. It was the "hail Mary" game where the Commanders scored in the final seconds to set them on the path to the playoffs. For Parker, the hail Mary play was just part of her positive experience in front of a stadium full of people she'll never forget. She even packed "Hope Kits," alongside some of the Commanders that afternoon. It all started as a volun-

teer driver.

"With volunteering you get back more than you give," she said.

The American Cancer Society is always looking for Road to Recovery volunteer drivers. They must be between ages 18 and 84, have a valid driver's license, adequate automobile insurance, have access to a safe, reliable vehicle, pass background check and motor vehicle records checks and be comfortable using technology with reliable internet access.

"There are 19 Road to Recovery drivers in Fairfax County and of course, we can use more volunteer drivers," said Vivienne Stearns-Elliott, the Director, American Cancer Society Regional Integrated Marketing in the Northeast Region.

To become a volunteer driver or learn more, call the American Cancer Society's Volunteer Care Center at 800-227-2345 or go to www.cancer.org/drive.

Beloved Barn at Cox Farms Burns to the Ground

Fire source unidentified, investigation underway

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, Feb. 2 around 4:30 a.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Loudoun Fire Department responded to a fire in a large barn at Cox Farms in the 15600 block of Braddock Road in Centreville. Units arrived to find flames showing from the roof of the barn. Crews quickly went to work to extinguish the fire. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries, FCFRD said. Unfortunately, multiple chickens were lost in the fire. Fire investigators are working to determine the cause.

The fire was contained and the damage was limited to the barn itself. Along with the chickens that were killed, the fire destroyed a tractor, the fun slide that's popular during the warmer months, and the iconic sunflower that decorated the barn. Fortunately, mama pig Leona was not harmed. She lives at the barn during the fall season, so she was



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Barn at Cox Farms burns early Sunday morning.

not there at the time. Farm caretaker Sam, first saw the fire and called it in immediately, as reported on social media.

There are no plans right now, but some have suggested an old-fashioned barn raising to rebuild it.

Inaugural Superbowl Soberride Launched

A local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Sunday's Super Bowl LIX.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the inaugural 2025 Super Bowl SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9 and operate until 4 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 10 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this eight-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2025 Super Bowl SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 9 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during the 2022 Super Bowl period involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson,


WRAP's President.


WRAP's 2025 Super Bowl campaign effort is the charity's first new SoberRide offering in a decade. WRAP also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2025 Super Bowl SoberRide® campaign include 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2025 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Highway Safety Office, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 93,706 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.







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Can Data Centers Co-Exist with Responsible Development and Increased Energy Demands?

BY SEN. ADAM P. EBBIN

Every time you make an online purchase, scroll through social media, or check your email, a data center processes the information. Data centers contain storage for computer systems for everyday usage by consumers and businesses, and have grown exponentially in recent years, with usage expected to double in the next few years. Northern Virginia has the largest data concentration center in the world, handling 25 percent of Internet traffic in the Americas and 13 percent of the total in the World. One data center in Ashburn alone averages 31,000 credit card transactions per second. These transactions are a key part of our modern economy, and keep the Commonwealth on the cutting edge of innovation and commerce.

With the rise of artificial intelligence, data center demand is growing even faster than anticipated. More than 23 bills dealing with data centers were introduced

in the General Assembly, including my bill, SB 1449. More than 13 of those bills remained under consideration as of Monday, Feb. 3.

After spending a year researching the data center industry and soliciting input from more than a hundred diverse stakeholders, ranging from technology advocates and utilities to environmentalists and grassroots activists, the Virginia General Assembly's highly respected Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) released their findings in December. JLARC found that data centers are responsible for more than 74,000 jobs and \$9.1 billion in annual revenue in Virginia.

However, data centers are not without some concerns. They require a huge amount of energy to operate. Data center energy usage can vary from the equivalent of the average usage of 20,000 homes to over a million homes. By 2040, unconstrained demand could double our energy needs, and we must balance the economic benefits with the challenges and energy im-

pect of data centers.

Other potential data center challenges include power transmission lines, water usage, noise issues, and construction near historic sites. JLARC says we are a relatively water-rich state, but that usage could be more efficient. We must work with local governments to address these challenges and ensure that we are still on a path to transition to a greener energy mix as the demands around data centers increase.

My Bill, SB 1449, will empower localities to require a sound study before a data center (or other "high energy use facility" that uses more than 100 megawatts of power) can be sited within 500 feet of houses or schools. It will also allow local governments to decide whether a site assessment of potential impacts on nearby resources – such as water, agricultural land, parks, historic sites, or forestland – is appropriate before approving a new facility. Del. Josh Thomas of Prince William has similar, but not identical, legislation that has passed the

House of Delegates.

I believe my legislation will strike a reasonable balance: it will empower localities to make more informed choices as they manage responsible data center development, while not overly burdening an essential industry that already falls under many local, state and federal regulations that are intended to protect Virginians.

For the past 15 years, data centers have helped provide economic growth, jobs, and funding for community priorities in the Commonwealth, especially in Northern Virginia.

Loudoun County alone reaped \$875,000,000 in 2024 in tax revenue from data centers, an increase of 19.5% from the year before, helping the fast growing county to fund their needs with lower property taxes than neighboring jurisdictions. I am hopeful that we can continue to be a leader in technology and 21st century jobs. If managed correctly, data centers can provide jobs, substantial tax revenue, and further investment in the Commonwealth.

Surovell Defends His Casino Bill

Bill passed the Senate (24-Y 16-N) on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

More than a casino bill is on the Virginia Senate agenda Tuesday, but one might not know it from the Mount Vernon Town Hall held Saturday, Feb. 1. During the nearly two-hour event, three Democratic state legislators representing Mount Vernon in Fairfax County spoke, including Scott A. Surovell, the Senate of Virginia Majority Leader and Senator for Virginia's 34 District. Surovell's bill passed the Senate (24-Y 16-N) on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The other two legislators were Del. Mark Sickles and Del. Paul E. Krizek. All three spoke and actively engaged with constituents. The meeting was live streamed and an online video is available for viewing on Facebook.

The Virginia General Assembly hit crossover on Tuesday, Feb. 4, when bills must pass in their re-

spective chamber in order to be considered by the other chamber. The town hall covered a broad range of the legislators' priorities and issues within the Mount Vernon community and Fairfax County as the legislators engaged directly with constituents.

However, no bill discussed at the town hall elicited more passion from the public attending than Senate Bill 982. At one point, Surovell threatened to shut down the meeting if heckling continued.

After Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) signed bills stripping Richmond from the list of Virginia's eligible host cities for a casino following its second failed referendum attempt in November 2023, eyes turned to Fairfax County. Given the parameters of Surovell's bill, SB952, the casino location being offered is Tysons.

Suppose both houses pass SB952, and the governor signs it into law. In that case, the legislation will authorize the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to place a casino referendum on the next election ballot to allow county



Surovell

voters to decide whether to approve adding Fairfax as an eligible location for a casino.

With Democrats narrowly controlling both chambers of the state legislature in 2025 — the House of Delegates with a 51-49 majority and the Senate with a

21-19 majority — the Democrats do hold the majority.

In the weeks ahead, consideration of the bill will move to the House of Delegates.

The number of people wearing red NO FAIRFAX CASINO t-shirts made Surovell's Senate Bill 952 the prominent legislative issue at

Opponents question source of \$1.8B casino revenue prediction.

Saturday's town hall.

Surovell defended that if a referendum is passed, the casino entertainment establishment at Tysons, currently being promoted by an interested developer, will take up only 5 percent of the floor space.

ROUNDUPS

'State of Centreville' Set for Feb. 7

The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce is presenting a State of Centreville event on Friday, Feb. 7, at 8:30 a.m., at the Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. Centreville (not Tysons or Reston) is the most populated area of Fairfax County, according to the most recent census, and is also headquarters to several nationally recognized businesses.

The State of Centreville will share updates in many areas of interest, including future Orange Line Metro stops, improvements to the Centreville Regional Library, potential land-use changes, bike/pedestrian improvements, and an update from the county's Centreville Task Force.

Networking and a continental breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. Fairfax Coun-

ty Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) is the keynote speaker. The cost is \$20. Register at <https://www.dulleschamber.org/events/1955/centreville-committee-19>.

Learn Personal Safety for Teens and Adults

Fairfax County police will offer a Personal Safety presentation for both teens and adults. They'll learn essential skills to boost awareness, confidence and preparedness in any situation. It'll be held Monday, Feb. 10, in the community room of the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Session One will be 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and Session Two will be 6:30-8 p.m.

From everyday safety tips to self-defense strategies, the instructor will cover a wide range of crucial topics, including Crime Prevention, Situational Awareness, Observing Your

Surroundings, Reducing the Risk of an Attack, Developing a Plan of Action, and Knowing When to Use Force. There will be no physical maneuvers or scenarios. Register in advance at <https://bit.ly/personalsafety02102025>.

Car Seat Inspections on Feb. 13

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Feb. 13, 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 March 13, at the same place and time.

NEWS BRIEFS

Black History Event Planned for Feb. 19

Fairfax County Public Schools will celebrate Black History Month on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Woodson High, 9525 Main. St. in Fairfax. This event is hosted by the FCPS Chief Equity Office and is free and open to the public.

The theme, "From the Threads of Our Past to the Fabric of Our Future," will honor the enduring contributions of Black history and culture while envisioning a future rooted in equity and excellence. Planned is an inspiring evening of performances, reflections and communi dances.

Etta Willson, Linneall Naylor and Rondia Prescott – three of the authors of the book, "Black Communities of Fairfax: A History" – will participate in a panel discussion. And throughout the program, Woodson students will be quoting from their book.

Blood Donors Are Urgently Needed

Multiple traumatic incidents and other medical emergencies have left INOVA's blood inventory for Type O blood critically low. All blood types are needed, but a boost to the supply of Type O blood will help patients in need significantly. Call 1-866-BLOODSAVES (1-866-256-6372) or visit inovablood.org to schedule an appointment.

GMU Offers Mental-Health Services

George Mason University's Center for Community Mental Health, at 9900 Main St., suite 400, in the City of Fairfax, provides evidence-based, accessible, affordable and culturally sensitive therapy and testing services to those in need, regardless of income. The center sees children as young as age 5, works with community members of various ages, and addresses the mental-health needs of veterans.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 23

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

From Despair to Hope: Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy with AcuPoint Wellness Clinic

"It's as though I'm stepping on razor blades."

"It feels like my feet are under attack by fire ants."

"Like I'm walking on wet paint with rolled up socks."

And you're in this kind of pain all the time. "It's relentless, keeping you up at night and preventing you from doing even the most mundane tasks, things that I used to take for granted, like wearing shoes and going grocery shopping. Two of my three children were getting married last year, and I wasn't even sure I was going to be able to attend their weddings," shares Rose W.

Rose was diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy in 2015, a degenerative condition affecting almost 5% of people over the age of 55. "My doctor sat me down and said, 'Rose, I'm so sorry to tell you this, but you have peripheral neuropathy. I'm going to prescribe Gabapentin to manage the discomfort, but overall, neuropathy is untreatable.'

My first thought was, 'we can cure cancer, but you can't stop my feet from hurting?' It felt like a cruel joke."

While neuropathy can be caused by a number of things, including diabetes and chemotherapy, over 23% of neuropathy cases are classified as idiopathic. In layman's terms, the cause is unknown.

This was the case with Rose. "Basically, every question I had was met with an 'I don't know.' It was depressing to say the least."

Eventually, Rose was forced to quit her job because the numbness had started to set in and prevented her from driving.

Fortunately for Rose, she read an article about integrative treatments for neuropathy. "I was so relieved. After so many doctors told me there was no hope, here were scientists saying that acupuncture and Asian medicine could actually help."

Dr. Teresa McFarland, founder of AcuPoint Wellness Clinic, says that cases like Rose's are incredibly common. "Almost all of my neuropathy

patients have been told, at one point or another, that there is no hope.

I like to think I specialize in offering hope." To quote the New York Times, "Chinese medicine proves itself where Western medicine fails."

"Acupuncture has been treating complicated, chronic conditions like neuropathy for thousands of years," shares Dr. McFarland. "I start with a foundation based on this time-tested science. I then tailor treatments based on a number of factors, including the severity of your neuropathy, how long you've had it, whether or not there are any underlying factors, things of that nature.

It's because of these personalized treatments that we're seeing such incredible results."

Four months after treatment, Rose is back at work and thriving.



"Being back at work isn't even the most exciting part," exclaims Rose.

Not only was I able to attend my sons' weddings, but I could walk down the aisle! It was the most magical moment, and I have Dr. McFarland to thank for it. To think, I might've missed that." Rose held back tears.

If you've recently been diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy, regardless of its cause, it's time to call Dr. McFarland and the staff at AcuPoint.

Call 703-459-9544 to schedule your very own comprehensive consultation and visit AcuPointClinic.com to take advantage of their new patient offer, a \$40 consult (normally \$240).



Muslims for Just Futures met with Del. Mark Sickles and other legislators to discuss several bills.



Del. Mark Sickles supports Civica's work in Petersburg to make insulin. He met with Allan Coukell and others to discuss their plans.

A Day In the Life of a State Legislator

When the General Assembly is in session, a delegate's work is never done.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Mark Sickles, a Fairfax County member of the Virginia House of Delegates, sees his job as problem solving. And the problems never stop rolling in.

On one recent Wednesday morning in Richmond in a little over two hours, Delegate Sickles met with a steady stream of professional and citizen lobbyists in eight back-to-back meetings. In mid-morning, he ran downstairs and snarfed up a cake slice to celebrate state Senator Louise Lucas's 81st birthday, amid a swarm of solicitous lobbyists. He had started his day at 7 a.m. at House Speaker Don Scott's prayer breakfast.

First up in his office was Allan Coukell, Chief of Governmental Affairs for Civica, a pharmaceutical company with a manufacturing facility in Petersburg, Virginia, who lobbied for \$5 million in state funds to produce insulin. Sickles said, "I'm happy to help."

Next came a team from Children's National Hospital. They supported a bill to bar baby food that has toxic heavy metals exceeding Food and Drug Administration limits and a bill requiring school districts, using federal funds, to provide breakfast and lunch to students at no cost. Dr. Danielle Dooley argued that healthy nourishment enhances learning. Sickles responded, "Thank you for taking care of our children." In 2024, Children's

National provided care to 45,000 children in eight Virginia localities, including Fairfax and Arlington counties, Dooley said.

Meeting three: Lifepoint Care hospital officials from the southwest Virginia town of Richlands advocated for rural hospitals, noting that rural people often travel long distances to get care. When Sickles asked, "What is your hardest job?" they answered, "Recruiting and retaining staff," so they partner with high schools and community colleges to create a pipeline of future employees.

Next up: Hospital pharmacists seeking more authority to compound medications and distribute them within their health system, one way of addressing drug shortages, they contended. "It's common sense," Sickles commented.

The lobbyists kept coming. Virginia Association of State Parks representatives advocated for more state parks funding and opposed locating data centers near parks. "They should be in industrial parks," said Sickles.

In between meetings, unscheduled, Sickles accepted a flashlight from the Virginia Health Care Foundation.

Meeting six: Equifax officials opposed legislation requiring the state to competitively bid their service, now used by the state, that verifies income eligibility for state programs.

Next group: Muslims for Just Futures. Among several issues, they promoted fee-based lending, an alternative to traditional



Del. Mark Sickles attended a birthday party for Sen. Louise Lucas who represents the Portsmouth area.

interest-bearing lending practices that conflict with Islamic law. The group also advocated for affordable housing on faith-based properties.

Finally, as the daily, 11 a.m. Democratic Caucus meeting neared, in came emergency dispatchers seeking eligibility in the state's disability and retirement system. Sickles sympathized and then headed for the tunnel to the Capitol building.

In the 14-story General Assembly building, the halls, café and elevators seem to teem with lobbyists. "Lobbying is a thriving industry," Sickles quipped.

'The House Floor'

The House of Delegates convenes daily at noon. Delegates first announce constituents

A Day in the Life

FROM PAGE 14

observing from the gallery. Then, they grind through parliamentary arcana, steps mysterious to the average person, like the third reading on the uncontested calendar, considering the committee substitute and engrossing the bill.

Afternoons are often consumed with committee hearings and votes, for Sickles, the Appropriations Committee, what to fund or not, from colleges to railroads to civil aviation. More lobbyists make their passionate pitches.

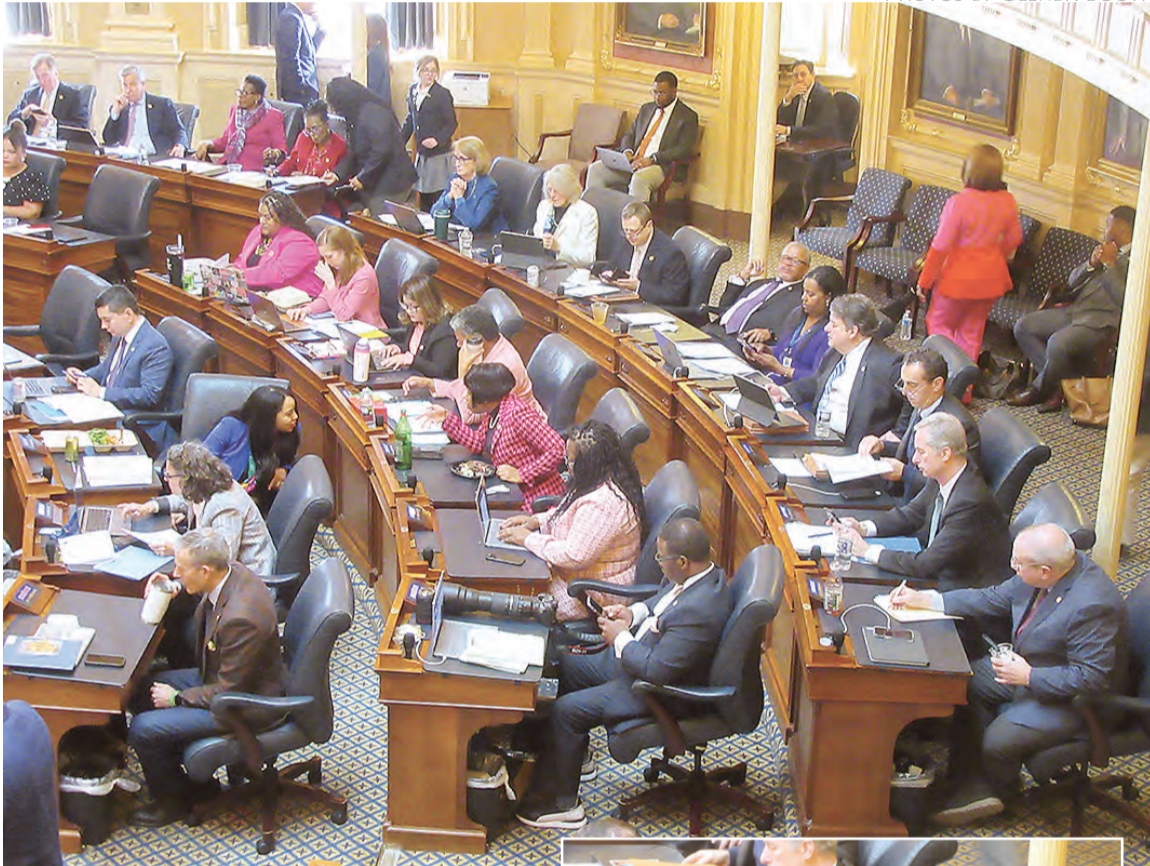
The delegate's evenings involve preparing for the

next day, meeting with more constituents and lobbyists and attending lobbyists' receptions. He typically finishes around 9 or 10 p.m.

Why does he do this? "If you're curious about how things work, this is the place to be," he says. "The more you learn, the more you need to learn." It's all about public service, not a lucrative pursuit. Delegates are paid \$17,600 a year.

But it does inspire awe. The House of Delegates is 405 years old, dating back to the colonial House of Burgesses. Sickles offered, "When you return after a long absence, you feel a sense of history and realize you are a very small part of it."

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Del. Mark Sickles has a desk in the back row of the House of Delegates chamber, next to Fairfax County Delegate David Bulova. Facing the speaker, Democrats sit on the right side and Republicans on the left.



The entry panel and Virginia seal at Del. Mark Sickles's office in Richmond's General Assembly Building.



Del. Mark Sickles listens to and questions people who testify before the Appropriations Committee.



Del. Mark Sickles huddles with (left to right) Delegates Betsy Carr, Paul Krizek and David Bulova.

Committees and Accomplishments

Now in his 22nd year representing part of eastern Fairfax County, Del. Mark Sickles has carved out a specialty in health care. He chairs the Health and Human Services Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Resources. He also serves on the Privileges and Elections Committee and the Rules Committee.

He counts among his top accomplishments three initiatives. One bill, now law, bars a hospital from charging a patient more than the insurance plan covers, other than the patient's co-payment and deductible. Another would make drug pricing more transparent by requiring all links in the drug chain, from the manufacturer to the pharmacy, to report drug prices and by requiring the state to publish the prices annually. To implement the federal Affordable Care Act, he successfully created a state health insurance "exchange" or agency for uninsured people to buy insurance, an alternative to using a federal entity.

Sickles is originally from Arlington and worked for 18 years for Weeks Marine, a marine services company. Today, when not doing his delegate work, he works with Moran Global Strategies on federal legislation.

Information

Mark Sickles, <https://marksickles.com/>

General Assembly, <https://virginiasenate.gov/>



Representatives of Muslims for Just Futures watched the House of Delegates proceedings from the gallery, chaired by Speaker Don Scott from Portsmouth.



The 14-story General Assembly Building, home of state legislators' offices.

FESTIVAL

Chocolates and Cupcakes and Ice Cream, Oh, My!

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



The Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates crew are (from left) Christina Israel and son Daniel, Jim Shannon, Cameron Graham (the shop's namesake), Brandi Lovett and mom Patty, Caroline Shannon (Jim's daughter) and Nancy Appleby.



Vendors Shy and Jessica Ashkenazi of Mother Clusters candies.



Kenny Jones offers several flavors of Lammar Marie's Gourmet Popcorn, including dark chocolate cherry.



Kevin Lightner and Alana Compton with, respectively, apple crisp and bourbon butterscotch pecan ice cream from Tysons Creamery.



Camila Salgado holds the lemon-cheese-cake popcorn she purchased.



Noah Ackley, 10, doesn't mind having the remnants of a chocolate-dipped banana on his face.



Woodson High freshman Adrian Harris holds a red velvet cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes.



About to enjoy chocolate-dipped strawberries are (from left) brothers Austin and Eli Ebeid and friend Noah Sanchez.

FESTIVAL

Fairfax City's 31st annual Chocolate Lovers Festival was held Jan. 31-Feb. 2.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Alyssa Lawhorn holds a strawberry-shortcake parfait.



Mike Cherubin of Mike's fudge holds chocolate mint and chocolate peanut butter fudge.



Michael Benjamin of Capital Candy Jar prepares to give truffles to a customer.



From left, GMU freshmen Rebecca Thompson, Isabella Stewart, Bayann Manna and Isabella Barnett with some chocolate-dipped strawberries.



Dressed as Willy Wonka, Kyle McClain poses by the chocolate fountain.



Mia Muschek of Babylon Chocolates sells bean-to-bar chocolate bars and chocolate tea.



Millie McKee proudly holds some mini bundt cakes.

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Erika Reimer feeds a chocolate-drenched strawberry to daughter Clara, 5.



From left, Gloria Enoch, 3, just ate a chocolate-dipped Rice Krispie treat, while friend Freya Sparks-Morrison, 4, finishes her chocolate ice cream.

Liquid Chocolate Offerings Please People's Palates

Fairfax City's Chocolate Festival offered chocolate wines, beers, sodas and shakes.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, Daneesha Davis and Jessica Tavenner enjoy some Teddy Bear Stout Beer.



Karyn Cram and Rob Hamrick sample Rosa Brachetto wine with a dark-chocolate, feuilletine crisp.



Chris Halferty and Dinah Herring of The Wine House offer Brachetto d'Acqui wine.



From left, Aaron Kopleff, 5-1/2, smiles mischievously while brother Ethan, 9, holds a chocolate cream soda.



The Poshek sisters, from left, Ainsley, 4, and Audrey, 8, of Fairfax, enjoying chocolate milk from Whole Foods.



From left, Rebecca, Catherine Ricciardi and Jackie Christian of Morais Vineyards with cherry wine-chocolate cup pairings.



Representing Fairfax Ace Hardware, from left, Maggie Ayers and Lauri Vargas offer a variety of chocolate sodas.



From left, Kathy Stewart, Susan Laume and Dr. Karin Lehnigk after the 2024 caterpillar count where Laume was presented with the surprise “Bugs and Hisses” sign from a group of volunteers for her years of working with the team.



Susan Laume poses with sheep of the Lamb Mowers crew while taking a break at the HOA common meadow area.

Bugs and Hisses, Osprey Platforms and Honored with Award

What’s next for Susan Laume?

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Susan Laume just received the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Naturalist Volunteer of the Year Award for 2024. When she isn’t digging out the grass from a parking lot island and filling it with dirt and mulch to create a pollinator garden, she might be working on the plan for her next osprey platform at a local park or holding her weekly meeting with her park volunteer team to determine which trails need maintenance.

The award presentation by Zoom on Jan. 23 highlighted her 350 hours of service and her 324 sign ups by other volunteers in the last two years as well as her inspired “lead by example” style. Kathy Stewart, who nominated Laume for the award says, “Susan’s breath and depth of activities is astonishing. She puts in the time and the work. She is my inspiration and mentor.”

Laume traces her avid interest in environmental and conservation issues back to her childhood growing up on a farm in southeastern rural Pennsylvania. “We had plenty of room to roam the fields; it was an idyllic childhood in a lot of ways.” This interest got pushed to the background with a full time job but when she stopped work full time and added a dog to her life a few years ago things turned around.

“I was on nature trails a couple of hours a day walking my dog. On one of my walks in Laurel Hill Park I met a man in the bushes with a bucket. The next week I saw him again in 80 degree plus weather pushing a full-size lawn mower, and I thought, ‘Oh my gosh this guy’s great but he shouldn’t be doing it all by himself; maybe I could help.’” So she organized a group of volunteers which

morphed into a Fairfax initiative to establish park volunteer teams. “We got the Elly Doyle Park Service award that year which is the biggest park authority award.”

In 2021 Laume led the effort to turn the HOA common space where she lives into a meadow. “It really started out as an economic thing; we were paying landscaping to mow for years and then invasive vines started to fill the space, and we had to pay more and more and no one was using it.”

Laume says she suggested they stop mowing the common space and formed a working group. “It was a hard sell with the neighbors who thought the overgrowth would look bad.” She says they planted 57 trees, a lot of natives and surrounded them with protective cages, mostly to keep the deer away. Then in 2023 they became aware of a couple of grants. The first from Audubon allowed them to get rid of invasives and the second from the state allowed them to plant 16 more trees and shrubs. “We added a mulched pathway and put up some signs about the native plants.”

Of all her efforts Laume says her heart project is the Memorial Dog bench. “Our trail buddies used to walk together with our dogs. One puppy died young, and we came up with the idea of a bench.” She said they got five people together to pay for the bench and planted some dogwoods and redbuds since there was a red dog in the mix. “It is in a nice spot at the conjunction of trails.”

Laume is currently looking forward to March when the ospreys will migrate back. “A few years ago one of the park managers decided they may need to take down the pole at the old Nike site in the park where a nesting pair of ospreys had been for several years, and they wanted to find an alternative site but couldn’t find any Boy Scouts to take it on as a project.”

Since Laume was thinking that taking down the pole would eliminate the osprey



Installation of the osprey nesting platform at Laurel Hill Park in 2023.

nesting site, she stepped in with her trail buddies and found an alternative site in Laurel Hill Park. One of the group found a plan to build an osprey platform, and Laume enlisted the park maintenance crew who came with a tractor and a Bobcat with a bucket to install the new osprey platform. While it had worked this time, “It was a method we didn’t want to use again because it wasn’t safe,” Laume remembers.

Later on they found two abandoned utility poles and Laume thought, “Wow, we could do a couple more since there are breeding osprey at Occoquan and South County High School who are having chicks, the chicks will need nesting areas.” This time Domin-

ion was willing to donate two of their poles instead, and when the ground was just right and not too wet in October 2023, two additional nesting platforms were installed.

Laume has held classes for participatory science projects for kids, written dozens of articles on conservation for local newspapers, led trash pick up efforts and invasive plant removal, led caterpillar counts and butterfly/dragonfly surveys. Now she is thinking about her next project and waiting for the ospreys to return home.

Susan Laume is an award-winning writer with the Connection Newspapers. So is Shirley Ruhe.

ENTERTAINMENT

FALL IN LOVE WITH CHOCOLATE

TOUS les JOURS is excited to announce its upcoming Valentine's Day collection, "Fall in Love with Chocolate," featuring decadent cakes and indulgent coffees.

Available at participating locations in Arlington, Burke, Chantilly and Centreville, from Feb. 1-14, these treats are the perfect way to celebrate the season of love. Here are some highlights of the collection: Heart Chocolate Cake: Rich chocolate buttercream with decorative chocolate hearts.

Chocolate Lovers Cake: Made with Valrhona chocolate and signature chocolate cloud cream.

Red Velvet Bliss: A velvety cocoa latte, perfect for those who love a rich treat.

Additional cakes launching Feb. 7 includes:

White Chocolate Raspberry Cake: Soft vanilla layers complemented by tart raspberry jam and white chocolate shavings.

Valentine's Cloud Cake: Light vanilla sponge paired with fresh berries.

Mini Red Velvet Cake: Layers of red velvet sponge and a smooth cream cheese frosting.

CITY OF FAIRFAX EVENTS

Funday Monday. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

This is a free program perfect for preschoolers, but children of all ages are welcome at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series is now in its 35th Season! 8 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

SCHEDULE

February 14 – The Cathedral Brass "Winter Brass Festival"

February 28 – Mason Jazz Vocal Night
March 14 – Baltimore Composers Forum "Intersegmental 38"

March 28 – Dr. John "JJ" Mitchell, Organ Recital (held at Truro Anglican Church, Fairfax)

April 11 – Bobby J and the Hot Lanes

ARTScreen Free Film Series celebrating the Arts at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax. Doors open at 6:30; Film begins at 7 p.m. FREE admission includes popcorn, candy and refreshments. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

SCHEDULE

February 21 "Amazing Grace" (Celebrating Black History Month)

March 7 "Field of Dreams"

Versa-Style Street Dance Company Lecture & Demonstration, Tuesday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. FREE but reservations required. For more information, visit the website at



A Sweetheart Parent & Child Dance takes place on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

In this lecture demonstration, Mason Artist-in-Residence Versa-Style Street Dance—named "Los Angeles' Best Dance Troupe for Hip Hop Empowerment" by LA Weekly—introduces the audience to the electrifying world of Hip Hop and street dance culture. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the troupe provides an "uplifting and joyous" (Maryland Theatre Guide) experience with its unique blend of choreography and freestyle elements, "a stylistic smorgasbord" (New Yorker) representing the diverse experiences of the BIPOC communities of Los Angeles.

The Constitution and Loving v. Virginia Legal Panel
Thursday, February 6 @ 7 p.m. at Sherwood Center

Free, reservation required: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/r7oTPPO/loving>

Co-presented by the City of Fairfax and Center for the Arts at George Mason University.

In support of Virginia Opera's world premiere production of *Loving v. Virginia*, co-commissioned by the Richmond Symphony, this legal panel discusses the origins, challenges, and significance of the 1967 Supreme Court ruling that struck down state laws banning marriage between individuals of different races. Panel participants will include Mary Bauer, Executive Director of ACLU-VA, as well as other constitutional scholars, active attorneys and/or judges, and experts in the area. There will be a brief Q & A session following the discussion.

2025 CITY OF FAIRFAX BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Feb 6 – The Constitution and Loving v. Virginia: A Legal Panel; Sherwood

Center, 7 p.m.;

Feb. 9 – AfroTales: Then and Now; City of Fairfax Regional Library, 11 – 11:45 a.m. (ages 4 – 10);

Feb 10 – Funday Monday - the AX Experience; Sherwood Center, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.;

Feb 11 – Mason Artist in Residence: Versa-Style Street Dance Company; Lecture/Demonstration; Sherwood Center, 7 p.m.;

Feb 20 – Black History Month Lecture: Carter G. Woodson Streamlined Live; City of Fairfax Regional Library, 2 – 3 p.m. Adults 18+;

Feb 21 – ARTScreen Presents: "Amazing Grace" Aretha Franklin Documentary; Sherwood Center, 7 p.m.;

Feb 22 – Alison Crockett Presents "The Evolution of Jazz;" City of Fairfax Regional Library, 11 a.m. (Adults and Teens);

Feb 22 – The Civil War Defenses of Washington, D.C. and the Role of the United States Colored Troops; Historic Blenheim, 2 p.m.;

Feb 22 – Illustrator Talk: Tequitia Andrews; City of Fairfax Regional Library; 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Age 7 – 12;

BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Embark on a journey of cultural richness and historical significance during Black History Month with engaging programs in Fairfax County parks. Join in honoring and exploring the vibrant tapestry of Black heritage through interactive events, programs, exhibits and offerings for all ages. Programs include:

Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery, Historic Huntley, Feb. 27, 1-2 p.m., \$12

Black History Month at Historic Frying Pan Church, Frying Pan Farm Park, Feb. 15, noon-3 p.m., Free
Paths of Freedom Seekers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Feb. 23, 3-4 p.m., \$8



The Black Opry Revue can be seen on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.

Remembering Metilda- An Enslaved Child at the Mill, Colvin Run Mill, Feb. 22, 1-2 p.m., \$9

JAN. 31 TO FEB. 9

Fall Church Restaurant Week. Falls Church offers local diners the perfect opportunity to savor the flavors of over 40 participating restaurants in a dynamic hub brimming with international, immigrant-owned, innovative, and award-winning eateries. Twenty new restaurants recently opened and more are on the horizon.

JAN. 30 TO FEB. 16

"The Lake Effect." At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. A drama of family secrets by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph. During a fierce Cleveland mid-winter storm, estranged siblings are reunited by their father's sudden death. In the midst of closing his failing Indian restaurant, they must confront the painful memories and secrets that drove them apart. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are priced at \$25, \$40, and \$55. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

FEB. 4 TO MARCH 2

Exhibition: The Creative Quest: Three Generations of Intuitive Painting. At Reston Community Center's Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza North Reston. Featuring 30 works by intuitive painter Judith Forst and many of her students, and their students. Inspired by the teachings of Michele Cassou who founded the Painting Experience in San Francisco, CA, Reston resident Judith Forst transformed her traditional painting practice from an academic based approach to one focused on painting without inhibition. Focusing on the process rather than a product or desired result led to a freedom of expression and the discovery of a compelling authentic voice. Ms. Forst began sharing this technique in her home studio in 2001, and dozens of local artists have been exposed to this innovative practice. A selection of Judith's paintings will be featured along with works by 17 other intuitive painters.

FEB. 6-9 Chief vs. Chief Adoption Bowl Kick-

off. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Chief Butler and Fairfax County Police Department's Chief Davis are getting ready and choosing their canine teams for the big Chief vs. Chief Adoption Bowl kickoff! The adoption event will be Feb. 6-9, during which all dogs 45 pounds or larger will have their adoption fees waived -- and one adoption equals one point. May the best team win!

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Support Assistance League of Northern Virginia. On Thursday night, Feb. 6, you can get dinner at the Panera Bread at 12120 Fairfax Towne Center in Fairfax and they will donate 25 percent of your order to help support Assistance League. This non-profit volunteer organization helps support local area Title 1 elementary school children with food, clothing and books. You can also order online for pickup by using the code FUN-D4U at the checkout. Visit alnv.org to learn more about ALNV.

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

"The Intouchables" (France; directed by Olivier Nakache). 1 p.m. At The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A Parisian aristocrat, quadriplegic since a paragliding accident, hires a young man to be his live-in caretaker. Although very different, the two men bond and develop a close friendship. Rated: R. Runtime: 2 hours.

FEB. 7-9 AND 14-16

"The Last Five Years." 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. At the Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School, Sterling. Presented by Sterling Playmakers. This intimate show juxtaposes the love story of two New Yorkers over the course of five years - Cathy, the female, tells their story backwards while Jamie, the male, tells their story chronologically. They line up only once, half-way through the show at their wedding. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.sterlingplaymakers.org/tickets or at the door.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

State of Centreville Event. 8:30 a.m. At Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. Centreville is the most populated area of Fairfax County, according to the most recent census, and is also headquarters to several nationally recognized businesses. The State

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ENTERTAINMENT



Ryan Barron plays piano on Sunday/Feb. 23, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.

of Centreville will share updates in many areas of interest, including future Orange Line Metro stops, improvements to the Centreville Regional Library, potential land-use changes, bike/pedestrian improvements, and an update from the county's Centreville Task Force. Networking and a continental breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. Fairfax County Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) is the keynote speaker. The cost is \$20. Register at <https://www.dulleschamber.org/events/1955/centreville-committee-19>.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Czech National Philharmonic. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Experience the first U.S. tour of the Czech National Philharmonic—one of the leading and oldest symphony orchestras in the Czech Republic—for a performance of beloved Eastern European masterpieces. Based in the historic capital of Moravia and founded in 1908, the orchestra was reconstituted after the Second World War in 1945. The Czech National Philharmonic is famous for performing the works of Dvořák, Smetana, Martinu, Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, and Schubert.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Sweetheart Parent & Child Dance. 7-9 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For all ages. Children are invited to come to MCC for a fancy "date" with their parents or guardians. Featured activities included a photo booth, a DJ playing your favorite tunes, craft projects and light refreshments. Create lasting memories by joining us! A parent or guardian must attend the event with their child/children and register individually.

FEB. 7-9

Valentine Sweetheart Deal. At Church of the Covenant, 2666 Military Road, Arlington. The special exhibit, "Valentine Sweetheart Deals," provides an opportunity to acquire original art priced at \$150 or less. Dates: Friday, Feb 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. (Reception); Saturday, Feb 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb 9, from 12 to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

2025 CBA Ping Pong Tournament.

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Catch Bill Blagg's Magic & Illusion on Feb. 21-22, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. No fee to enter. All ages and levels of experience welcome. To register, visit <https://C25K.redpodium.com/clifton-annual-ping-pong-tournament-2025>. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2025.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Town Hall Meeting. 9:30 a.m. Sen. Saddam Salim Vienna Town Hall with Del. Holly Seibold. At Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center Street S, Vienna.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Celebrate the Lunar New Year. 6-8 p.m. At Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Enjoy traditional Lunar New Year performances, including music, dance and cultural showcases; interactive crafts and games for all ages to immerse in the holiday spirit; delicious Asian cuisine available from local food trucks. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to honor this rich cultural tradition and enjoy an evening of community connection. The event highlights the beauty of cultural diversity and creates a space to learn, celebrate and share in the joy of the Lunar New Year.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

The Black Opry Revue. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For all ages. Country music has been made by and loved by Black people since its conception. Country,

blues, folk and Americana music overlap or are woven together by a proper revue of Black country artists. In true Opry style, this concert will feature a variety of Black country music artists from around the country. Featured artists: Acisse Jay, Sug Daniels, Mel Washington and Justin Golden.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Jody Marshall and her sparkling hammered dulcimer with Paul Nahay on keyboard, Jim Queen on fiddle and guitar, and Susan Queen on bass guitar. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <https://oldbrogue.com/winter-celtic-concert-2025> - \$21 general admission.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge Model Trains (T-TRAK) will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events; seniors and military (active and retired), \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/FEB. 10

Personal Safety for Teens and

Adults. Two sessions: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. At Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Learn essential skills to boost awareness, confidence and preparedness in any situation. From everyday safety tips to self-defense strategies, the instructor will cover a wide range of crucial topics, including Crime Prevention, Situational Awareness, Observing Your Surroundings, Reducing the Risk of an Attack, Developing a Plan of Action, and Knowing When to Use Force. There will be no physical maneuvers or scenarios. Register in advance at <https://bit.ly/personalsafety02102025>.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Versa-Style Street Dance Company Lecture/Demonstration. 7 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax. In this lecture demonstration, Mason Artist-in-Residence Versa-Style Street Dance Company introduces the audience to the electrifying world of Hip Hop and street dance culture. The session integrates both movement and discussion to explore the intersectionality between the arts, culture, and education using the lens of street dance.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Versa-Style Street Dance Company Lecture/Demonstration. 7 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax. In this lecture demonstration, Mason Artist-in-Residence Versa-Style Street Dance Company introduces the audience to the electrifying world of Hip Hop and street dance culture.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

Learn About Sully Police. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. At Sully Police District - Community Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. Do you live or work in the Sully District? Are you interested in learning more about the Fairfax County Police Department? Would you like to meet the Commanders of the Sully Police Station? If so, then you are invited to the upcoming February Community Advisory Committee Meeting! Discover What Neighborhood Watch Is All About! Speakers: MPO Scott Richards and Marjorie Ham, Leader of Little Rocky Run Neighborhood Watch.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13

Black History Month Selection: "How It Feels to be Free." 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Based on the book by Ruth Feldstein, this PBS documentary tells the inspiring stories of six iconic African American female entertainers - Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson and Pam Grier. Rated TV-PG, runtime 113 minutes.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Crys Matthews. 7:30 p.m. At The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling, 22135 Davis Dr Suite 104, Sterling. A troubadour of truth, Nashville resident Crys Matthews is among the brightest stars of the new generation of social justice music-makers. An award-winning, prolific lyricist and composer, Matthews blends Country, Americana, Folk, Blues, and Bluegrass into a

bold, complex performance steeped in traditional melodies punctuated by honest, original lyrics. Info and tickets at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sat-2-15-crys-matthews-sterling-and-virtual>

SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Versa-Style Street Dance Company. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Versa-Style Street Dance Company immerses its audience in the electrifying world of Hip Hop and street dance culture. To mark its 20th anniversary, the troupe presents Rotted Rhythms, a mixed repertory program of its most popular works, paying homage to street dance styles such as whacking, popping, and house dance, as well as a blend of Afro-Latin styles including salsa and West African.

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

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

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Kinnfolk, a husband and wife duo of Josh and Julie Kinn of Roanoke. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <https://oldbrogue.com/winter-celtic-concert-2025> - \$21 general admission.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18

Vienna's Honesty Family in 18th and 19th Century Virginia. 7:30 p.m. Zoom. Historic Vienna, Inc. celebrates Black History Month with a zoom program and a poster exhibit at the Vienna Community Center. What were some challenges for an indentured woman with a young mixed-race family? Race and status were controlled by Virginia's slavery and servitude laws. Learn how Elizabeth Honest, forbear of Vienna's longstanding Honesty family, fought to protect her family. Learn about tightening slavery laws that forced her and her descendants here to make tough decisions. Program presented by Historic Vienna, Inc. Presenter Heather Bollinger is an independent professional historian and former archivist at the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center. Visit www.HistoricViennaInc.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club (Virtual). 6:00-7:30 p.m. At Reston Library, Reston. Literary discussion that focuses on a character's personal growth and how it relates to our own. Led by life coach Shabnam Curtis. At this month's meeting we'll discuss Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. Visit Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

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Employment

RBAEngineering International, Springfield, VA, seeks a Project Engineer to perf eng'g duties on dvlpmnt, infrastructure, & heavy civil construction projs. Req. Bachelor's or foreign equiv in Civil Eng'g, construction mgmt, or rlted field; 2 yrs exp. as Project Engr; daily travel to var unanticipated jobsites w/in 200 miles of Springfield, VA; knowl of Autodesk AutoCAD; knowl of Oracle Primavera Enterprise Proj Portfolio Mgmt or MS Projs. Send resume to: Pedro Astudillo, 7516 Suite E Fullerton Road, Springfield, VA 22153.

 **Brown v. Board of Education
SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE**

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
THROUGH APRIL 11, 2025

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The scholarship is now available to those individuals and to their descendants. The program is open to eligible applicants for the 2025–2026 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit: **BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV**

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OPINION

Surovell

FROM PAGE 12

what they want or not. They don't want it? They don't? They don't have that, seriously. So this is about, you know, democracy."

Authorizing a casino in the Northern Virginia market is projected to increase state revenue and economic benefits could increase statewide gaming tax revenue by an estimated additional \$155 million (59 percent) and employ an additional 3,200 workers, says a 2019 JLARC study. "A Northern Virginia casino is projected to attract substantial revenue from out-of-state customers and retain in-state about \$100 million that Virginia residents are currently spending at casinos in other states."

Del. Paul E. Krizek (D-Mount Vernon) introduced Virginia House Bill No. 2498. He is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Gaming and expressed concern over the passage of SB982 before establishing a Gaming Commission. Krizek participated in the town hall on Saturday with Surovell.

HB2498 would create the Virginia Gaming Commission, which would be separate from the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of government. The Commission would be in charge of all legal gambling in the Commonwealth except for the state lottery.

Krizek's bill outlines the qualifications needed to be a commissioner and a member of the Virginia Gaming Commissioner Board, as well as the powers and duties of those individuals. Current employees of relevant state agencies would also be transferred to the Commission. The bill contains numerous technical amendments.

The No Fairfax Casino Coalition stated in a Jan. 27 email to Senators and Delegates that the 2019 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study is not a substitute for a comprehensive impact analysis of a casino in Fairfax County. The No Fairfax Casino Coalition is calling for the members of the General Assembly to support HB2498 and oppose SB982.

According to the late Sunday night press release by No Fairfax Casino, "Senator Surovell's Senate Bill 982 targets properties on Route 7 in Tysons that are reportedly controlled by a local developer, Christopher Clemente, a principal of Comstock Holdings and managing director and principal of Comstock Partners."

Tuesday, crossover in Virginia; and The Connection will be in production for the first of our twice-monthly print editions.

Community Mourns Young Ice Skaters

FROM PAGE 4

“Eddie Haynos (Roger’s dad) lost his only son, his daughter-in-law and only grandson,” said Marie Burnley. “My heart breaks for him. Emily lost her mom, dad and brother – heartbreaking. God, surround them with your love, strength and healing power.”

Matthew Alan LaRaviere of Southern Virginia said his heart was broken at the loss of his cousin Roger, plus Stephanie and Cory. “Roger has always inspired me by his absolute love for his family and dedication to providing only the best for his wife and kids,” he wrote. “Cory was an amazing skater with a very bright future with the U.S. Skating Team.

“Recently in a conversation with Roger, he was excited about his son’s future and seemed honored that my wife and I were planning to travel north to see Cory perform. We all were expecting Cory to represent our country [someday] in the U.S. Olympics. While Roger, Stephanie, and Cory’s plane did not land safely back on this earth, their flight no doubt continued on into the arms of a loving Saviour ready to welcome them home. Please pray for their daughter Emily, my uncle Eddie, Stephanie’s family, and all the others who are suffering.”

Jane Ellen said Roger “was so proud, sending screen videos of Cory’s recent progress; gone way too soon. Roger, my friend, I miss you already. My heart is broken. I’ll miss hearing about the kids and their success, both on and off the ice. Godspeed.”

“Such a tragedy,” added Monica Estevez. “Sending my condolences and prayers.

Words cannot express the pain.”

“Praying hard for Emily,” wrote Jen Marco. “Someone, hold this young lady close. Do not let her go.” And Erica Page Brewer said she “can’t imagine the unbearable grief Emily’s facing.”

Ozge Ovun Sert wrote that “both Cory and Eddie were from my daughter’s high school. It is incredibly heartbreaking and devastating for the families and the community. I think this tragedy reminds everyone [of] the meaning of life and gratitude. We are alive today, but we may have been in that plane yesterday. They will always be remembered with their smiles.”

In addition, Olga Garrity – who coached both Cory and Emily – has set up a gofundme page to try to raise at least \$50,000 for Emily, 19, to help her finish college and meet her daily expenses. Teacher Terry Barr implored, “I taught both Emily and Cory for years, and Emily needs our help. Please donate if you can.”

Explained Emily Desjardins, “Emily Haynos lost her entire immediate family on the flight, at the young age of 19. The challenges facing her in the days ahead are enormous. I skated with Emily for many years at Fairfax Ice Arena, and she and her whole family were loved by all.

“Roger and Stephanie were wonderful parents and so very proud of both Emily and Cory. They were the kind of people that were always the first to volunteer, always the first to help. In their memory, please consider donating to make the road ahead a little bit easier for Emily.” To contribute, go to [https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-emily-hay-](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-emily-haynos-in-honor-of-cory-stephanie-and-roger?fbclid=IwY2xjawINLsxlHRuA2FlbQlX-MAABHemPp0svoy81EemdbUIBgt_y8N-PqAMj7kIkzSKrjnee807HLLLeP2PNyD9g_aem_dh0ZrxCk1e5dg31VmBrWuA)

[nos-in-honor-of-cory-stephanie-and-roger?fbclid=IwY2xjawINLsxlHRuA2FlbQlX-MAABHemPp0svoy81EemdbUIBgt_y8N-PqAMj7kIkzSKrjnee807HLLLeP2PNyD9g_aem_dh0ZrxCk1e5dg31VmBrWuA](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-emily-haynos-in-honor-of-cory-stephanie-and-roger?fbclid=IwY2xjawINLsxlHRuA2FlbQlX-MAABHemPp0svoy81EemdbUIBgt_y8N-PqAMj7kIkzSKrjnee807HLLLeP2PNyD9g_aem_dh0ZrxCk1e5dg31VmBrWuA).

The First Baptist Church of Kingstowne, which the Haynos family attended, also established a donation site for them. Go to <https://fbckingstowne.churchcenter.com/giving> and select “Haynos Family Bereavement Fund.”

On Fairfax Ice Arena’s Facebook page, skating parent Leonard Tengco said everyone there – coaches, staff, skaters, parents – become like family. So when the unthinkable strikes, it affects them all.

“The staff watched those kids grow up and blossom into nationally competitive skaters and are now left to endure the pain caused by their tragic end,” he wrote. “My heart deeply aches for my ice rink and the local figure-skating community. I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of those who have died.”

“So sad, so many, so young,” added Nancy Costello. “They are skating on the most perfect ice rink now, with their angel wings, as one big family.”

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U.S. Figure Skating wrote, “We’re devastated by this loss and are holding the victims’ loved ones closely in our hearts. “We’ve established the U.S. Figure Skating Family Support Fund to provide financial assistance to [our] families directly impacted by the tragedy.” Go to <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/usfigureskatingfoundation/event/usfigure-skatingfund/>.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 13

The center’s Emotional Help Line provides free, anonymous, confidential support in both English (703-215-1898) and Spanish (703-914-3878). The line is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. To learn more about the center, visit <https://ccmh.gmu.edu/>.

Community Police Academy Applications for Spring

Interested in learning more about local law enforcement? The Community Police Academy is now accepting applications for the Spring session that will meet from March 13 to May 17. This academy is designed to give participants a glimpse behind the badge and to provide information about training, policies and the many units and divisions within the Fairfax County Police Department. For further information and to apply, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/ServicesAH/CommunityPoliceAcademy>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed to Restore Park Habitat

Fairfax City parks and woodlands need your help! Now through March, join the Urban Forestry Stewardship Coordinator for a Forest Rescue to remove non-native, invasive plants from one of three park locations: Kutner Park, Providence Park, or Van Dyck Park.

Invasive plants can strangle trees, contribute to the decline of songbird and wildlife populations, and crowd out native plants. If you’ve walked along your favorite trail and seen vines climbing trees or a large amount of brush and bramble covering the forest floor,

that might be invasive plants taking over.

You can help stop the spread of invasive plants by learning how to identify and remove them at one of our workdays. We’ll provide tools and training, as well as educational materials to take home and information about our Forest Rescuer training workshops on Feb. 27 and March 10.

Upcoming volunteer dates are Feb. 9, Feb. 22, March 1, March 5, March 15, and March 23. You can also reach out to the Stewardship Coordinator to schedule a volunteer group at a time that works for you.

Call 703-223-5054

Housing and Homelessness Meeting, Jan. 30

Fairfax City held a community meeting Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6-8 p.m., to obtain community feedback to inform the City’s Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan. Fairfax is seeking input from people who’ve experienced housing-affordability challenges in the City before it finalizes its plan this summer.

The meeting was held at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. in Fairfax.

The strategic plan will build on the foundational knowledge of the housing market and conditions of Fairfax City, planned ongoing development, plus community priorities and goals established in the 2023 Housing Assessment & Strategy Report and the 2024 Homelessness Task Force report.

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/community-development-planning/planning/current-studies-projects-plans/housing-assessment>

Save the Date: Spring Community Cleanup

Help keep Fairfax City’s parks, forests, streams, and neighborhoods clean and clear from harmful debris. Join the city on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at Van Dyck Park (3720 Blenheim Blvd) for our city-wide Spring Community Cleanup.

All are welcome, individuals and groups — family, friends, civic associations, clubs, scout and school groups, book clubs, sports teams, everyone — can join in the fun. Swing by the ‘pit stop’ at the Van Dyck Park pavilion anytime between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up snacks and supplies: gloves,

reflective vests, picker tools, and trash bags. From the pit-stop, volunteers proceed to a designated cleanup location. At the end of the event, city refuse crews will pick up the collected litter.

Participants in the community cleanup event are eligible to apply for stormwater utility credits for their city household, homeowners association, business, or non-profit organization. City staff will be available at the ‘pit stop’ to answer any questions and help you fill out an application for credits. For more information, visit the Stormwater Utility page or contact city staff at stormwaterutility@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-2578.

“Diechotomy”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a longtime cancer patient, I’ve always made a point of exuding as much positivity as I could muster (or die trying). My theory was that if I put out positive vibes than I’d likely receive them back. And by receiving positive vibes, et cetera, I’d feel more positive myself. Basically, it’s a cyclical/selfish strategy to make me feel positive/good. And if there’s one emotion a cancer patient can’t get enough of, it’s positivity – with a side of humor.

After 15+ years of various interactions with people who see me regularly and others who hardly see me at all, I have become hip to their well-intentioned observations. The dichotomy is, most of the comments about my appearance have been wrong but said for the right reason: my self-image/self-confidence. They tell me I look great. Incredibly so almost given the ravaging effects of chemotherapy. And though I’m not a look-in-the-mirror type guy, I certainly see what I look like every morning as I look in the mirror while I brush my teeth and often, it ain’t pretty. The treatment’s side effects don’t usually enhance your appearance. Far from it, in fact. (The understatement of the last decade and a half. Hardly is chemotherapy to be confused with a health and beauty-type spa.)

As the years have passed (thank God!) I have noticed an unintended consequence of these, almost universally, flattering descriptions of my appearance. The “You look great, Ken” is invariably followed by a comparison to how bad I looked the last time this person saw me. Which in arrears now means I looked terrible before; my face was drawn, its color was off, my pallor was gray and so forth. Meant as a sincere expression of encouragement and my improvement/wherewithal on my condition, they are all too familiar. I can’t look good now and have looked bad before when before I – at that time, you said I also looked good and so on so on going back to 2009, when my chemotherapy began. Every present I was told I looked good compared to every before when I was told I looked bad. It was sort of an ambidextrous-type comment: I looked both bad and good – simultaneously. Irrespective of the truth, I was praised with positivity. As such, my reflection in the mirror bothered me less as their opinions seemed to affect me more. And if I did receive any negative/possibly honest opinions, I would recall one of my late father’s go-to advisories: “Every knock is a boost.” Regardless of what observations were made to/about me, I took it all in stride. Never too high. Never too low. And when the always good now/always bad before juxtaposition became clear to me, I laughed. I guess that’s what friends and family do for people they care about.

Not that occasionally there wasn’t an ounce (literally) of truth to their intended-to-be-sincere comments, but I never believed half of the over-the-top descriptions of how good I looked anyway. Besides, it was more important/beneficial to me that people’s attitude toward me was upbeat and encouraging. Granted, the truth might set you free, but I needed/preferred that the lies carry me forward.

Undergoing chemotherapy is a long slog. And for me there were no guarantees. I’m not cured by any means, but I sure am grateful for all the positivity I received.

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



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Offered for...\$1,599,000

5850 Aspen Wood Ct, McLean

****Fabulous Opportunity**** to own a classic brick colonial in sought-after Chain Bridge Woods nestled on a beautiful .45 acre lot off a quiet cul-de-sac street! This wonderful 5BR/3.5BA home is ready for your updating/renovations. Featuring over 4300 sq ft with hardwood floors on main and upper levels. The main level includes a formal living and dining room; kitchen with breakfast room; large family room with fireplace and walk-out to back deck. The upper level offers a primary bedroom and bath with 3 additional BR's. Basement includes rec room, add'l BR and bath. 2-car garage. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

SOLD!



Sold for...\$1,635,000

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 room. Private level backyard! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2024

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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!



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

SOLD!



1940 Foxhall Road
McLean, VA 22101
\$1,425,000

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

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

SOLD!



1313 Merrie Ridge Rd
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\$1,637,500

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