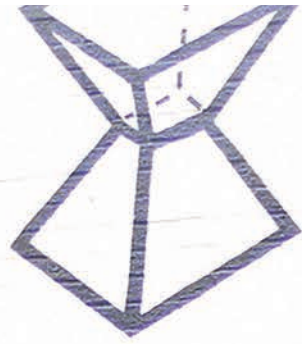


CONNECTION

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Foundation Coffee Roasters opens in Fairfax City: Cutting the shop's ribbon are (from left) Chris Bruno, Fred Cornett, Jennifer Rose, Tom Ross, David Meyer, Hae Kim, Sang Yi, Tom Scibilia, Brad Kim and Sung Kim.



FOUNDATION COFFEE

'Small-Batch Roasts with Consistent Flavor'

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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Workhouse Arts Center Hosts Mardi Gras Celebration

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Questioning Racially-Biased Gang Database

NEWS, PAGE 3

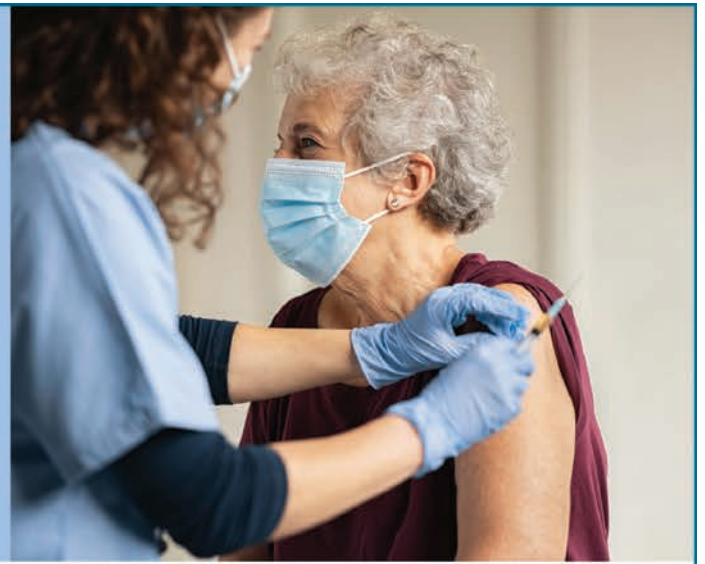
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PAGE 6

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Questioning Racially-Biased Gang Database

Activists: Residents can be entered into GangNet merely for living in neighborhoods where gang activity takes place.

Part one of a two-part series.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

With no recourse for review, a nebulous definition of gang membership led an activist, an immigration advocate, and a Virginia legislator to fight for change.

Kofi Annan, president of The Activated People, sent a letter to Jeffrey McKay, Chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Rodney Lusk (D-Lee District), Chairman of the County Public Safety Committee, James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock District), Vice-Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, and Col. Edwin Roessler, County Chief of Police. Annan detailed concerns about individuals wrongly labeled gang members and nominated by law enforcement at Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) into the national database repository, GangNet, used by the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, and accessible to its FCPD officers as a participating jurisdiction in the Task Force. According to Annan, the criteria were “highly questionable and potentially discriminatory.”

“Residents can be entered into GangNet merely for living in neighborhoods where gang activity takes place or for their style of dress, and they may not even be notified that they were entered into the database. An officer’s observation about attire, tattoos, activity or affiliation can set a life-altering legal process in motion,” said Annan.

GANG MEMBER categorization, Annan said, is “part of a longstanding campaign to stigmatize black and brown communities and expedite deportation of members of the Latinx community.” According to Annan, the campaign encourages FCPD officers to engage in racial profiling. It reinforces racial bias against mostly Black and brown men.

Annan said that the criteria, with the exceptions of “self-admission” or “in-custody classification,” were highly subjective and created “opportunities for law enforcement to inadvertently or erroneously mislabel individuals as gang members and violate their Constitutional rights and the rights of those around them.”

According to the Department of Justice, Privacy Impact Assessment for GangNet, GangNet is an off the shelf system “in support of A.T.F.’s missions in reducing violent crime and protecting the public.” It contains identifying data on alleged gang members, including but not limited to the individual’s photos, street names, addresses, date of birth, phone numbers, known associates, uses of gang hand signs and symbols, and images of their tattoos. Information on individuals is based on suspected criminal involvement or as witnesses or victims in

criminal case investigations and law enforcement concerns.

The information gathered and added to the system is within the Privacy Act exemption scope for law enforcement records outlined in 5 U.S.C. 552a (j) (2). GangNet purges subjects from the database after five years of inactivity.

“The ‘gang member’ label that federal authorities rely on is not based on a court’s determination, and therefore, no due process applied,” Annan said. “There is also no current mechanism by which to challenge one’s placement in GangNet.”

Annan added that being identified as a gang member emboldened “federal agents to selectively carry out deportation procedures” and allowed prosecutors to call for “sentence enhancements.”

Annan urged the Board of Supervisors to prohibit FCPD participation in the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force until the Task Force “adopted more stringent criteria” and improved “transparency by expanding residents’ right to receive a notification” when they were nominated to be entered.

“The ‘gang member’ label that federal authorities rely on is not based on a court’s determination, and therefore, no due process applied.”

— Kofi Annan,
president of The Activated People

“Anything less fails to uphold the principles of due process on which our immigration and criminal justice systems depend,” Annan said.

ANNAN did not hear back from the addressees named in his letter until Dec. 29. Chairman McKay emailed then, and two days later, on Dec. 31, Jay Lanham, Executive Director of the Gang Task Force, reached out. Annan provided copies of the correspondences.

McKay wrote that he confirmed with Chief Roessler “that the task force’s director (Jay Lanham) is working to suspend its use of GangNet.”

Lanham said, “I have suspended our use... We only have three senior detectives trained to use GangNet, and they have not used it for many years...The Task Force does not and has never maintained a Gang Database.”

Confused, Annan asked Lanham: “Wouldn’t GangNet be considered a gang



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Falsely labeled gang affiliation can ultimately lead to a person being wrongly detained.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kofi Annan

database? ...Is there any other database besides GangNet that FCPD officers use to submit/nominate the names of individuals suspected of being involved in gangs?”

Lanham said GangNet was a database, operated and maintained by HIDTA (Baltimore/Washington High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) “which falls within the Department of Justice.” “HIDTA makes it available to agencies that wish to access it. Those wishing to access it must be trained and approved to make entries in the system.” Lanham said, “I do not have knowledge of which agencies have access to GangNet, nor am I aware of any agencies that maintain such databases.”

On Jan. 7, 2021, Annan said, “I am glad that the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force will formalize their practice of not using GangNet. I’m also proud that our County Police Department does not use this

flawed software.”

Supervisor Lusk echoed Annan’s statement. “I’m pleased that the Fairfax County Police Department does not currently use GangNet Software,” Lusk said.

Kelly White Senior is Program Director of the Detained Adult Program at Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights (CAIR) Coalition. White shared a copy of testimony by Jocelyn Cazares, Senior Attorney, Detained Adult Program (CAIR), to the Fairfax Delegation of the General Assembly Jan. 9, “In Support of Transparency in Policing: Overinclusion of People of Color in Gang Databases in Virginia.”

Cazares testified, “I regularly represent people who are detained by I.C.E. and are denied liberty or even credibility because of police over-inclusion in gang databases.” Cazares said “John,” a Fairfax County resident applied for asylum and while the application was pending, found “himself accused of gang membership in ways that still affect him today.”

According to Cazares’ testimony: “There was no evidence of John’s gang membership, yet the accusation of John’s gang activity was ultimately entered into evidence in John’s immigration case. John, therefore, found himself having to fight gang accusations with no basis.”

A copy of the interview transcript between “John” and CAIR, provided by White, “John” said he did not know he was in a gang database until arrested. “The first time was when I.C.E. arrested me... I learned from the local authorities and I.C.E. I didn’t realize, I was surprised.” Asked about the consequences “John” said, “Affects so much, and it is false information in that database.”

White said that according to the Center for Popular Democracy’s Access to Counsel Report, “Every year, nearly 4,000 people in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area courts, Arlington, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland, face deportation in civil immigration court without the assistance of a lawyer.”

A PROPOSED BILL relating to criminal street gang reporting; notice and process for contesting information into shared gang databases has reached the Virginia House of Delegates 2021 session for consideration.

On Tues. Jan. 11, Virginia House Delegate Kaye Kory (D-38) said, “I am the chief patron of legislation which eliminates the lack of transparency and due process in the criminal street gang database currently in use by law enforcement in Virginia. Names are entered into this database by law enforcement officers who have only an unverified ‘reasonable suspicion’ of an individual’s gang affiliation and without notifying the individual. This creates a database riddled with racial bias and inequities without the slightest opportunity for oversight or accountability, which can lead to selective actions by state and federal law enforcement against those in the database.”

We Still Need Your Help

Thank you to hundreds who have supported us financially, and with warm words of encouragement.

BY MARY KIMM

In 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and after a year-long journey of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, I have been fine. Sometimes I will run into someone (well, I haven't actually been out to run into anyone since March) or talk to someone who will ask, "How are you?" with a tone of concern, and I realize they are wondering about my cancer. (Yes, I did go out for my mammogram. More than a decade cancer-free, thank you!).

2009 was also the onset of steep declines in newspaper advertising revenue, and that has been a pernicious and persistent problem.

Right now, when I hear that tone of concern (or something a little more ominous) with the "And how are the papers doing?" this person is asking about the GoFundMe, and whether we anticipate that we will survive the pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the Connection Newspapers shared a GoFundMe drive that would help all of our papers, including our flagship, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing since 1784, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Arlington Connection, Great Falls Connection, McLean-Vienna Connection, Centre View-Chantilly, Reston and Herndon Connection, and the Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Clifton, Lorton Connection plus the Potomac Almanac.

We set a goal of \$50,000, and thanks to community support, in a month we have topped 50 percent of that. Thank you so much.

There is no deadline. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-americas-oldest-newspaper>

How did we get here (I keep asking myself)?

We are facing an existential threat in the combined crises of a long-running decline in newspaper advertising, plus the onset of the pandemic and the economic shutdown that has come with it. (Newspaper advertising revenue overall fell more than 60 percent from 2008 to 2018, well before the pandemic.)

In the first week of the shutdown in March, the drop in revenue for us, and everywhere, was breathtaking.

Fortunately, some long time advertisers have stayed the course and kept our revenues from moving actually to zero.

But many restaurants, retailers and others are also facing an economic crisis that could lead to extinction. We are not the only ones. Businesses, families and individuals floundered for months after early federal help, desperately in need of more help. Now we know more federal help is on the way, but is not here yet.

More than 160,000 businesses in the US closed just between March and August of last year due to the pandemic, and that number is

likely vastly underreported. While local newspapers were already suffering from advertising declines, the loss of thousands of local businesses as potential advertisers is a setback, and not just for The Connection. Event advertising, a mainstay, has disappeared.

Community support has come, through GoFundMe, and other means — many have mailed checks payable to their favorite newspaper, to 1606 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314, and others have purchased ads as a way to lend financial support. Words of encouragement and appreciation have also meant so much to all of us here.

So what is the plan? Our GoFundMe, as it continues to grow, will allow us to bridge the operational gaps between a deep valley and the arrival of the funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (through local banks). And that will give us time to grapple with the question of how to reinvent ourselves and create an organization and revenue stream that will sustain us. Our writers and others connected to us are full of ideas. I'm sure our readers, advertisers and supporters are also. Please let us know.

We are experts at cost-cutting, and that has been a painful, ongoing process.

Now we will embrace a combination of solutions, because just one source is unlikely to unravel the tough situation that we face.

More thoughts next week.

Changing Images of Virginia

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



On the east side of Capitol Square near the Executive Mansion in Richmond is the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial featuring 16-year-old Barbara Johns who led the student walkout that resulted

in a civil rights case before the Supreme Court as part of *Brown v. Board of Education* that found racially-segregated schools to be unconstitutional. With her on the memorial are statues of attorneys Oliver Hill and Spotswood Robinson who argued the case and representations of persons who faced repression throughout Virginia's racist history.

On the west end of Capitol Square, near where the new General Assembly office building is being constructed, is a lone statue of Harry F. Byrd—Senator, VA (1933–1965), Governor of Virginia (1926–1930), and Virginia State Senator (1924–1926).

Barbara Johns is about to receive an additional recognition as a civil rights pioneer. A sculpture of her will join a copy of the Houdon sculpture of George Washington in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol representing Virginia and replacing the one of Confederate General Robert E. Lee that has already been removed.

A resolution making its way through the cur-

rent session of the General Assembly directs that the Harry Byrd statue be removed. Byrd held political office for many years and dominated Virginia politics for nearly four decades as head of what was called the Byrd Organization that in any other state would be called the Byrd machine. He stayed in power through racist voter

suppression laws that were some of the most effective in keeping Black voters from the polls and kept Virginia with the lowest voter participation among the states. He was known for his fiscal conservatism as governor and senator, and Virginia remained near the bottom of the states in funding for public schools and health and social services programs while he and his machine controlled state government. While states moved towards racial desegregation of their schools, a Byrd-devised "massive resistance" ploy delayed school desegregation in Virginia by more than a decade amid about forty or more lawsuits. In the process, some public schools were closed, and some children stayed home for as many as five years because of Byrd's resistance.

As a teenager I worked "up on the mountain" from my home in Page County at Skyland Lodge on the Skyline Drive. As a room clerk I was told not to rent the best room we had until after 6 p.m. in case Senator Byrd wanted to come for the night. He was extended this courtesy for the

pivotal role he played in establishing the Shenandoah National Park. His biographer Professor Ronald L. Heinemann in *Harry Byrd of Virginia* (University of Virginia Press, 1996) pointed out that while as governor he modernized state government for the time, his conservative economic and social policies held the state back. He was a product of the Jim Crow era, and he could never get beyond it.

Barbara Johns as a young woman took a big risk standing up for what she knew was right. She played a pivotal role in Virginia moving from a civil rights back-water to the progressive state it is now becoming. She reflects the image I want our state to have!

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

This year may look different, but COVID-19 will not stop our annual tradition! Are you passionate about your family, home or community?

If so, join us virtually for the **34th Mount Vernon Town Meeting** to listen to and question your leaders!

Saturday, February 6, 2021
9:00 a.m. – noon
Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour

Live on Channel 16 & Facebook
How to Participate: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon

Connect with TEAM MVD and your Mount Vernon neighbors at the 34th Annual Town Meeting! #ConnectMVD



Join Supervisor Dan Storck for the 34th Annual Town Meeting! Meet your Supervisor and many county, state and federal leaders. Have your questions answered, learn about issues important to you and connect with county agencies and service providers. The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual flying tour" of the District with your "pilot" Supervisor Dan Storck.

Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeff McKay**, County Executive **Bryan Hill**, Mount Vernon District School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders**, Health Department Director **Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu**, Special Guests Congressmen **Gerry Connolly** and **Don Beyer**, as well as other community leaders.

For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 2/1/21.

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- Springfield Chamber of Commerce
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- Prince William Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Virginia Building Industry Association
- Apartment and Office Building Association
- Virginia Self Storage Association
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association
- And many more...



Sorority Sisters Celebrate Vice President Kamala Harris

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Wearing their sorority's signature strand of pearls and clothing in shades of pink and green, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority members, Martha Coleman and Shirley Dickerson Taylor were filled with awe and jubilation as they watched their sorority sister and fellow Historically Black College and University (HBCU) alum Kamala Harris, sworn in as Vice President of the United States.

Both women are decades-long members of the sorority and are now part of the Zeta Chi Omega Chapter, which is made up of women from Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax counties. Local members supported Harris' election and say their emotions include pride and optimism, for older members as well as younger.

"As someone who participated in the Civil Rights movement of the 60s, I get emotional just thinking about this huge accomplishment and how far we as a people have come," said Coleman, who has been a member for 53 years. "The idea that a woman of color, who attended an HBCU, and who was raised by a single parent is now our Vice President is mind boggling."

"I was overcome with joy and happiness to witness this historical day," added Taylor, who has been a member for 63 years. "The tears flowed as I watched Soror Kamala take the oath and become the Vice President of the United States."

"I witnessed something that I never thought I would witness in my lifetime, said 68-year old Linder Gibson who lives in Montgomery County. "I was overwhelmed. "This lets me know that my little granddaughter can grow up and become anything she wants to be, even President."

Those who joined AKA at Howard University felt a special connection.

"She has been an inspiration for many, said Linda Elaine Newman, who has been an active member for 43 years. "I was doubly proud because I am also a graduate of Howard University. Her positive accomplishments have given good recognition to HBCUs and our beloved sisterhood."

"From the standpoint of being a black and Asian woman it was a monumental moment," added Patricia Wallace, who has been a member for 55 years. It was astounding since, in both these cultures, women were deemed to be on the bottom rung, thought of as property and second-class citizens. Now the glass ceiling has broken."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter has been in existence for more than 60 years. "Tears of joy flowed down my face as I watched the first woman, the first woman of color and my sorority sister take the oath of office for the Vice President of the United States of America," said Robin McCoy, who is a 40-year member and serves as the chapter's president.

Many felt a sense of optimism about the possibilities that would be conveyed to the young women and girls



PHOTO BY ROBIN MCCOY
Robin McCoy, is a 40-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and serves as the chapter's president.



PHOTO BY TIA SMITH
Tia Smith wore pink and green on election day to celebrate Vice-President Harris' victory. Both women are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
"Golden" members of the Arlington/Alexandria chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, who joined the sorority before and during the Civil Rights Movement, shed tears of joy as they witnessed the historic swearing-in of Vice President Kamala Harris.

in their families.

"The swearing in of my soror Kamala Harris filled me with sadness, joy and delight," said Margarette Peterson, who was initiated in 1959. "Joy came to my heart to know that my granddaughter would continue to grow up in a better world. ... I was filled with sadness because it has taken so long for a black woman with outstanding qualifications to be recognized. I dried my tears and took a picture ... proudly in my Golden Soror tee shirt."

"I thought of my 10-year-old granddaughter's future in a country that has elected the first woman as Vice President, who happens to be Black, who happens to have been shaped by our founders at Howard Uni-

versity, and who happens to have been the recipient of the unflinching support from women all over America," said Tia Johnson. "My granddaughter's future was looking brighter. Vice President Harris' election provides the answer that all things are possible."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter includes older members that range in age from 60 to 90. Many thanked a higher power for the victory.

"I was overcome with a flood of emotions and ... a tremendous feeling of gratitude that God allowed me to live long enough to witness this historic moment: the first woman, the first Black, the first Asian American, the first HBCU graduate and the first AKA to become Vice President of the United States of America, a heartbeat away from the most powerful office in the world," said Lula McLain Hicks who was initiated in 1968. "In that moment, Vice President Harris represented every member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and our 113 years of service to humankind."

Wanda Smith, who joined the sorority 42 years ago, said the swearing-in underscored the lyrics of the official hymn of AKA: "By merit and culture we strive and we do things that are worthwhile. And with a smile we help each other for we know there's no other like our sisterhood," she said. "Yes, I cried and thanked God."

For Aretha Marable Cunningham who was initiated in 1973, the ceremony offered optimism. "I feel extreme joy, relief, excitement, and hope for our country, the United States of America."

West Springfield Moms Moving Forward to Grad Party

Optimism flows despite the dark cloud of covid.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Parents of West Springfield High School seniors formed a series of stations around the school on Thursday, Jan. 21 to hand out the official senior tee-shirt and fundraising flyers for the senior graduation party they are tentatively planning at the St. James Center in June.

There are a couple of "ifs" surrounding the Class of 2021's plan for the rest of the year, and a biggie is "if" the COVID-19 virus is not running as rampant as it is in January. Nonetheless, the parents and school officials stayed positive at the event and cheered on the students, with masks on, as the students drove around the school, stopping at the various stations to pick up materials.

"It's hard to predict," said WSHS principal Michael Mukai, who was at the station in front of the school. "We're hoping for a positive change," he said.

"It's so nice to recognize them, show we care," said Eva Miles, whose daughter Ashlyn is one of the seniors. "All these moms here are moms of seniors, I call it the covid class," she said.

With temperatures around 50 degrees, the moms were bundled up, and there was hot chocolate being handed out as well.

Juliette Neil held a colorful sign and cheered the students on as they drove by. "We're hoping by June we'll be ready to move forward," she said.

According to Lucy Caldwell, the Director of News and Information for the Fairfax County Public Schools, the school system will be working with principals, parents and students in the upcoming months to provide guidance for planning activities for the Class of 2021 culminating in June with graduation. All activities will follow VDH and CDC guidance. "We want to honor and celebrate the Class of 2021," Caldwell said.

The St. James fitness facili-



MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

With cowbell in hand and a homemade sign, Eva Miles remained optimistic while parents, students and teachers continue to plan the graduation party in June.

ty is a place over on Industrial Drive in Springfield that has "state-of-the-art fitness and sports venues, luxurious lifestyle experiences, and the ultimate kids' play place," their website reads. On the West Springfield all-night grad party website, it states "If necessary, we will re-address and modify event plans and activities as needed to accommodate CDC safety guidelines."



The custom coffee cup was part of the materials for the students.

Inova Cancels First Dose Covid-19 Vaccinations

Pace of incoming doses not expected to increase until March.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

“Covid-19 vaccine supply remains very limited, so we ask for your patience as it may take months for some people to get an appointment time,” tweeted Fairfax County Emergency Information on Jan. 26.

On Monday, Jan. 25, Inova announced the cancelation of its first dose Covid-19 vaccine appointments, effective Jan. 26, 2021, and into the foreseeable future due to vaccine shortages. When Inova receives more supply inventory, they will prioritize patients who had an appointment scheduled.

When the announcement reached Tina Williams, President of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, on Tuesday morning,

she said, “Educators want more than anyone to be back in schools, but Covid-19 continues to surge in our community. We urge Fairfax County Public Schools to alter the return to school timeline given the current health metrics and this unfortunate shift in vaccine availability for school staff.”

CHAIRMAN of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeffrey C. McKay (D- At-Large), took immediate action during that afternoon’s Board of Supervisors meeting. He brought forward a Board Matter saying, “Therefore, without objection, I am directing the appropriate staff from the Health Department to come before our Board at our Feb. 9 meeting, or during a Board committee slot if one becomes available beforehand, to provide a one-hour update about its vaccination strategy.”

After the meeting, McKay said, “We were proud to be working with Inova to vaccinate our teachers. Unfortunately, the news that we will have a significant reduction in our vaccine supply from the state has forced Inova and the Fairfax County Health Department to have to roll back operations and, in the case of Inova, cancel upcoming appointments. This news is frustrating for all of us, but it doesn’t change our priorities regarding the Return to School. Getting students back in the classroom needs to happen.”

Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, released a letter to FCPS staff. In it, he said, “As excited as I was earlier this month to share the news of the vaccine distribution plans, I am just as disappointed today that this effort has been put on hold...



Tina Williams, President of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers



PHOTO VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY
Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



PHOTO VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY
Scott Brabrand, Ed.D., Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools

While we were optimistic that vaccinations would be able to be an additional mitigation strategy, I sincerely believe that we need to continue to move forward with our measured phased-in approach to in-person instruction.”

Fairfax County Emergency Information released its Covid-19 Update What You Need to Know About Limited Vaccine Supply, Tue. evening. “Due to allocations that go into effect this week, the pace of incoming doses is not expected to increase until March.”

THAT SAME DAY, the Covid-19 Pandemic Metrics by the Virginia

Department of Health, CDC K-12 School Metrics, reported the two core indicators for Fairfax on Jan. 26, 2021, in the “highest risk of transmission.” The percentage of RT-PCR tests that were positive during the last 14 days was reported at 11.8 percent, and the total number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the previous 14 days at 632.7.

Additional data on the FCPS Covid-19 Case Dashboard, FCPS Daily Reported Cases from Sept. 9, 2020, to current cited Covid-19 cases as Multi-site Staff-84, Staff-564, Student-209, and Visitor-21, with Total Cases-878.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



(From left are Brad Kim and Hae Woon Kim with the roasters at Foundation Coffee Roasters.



(From left) Roaster Brad Kim and owner Hae Kim display egg tarts and fruit tarts.

‘Small-Batch Roasts with Consistent Flavor’

Foundation Coffee Roasters finds success in Fairfax City.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Foundation Coffee Roasters may not be the easiest place to find, but customers say it’s definitely worth the effort. And once they know where it is, they return.

It’s at 9650 Main St., No. 46, in Fairfax’s Fair City Mall. But it’s actually behind and down one side of the mall. Drive past Chipotle and Bed, Bath & Beyond, toward the trees, turn right and head downhill until the white-painted brick with the glass door appears.

“My head roaster and I were looking for a space large enough for us to roast our own beans and to have an open look, where people could easily find a seat and enjoy their coffee,” said owner Hae Woon Kim. “When I heard about this space, I was skeptical because it’s on the back of the shopping center and had no windows [then].”

“But I saw its possibilities to provide a unique experience to people. And Fred Cornett, with Fair City Mall, believed in our ideas and liked our concept, so I’m grateful to him. We expected to open last spring, but COVID delayed it until fall. I didn’t know how comfortable people would be coming into a coffee shop, but business has been good. We’re open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and people are asking us to expand our hours.”

Foundation offers a wide range of hot and cold beverages, plus French pastries – homemade on site daily and overseen by a pastry chef. “We made sure our pastries and coffees complemented each other so they don’t overwhelm the taste of the coffee. And we only use quality ingredients, so they taste really good.”

Besides coffee, there are espressos, cappuccinos, lattes and affogatos, as well as hot chocolate and a variety of black, green

and herbal teas. “Our teas come from Steven Smith, and we blend them to make the custom tea drinks,” said Kim. These include iced tea lattes and an Oregon chai latte.

AS FOR THE COFFEE, he said, “We’re very proud because we roast our own beans here. We’re a specialty coffee shop; our niche is that we’re so committed to our coffee. Even our syrups are house-made.” He and head roaster Brad Kim (no relation) – a former opera singer – met at church, shared their passion for coffee and joked about opening their own shop.

Hae worked in IT then and Brad became a head roaster at another coffee place. But they eventually reunited, and Foundation Coffee Roasters is the result. “Our approach to coffee is precision and accuracy – having complete control of the coffee drinks we offer to our customers,” said Hae Kim.

They have a special, glass-walled, roasting room where customers may see their two roasters. Each one roasts 1-1/2 pounds of beans at a time to yield two 12-ounce bags of beans. Operating that way, explained Hae Kim, “We get small-batch roasts with consistent flavor, no matter what drinks people order. We’re committed to the little details, so the amount the customers pay is worthwhile. We also make sure the servers can accommodate customers’ requests without compromising quality.”

The shop’s interior is large and airy. “When designing it, I thought of a theater,” said Kim. “Center stage is the coffee bar and prep area, with raised, stadium seating and tables on the perimeter. So everyone can see what we’re doing and learn how their cup is made.”

Smooth-jazz music plays in the back-



Family: (From left) are Hyun, Hae and Sung Kim.

ground. “My brother’s a jazz pianist, and he first introduced me to good, drip coffee, about 10 years ago,” said Kim.

Most popular with customers is the vanilla latte. “But serious coffee drinkers like our cortado with a small amount of steamed milk,” said Kim. “You taste more of the coffee than

with a cappuccino or latte, and people also like it over ice. And our espresso drinks are all double shots.”

Noting how grateful he is that his shop’s neighbors are showing their support, he said one of them – a teacher – “painted a picture of a coffee mug with our name on it and framed and presented it to me. That means a lot.”

Foundation Coffee is also a family affair since Kim’s wife Hyun is co-owner. The couple has two sons, 11 and 9, and a 4-month-old daughter. And Kim’s father, Sung Kim, 74, a contractor, built all the wooden furnishings – tables, cabinets, etc. – except for the chairs.

“He also did all the lighting,” added Hae Kim. “I designed it, but he turned it into reality. And despite all the hard work, the memories we made doing it made it all worthwhile for me, and I’m grateful to him.”

AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING, Fairfax City Economic Development Director Chris Bruno said, “The emphasis is on the quality of the product and the space. Despite the pandemic, people still want to open businesses in Fairfax City, and we can help them do it safely and efficiently.”

“This is a classic example of creating something beautiful in a utilitarian space,” added Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. “I welcome all the neighbors and hope everybody in Comstock will walk over here to get their morning coffee.”

Pleased, Kim said, “I really like the Fairfax

City community because it’s close-knit, and the local government is definitely cheering for us to succeed. So I feel grateful to have started my business in this City.”

The hardest part, he said, is how much time it takes to run the business, plus the time it takes away from his family. The best part is “getting to meet our customers and see how they enjoy our coffee and how we’ve become part of their daily lives. They’re business owners, residents, neighbors, GMU students, firefighters, etc., and I get to talk with them and know them on a first-name basis.”

Centreville’s Min Soo Jung goes there every Thursday afternoon before teaching private bass lessons. “It’s spacious, and I like how it’s designed,” he said. “It’s like a Korean café in the U.S. – very modern and with a theme. Their iced mochas taste good, and I also love their pastries, especially the dacquoise and fruit tarts.”

Fairfax roommates Liz Beauchamp and Maddie Quick also enjoyed their coffees and pastries. “My iced Americano was really good,” said Beauchamp. “The espresso was light but had lots of really good flavor. And my croissant was fresh, flaky and buttery – what you want in a croissant. I also like the music and the seating. With COVID, there’s a lot of space between the tables, so I don’t feel crowded.”

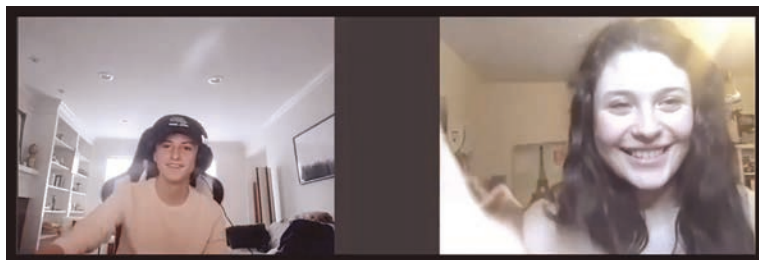
Quick liked the variety of seating options – bar seats and places for groups or individuals. “And there are lots of outlets to plug in your computer,” she said. “It’s hard to find a place with everything you’re looking for, but this one’s really good. My iced vanilla latte was really smooth, had good proportions of coffee to milk and tasted good. And I could tell my almond scone was made fresh – it had a great crust and great flavor.”

She also plans to recommend Foundation Coffee Roasters to others. “The atmosphere is so nice; I think we’ll come back here a lot,” said Quick. “In lots of places, either the coffee or the seating is good, but not both. But this one has all the elements you need.”

A Heart-melting Love Story

Fairfax High School presents 'Good Afternoon, Angel.'

BY MAYAH TIWARI
BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL



Spencer Kury and Maddie Tyler in Fairfax High School's 'Good Afternoon, Angel.'

Living life virtually has been hard to grasp, as has been adapting to the struggles of quarantine. Writer, director, and editor Tori Miller perfectly brought to life a high school love story by incorporating virtual elements, focused dialogue, and attention to symbolic detail. She demonstrated the true power of love in her short play, "Good Afternoon, Angel." Avabelle was a high school student who, upon FaceTiming her boyfriend, talked to him, and then met up with him, seemed to be reliving some sort of dream. She repeated the same day a number of times, each day changing something in it, and it later was shown that was because she and her boyfriend, Gabe, got into a car crash -- and he was hit.

Actors Madeleine Tyler and Spencer Kury did a phenomenal job in demonstrating a high school couple. The script of the show (written by Tori Miller) was nothing short of a perfectly accurate display of emotions, including Gabe's line "Good Afternoon, Angel," and the emotional speech he makes at the end. Madeleine's facial expressions and the authenticity of her genuine confusion were also quite note-worthy. This play was full of symbolism and deeper meanings, through the clothing, room decor, facial expressions, and names of the characters. Gabe was shown wearing white throughout the play, most likely symbolizing him having passed. The names Tori

chose for these characters reflected the play perfectly. "Gabe" to reference the angel Gabriel, and "Avabelle" meaning "beautiful life." Her choice to use this resonated with Avabelle needing to move on without Gabe and live a beautiful life, as they were talking about how beautiful the future would be.

Especially captivating was the overall theme of dreams in the play. In their phone call, Gabe and Avabelle talked about where they dream of moving someday and starting a life with each other. Gabe also told Avabelle about a dream he had with his friend in it, and she told him how she thinks she's dreaming because the day keeps repeating. In the end, we find out that Avabelle kept reliving the day (and trying to change the outcome) because she needed to realize that Gabe's death was inevitable. In her many relivings of the day, Avabelle tried to do things differently: to stay in instead of going out and to have her drive instead of Gabe. Either way, she still went to bed and woke up the same way: with a phone call from Gabe and his words "Good Afternoon, Angel."

At the end of the show, the last phone call, Gabe somewhat revealed the truth to her. He did this by saying to her, "Are you ready to let go?" He had her talk about her future without him, and she made him promise that he would always be here for her. That is foreshadowing, as it is shown soon after that he said "I won't be able to keep that promise in person,

To Watch

The Fairfax High School show is available to watch for free. The link to this show is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OrAnjk-b1hw&feature=youtu.be>

but I'll always be with you." This line was in the monologue Gabe gave at the very end when Avabelle hung up the phone, and the screen changed to show just him. Actor Spencer Kury made a beautiful monologue, speaking metaphorically to Avabelle, telling her he'd always watch over her and he loved her very much.

Fairfax High School's "Good Afternoon, Angel" was an excellent story--a show with heart-melting love and intriguing dialogue and emotion, and overall an extremely well-done production.

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NEWS

Workhouse Arts Center Hosts Mardi Gras Celebration

Family-friendly in-person and virtual events including drive-thru parade and decoration contest.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

No need to make a trip to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras this year. Stay close to home to revel thanks to the nimble, out-of-the box thinking of the Workhouse Arts Center, celebrate Mardi Gras right here in Northern Virginia.

"We are thrilled to announce the first-ever Mardi Gras celebration at the Workhouse," said Elena Romanova, Chief Development Officer, Workhouse Arts Center. The celebration will feature two weeks of wide-ranging, family-friendly events. The events will be both virtual and in-person, at a social distance.

"Our activities are planned in response to an unprecedented community engagement with arts offerings at the Workhouse during the pandemic," added



WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Workhouse House Arts Center Mardi Gras celebration: 'Masked up': Elena Romanova, Chief Development Officer, Workhouse Arts Center.

"Taste of Mardi Gras" culinary art classes.

Other highlights of the Workhouse Mardi Gras gala

Romanova. "In the last ten months, the Workhouse Board and staff renewed their commitment to the organization's mission by adapting and creating opportunities to engage with art. The art makes life more bearable, and we are offering this new event so we can while away the winter blues together.

"We have designed family-friendly activities that will provide learning opportunities, bring joy and comfort, and allow for a safe space to interact with art," said Romanova.

The Workhouse mini-Mardi Gras festival begins with free on-line mixology sessions, classes on festive mask making, workshops on decorating cars and floats, and plenty more. On Saturday, Feb. 13, there will be "Let the Good Times Roll" events at the Workhouse Mardi Gras such as safe in-person activities, including socially distant glass bead demonstrations, and

SEE MARDI GRAS, PAGE 11

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

CALENDAR

NOW TO FEB. 7

"Winter's Tales." Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Winter can be many things--quiet, simple, elegant, cold, dark and hopeful. Winter's shadows are long and its daylight is precious. It is a season of white and blue, of cold and fire, of hibernation and regeneration. In "Winter's Tales" at the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, the gallery's artists demonstrate in a variety of mediums how they respond to the coldest and darkest time of the year. The exhibit features beautiful paintings, fine art photography, ceramics, exquisite jewelry and fabric art.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

Red Wolves in Virginia. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Online. Join the Sierra Club Great Falls Group for a free online event to learn about proposals to reintroduce critically endangered red wolves to Virginia. RSVP for link: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?form-campaignid=7013q000001kYP6AAM>

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

Family Fun Trivia Night. 7-9 p.m. Virtual. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. Gather the whole family around the computer or tablet and get ready for some socially distant trivia. Prizes for winning teams. To register for Old Firehouse events, visit: www.oldfirehouse.org or call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

FACETS's Free Magic Show. 7-9 p.m. Virtual. FACETS will hosts a virtual free, family-friendly event that features a special performance by celebrity magician Joel Meyers. FACETS' Magic of Community event raises awareness and funds to combat poverty and homelessness in Fairfax County. The online event is free but donations are encouraged. Also during the event, several FACETS' clients will be sharing their courageous stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Attendees will be inspired as they renew their commitment to a Fairfax County where everyone has a place to call home. Register at <http://facetscares.org/register-for-facets-virtual-magic-show-event/>

Mardi Gras Celebration

FROM PAGE 10

will be a unique COVID-safe and family friendly Workhouse Mardi Gras Parade and Decoration Contest scheduled for Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.. There will also be two live drive-in comedy shows by "Rahmein and Friends" later on Feb. 13.

For the Workhouse Mardi Gras parade contest there are a number of categories

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Ye Olde Tavern. 4-5 p.m. Virtual. Chase away the pandemic Winter blues and raise a glass and a song to health and happiness in "Ye Olde Tavern." Musical hosts Jennifer Cutting and Steve Winick, along with song leaders from the Washington Revels community, for rousing tunes and toasts to warm your heart. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://revels-dc.org/2021/jan31-winter-pub-sing/>

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Winter Stream Life. 1-2 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Explore Walney Creek with a naturalist to meet some of the small creek critters (macroinvertebrates) that call it home. Learn why so many different types of macroinvertebrates are active in winter streams. Your naturalist will demonstrate winter collecting, and you can help pick, sort and learn to identify these magnificent critters. This program is designed for participants age 8 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

MONDAY/FEB. 1

Making Rope. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Journey back to the 1800s at Sully Historic Site and experience the challenges people once faced in making a rope sturdy enough for their needs. Make a piece of rope from plants found on the property at Sully and take it home to compare with today's ropes. The cost is \$30 per family. Social distancing and face coverings are required. Call 703-437-1794.

FEB. 1-13

Mardi Gras at the Workhouse. In-Person on Saturday, Feb. 13., 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is thrilled to present its first-ever Mardi Gras celebration. Join them for two weeks of family-friendly events that will engage, inspire, teach and make you laugh. This mini festival will include: Online workshops on festive mask making; Online Mixology sessions; Online demonstrations on how to make floats or yard decorations; In-person glass bead demonstrations; In-person cooking classes; Parade on the Workhouse Campus; and Drive In Comedy Shows.

Where and When

Workhouse Arts Center presents a virtual and in-person Mardi Gras celebration. Socially distant, in-person events at 9518 Workhouse Way, Building W16, Lorton. Virtual and in-person Mardi Gras events are Feb. 1 to Feb. 13, 2021. Tickets: Some events are free, others require paid tickets starting at \$10. For details visit www.workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900. Workhouse staff request early registration since space is limited

to be judged including: Best Float, Best Decorated Car, Best Costume, Best Wagon, and Best Stroller. Double Feature Comedy Rahmein and Friends is a live drive-in event. There is a parade entry fee of \$10.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Virtual Town Hall Meeting, this Saturday

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a virtual Town Hall meeting, this Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9-11 a.m. They'll each provide an overview of issues being debated in the General Assembly and will take questions and comments from their constituents.

The event will be livestreamed on Fairfax City's Website, www.fairfaxva.gov, and broadcast on TV (channel 12 on Verizon and Cox). Check <http://www.davidbulova.com/> closer to the meeting for information on how constituents may send in their questions. Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer will be the moderator.

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Reoriented



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or to quote my high school baseball coach: "Reoriented." A cancer diagnosis, especially a "terminal" one, can cause that. However, what I'm addressing this week is money: what to do with what you have when you didn't expect you'd still have it. And by 'have it,' I mean you're still alive and you still have some control over what to do with it.

What this previous paragraph questions is what to do with the money you've accumulated your whole life after you've outlived your original prognosis, which for my non small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "13 months to two years." The timer began in late February, 2009. I was aged 54 and nearly a half. My widowed mother had just died the previous December after reaching her 86th birthday. My father had died almost exactly two years earlier, at the age 87. Given my parent's at death, I figured/planned on living into my mid-eighties. That all changed when Team Lourie met the oncologist who has now been treating me going on about 12 years.

All my life, pre-cancer and post-cancer, I've paid attention to money: working for it, saving it, spending it and financially-planning it. As I became older, my needs expanded and so too did the sum of money I needed: college, car, wedding, house and then retirement. Now at age 66, 42 as a husband and 12 as a cancer survivor, the future has unexpectedly, given my prognosis, become my present.

During the early years of my diagnosis, I didn't really know how to spend the money I had saved: on the here and now because I was diagnosed as terminal and saw no future in depriving myself or to simply continue living my life spending/saving money as I always had. I chose the former because to me choosing the latter would have been giving into my cancer diagnosis.

Well, almost 12 years have passed since late Feb., 2009. Much has happened. None more significantly as has been my re-diagnosis to papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV, from the previous non small lung cancer, also stage IV. Though my particular type of thyroid cancer is terminal (the sole effective medication has a three-year-ish effective window than there's nothing available), I do have less of a lung cancer diagnosis hanging over my bank account. And yet, the money issue has raised its ugly dilemma once again. Rather than living with death occurring at any time, I now have a bit of a timeline: three years, but with an indeterminate one to follow. Before I had a definite that turned into a maybe. Now I have a maybe that's sort of turned into a definite. As such, once again, do I spend like I'm dying or spend/save like I'm living? The further complication is I'm basically retired and now having to make decisions which have been a lifetime in the making that for many of those years didn't have to factor in cancer and an adjusted, shall we say, life expectancy. It's challenging to determine how much money you're going to need when you can't predict the future. I mean, I'm living proof.

Being the baby of the baby - of the family, I'm pretty much the end of the line dating back approximately 150 years to Russia. And since we have no children, there's no one to pick up my slack. I can't run out of money because I'm responsible for my own slack. I can't presume that I won't outlive my resources any more than I can predict my cancer-affected demise. A demise and a quality of life that could be enhanced if I were to spend a bit of the money I do have, mindful always of the consequences however.

I realize, more than most, that there's no time like the present. Nevertheless, I still want to believe I have a future. After all, it's worked (kept me alive) for nearly 12 years. Perhaps I still have another 12 left to live. If so, I'm going to try and treat myself a bit more often this time. I don't see any future in depriving myself.

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

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<p>BATTERY SPECIAL FREE</p> <p>BATTERY CHECK-UP INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT.</p> <p>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>	<p>LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL \$39.95</p> <p>\$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT & ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT.</p> <p>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>	<p>ALIGNMENT SPECIAL \$89.95</p> <p>4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS & SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE.</p> <p>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>	<p>BRAKE PAD SPECIAL \$99.95</p> <p>BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCMC PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95</p> <p>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>	<p>TOYOTA CARE PLUS \$329</p> <p>SPECIAL MAINTAINPEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES!</p> <p>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>	<p>SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE!</p> <p>\$10 OFF ... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99 \$15 OFF ... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199 \$20 OFF ... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499 \$50 OFF ... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+</p> <p>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/21.</p>
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