

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

Fighting Hunger in Local Neighborhoods

NEWS, PAGE 8



Holding some bags of donated food to bring by bus to the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry, are (from left) Fastran bus driver Idris Farah and Auxiliary Police Officer Tony Gul. This Stuff the Bus food drive was held Saturday, Jan. 30, outside the Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly.

'A Much-Needed Project' to Relieve Traffic

NEWS, PAGE 5

Fairfax County Severs Ties with ICE

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

PRSRPT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322
POSTAL CUSTOMER
EGR WSS
ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
REQUESTED IN HOME 2-4-21

'The County's in Dire Need of these Kinds of Facilities'

Affordable senior apartments proposed for Centreville.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

There's good news on the horizon for local senior citizens looking for affordable housing. Some 150 independent-living units are being proposed at the intersection of Stringfellow Road and Autumn Willow Drive in Centreville.

The wooded, 20.5-acre site comprises two parcels south of Autumn Willow. And the project is being planned by the Michaels Development Co., in conjunction with the Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority (FCRHA), which owns the property.

"We're calling it The Lodge at Autumn Willow," said architect Ben Kasdan. "The idea is to allow the residents to live in a lodge within this beautiful, natural setting. The proposal includes a basement-level, gathering spot at the end of each residential wing. And there'd be an accessible ramp leading to the front entrance."

Among the amenities is a courtyard envisioned as a reading cove and recreation area, as well as a trail. And new, widened sidewalks are planned along Autumn

Willow, where the entrance would be. The building exterior would be a combination of brick and siding.

THE SITE is located near two fire stations, a hospital and shopping areas. Michaels representatives first presented details of the project to the joint meeting of the Sully District Council (SDC) and the West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee in September, returning Jan. 18 with an update.

At the first meeting, Nick Bracco, representing the applicant, said the senior apartments will be restricted to people earning 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and below. So, he explained, the cost would be "\$50,000-\$60,000 for two seniors moving into a two-bedroom unit together." He said they hope to break ground in early 2022.

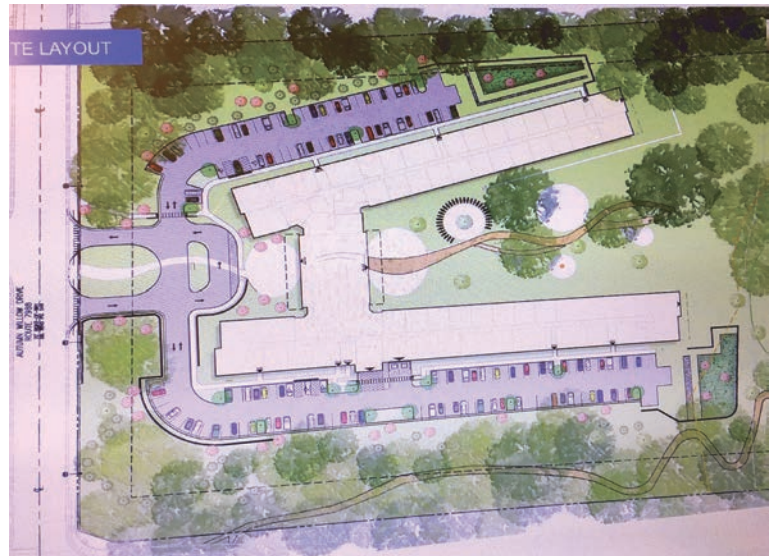
After the presentation, Jeff Parnes, the SDC's first vice-president, was pleased with what he heard and told the applicant, "I think this will be a benefit to the community. I wish you the best."

However, members of the joint land-use committee had a few suggestions to improve the plan. They recommended the building's front entrance be covered to protect arrivals from rain and excessive heat. And they also wanted Michaels to make it easier for the facility's residents to travel on foot, east and south of the property, to get to nearby retail uses.

SEE APARTMENTS, PAGE 8



Artist's rendition of The Lodge at Autumn Willow in Centreville.



Site plan of the proposed affordable, senior, independent-living apartments.

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

TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates 703-999-2928

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

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com



**See why
millions trust
us for Home
& Auto.**

Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc
Kyle Knight, Agent
11736 Bowman Green Drive
Reston, VA 20190

I'm here to help life go right, by saving you time and money when you combine your home and auto insurance.

CALL ME TODAY.

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG
703-435-2300



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Bloomington, IL

Past issues of

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Fairfax County Severs Cooperation with ICE

Board adopts Trust Policy barring voluntarily sharing residents' immigrant status.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors approved in a vote of 9-to-1, the Public Trust and Confidentiality Policy (Trust Policy) introduced as a Board Matter on Jan. 26 by Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay and co-sponsored by Supervisors Dalia A. Palchik (D-Providence District) and John W. Foust (D-Dranesville District). The Trust Policy prohibits County employees, government agencies and departments, including the police, from voluntarily sharing information or cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials.

"Immigration enforcement is done by others, and unless required by law, we will not share immigration status for individuals. This is particularly important to our police department when we are trying to solve crimes in our community," McKay said.

The Trust Policy states: "It is not an appropriate use of Fairfax resources to facilitate enforcement of federal immigration law, which is the sole responsibility of the federal government. Cooperation with civil, administrative immigration enforcement is especially problematic because it lacks the constitutional protections of criminal law, and ICE civil detention requests are frequently issued in error."

The policy reasserted what McKay said was the role of local government and the community's desire to assist people by working with them, not against them.

"Having this policy in place is the humane and right thing to do to provide safeguards to those who need our services the most," Supervisor Walter Alcorn said.

THE TRUST POLICY addressed reports that some undocumented immigrants in the County avoided seeking help during the pandemic out of fear of being deported after information they shared with the County would be disclosed to federal immigration officials. Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee District) said it became clear to him from conversations with a number of nonprofit organizations that there were community members "who were fearful and not willing to come forward and ask for help because they thought they were going to put themselves in jeopardy."

According to a post by ACLU People Power Fairfax on Facebook, Jan. 26, the Trust Policy "provides privacy protection for residents' www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



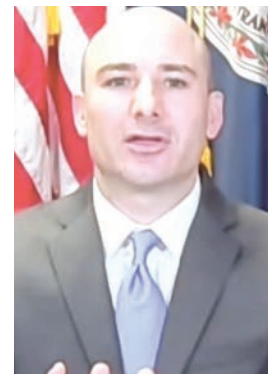
BOS Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay (D-At Large)



Luis Aguilar, Virginia State Director, CASA



Diane Alejandro, ACLU People Power Fairfax



Steve Descano (D), Commonwealth's Attorney in Fairfax County



Melvin Mancía, CASA member



ACLU PEOPLE POWER FAIRFAX FACEBOOK

ACLU People Power Fairfax members rejoice when hearing Fairfax County Adopts Trust Policy

personal information; it restricts information sharing with all outside entities. This helps all Fairfax residents, but especially immigrants because ICE is so adept at data-mining any information from any source."

A second post the next day by ACLU People Power Fairfax said that the Trust Policy does not just "codify" existing practice.

"Significant new guardrails were put in place to prevent direct AND indirect sharing of data with ICE. Immigrants can breathe easier. Their fear of government was not irrational even if county employees did not intentionally share their information; the risk was there. Now trust can be rebuilt," ACLU posted.

On Friday, Jan. 29, immigrant rights advocacy groups CASA and ACLU People Power Fairfax co-hosted a bilingual press conference. After four years of advocacy, they celebrated passage of the Trust Policy. Moderators Luis Aguilar of CASA, and Diane Alejandro, with ACLU People Power Fairfax, celebrated and spotlighted comments by McKay, Foust, Palchik, Steve Descano,

Commonwealth's Attorney, and members of CASA and ACLU People Power Fairfax.

"It is without a doubt that Fairfax County is leading the way for CASA and our 100,000 regional members," said Aguilar.

McKay said the Trust Policy passage marked a new chapter for Fairfax County. "We will do everything we can to help people, protect them from association with ICE," said McKay.

Foust said the advocacy and education provided by the CASA and ACLU teams led to the adoption of the Trust Policy, and the timing couldn't be more critical to the Latino community.

"Covid is having a grossly disproportionate impact on the Latino community," Foust said. "Everyone can take advantage of the ongoing public health efforts. Whether it be testing or vaccinating, or assisting with contact tracing, it is critical. ... This can be a huge step, I believe, toward fighting the spread of Covid in the Latino community."

For Palchik, it was personal. "It's very close to my heart, not only as the first Latino

Supervisor here in the history of Fairfax County but also as an immigrant."

Steve Descano, Commonwealth's Attorney, said that with the passage of the Trust Policy, "If you come to court, you will not be turned over to ICE. ... I'll continue to work with County leadership and get input from groups like those that are joining us today and, as always, bring the values of the community into the courthouse."

According to Alejandro, she and McKay agreed that non-law enforcement agencies already strive to protect immigration status. Still, other information that ICE has used to locate its targets remained vulnerable. "This is why the protections against sharing addresses and other private information are so important. The ones in the Trust Policy rival the best in the country. The board can be proud," Alejandro said.

DURING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, McKay said that the policy is for all Fairfax County agencies, but does not apply to those operated by towns and the City of Fairfax. "It's a little bit of a mixed bag for programs that those individual cities run. Our policy can't dictate what they do. ... For services that we run in those jurisdictions, this policy does apply to those. For example ... in some cases, we run the school system." McKay said that as for things that come up through the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, of which the County Police Department is a member, "our officers will not be participating in that. This policy doesn't set the policies of the Gang Task Force."

Other comments shared during the celebration of the passage of Trust Policy:

Melvin Mancía, a CASA member, resident of Fairfax County since 2004, said police pulled him over for a traffic violation. "I am one of those persons who have suffered the consequences of the previous law," Mancía said. Police took him, handed him over to ICE, and detained him in a facility for months. Unlike some of his friends, Mancía got out. He lost his home and his business. His friends lost more. When they were de-

Putting Just Into Justice

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



COMMENTARY

Under current Virginia law a person who steals something of value less than \$1,000 can be punished by up to 12 months in jail with fines up to \$2,500 along with any restitution that might be owed. As tough as that sentence may seem, if that same person commits another misdemeanor larceny of whatever amount less than a thousand dollars within any time frame in the future, that person under current law can be jailed for between 30 days and 12 months. A third or any subsequent offense at any time in the future results in a Class 6 felony with up to five years in prison.

Persons who practice law defending individuals facing such charges tell me that the accused are most likely to be poor, and the vast majority are homeless and/or mentally ill. Upping the penalties on such persons is neither just for the vulnerable persons involved nor does it make

society any safer. With thanks to Justice Forward of Virginia (justiceforwardva.com) for bringing my attention to this injustice, I introduced HB2290 that is now making its way through the House to repeal the enhanced penalties.

This bill is but one example of laws that have been on the books for years but upon examination

are clearly not just laws; they do not agree with what is considered morally right or good. For most of the years I have served in the House of Delegates, I was the lone vote against a series of bills that added to the list of capital crimes. Along the way conservative Republican Frank Hargrove of Hanover County joined me in my opposition to the death penalty. In more recent years, opposition to the death penalty has grown to the point where it appears likely that the death penalty will be abolished this year by a bill of which I am a co-patron.

Abolishing the death penalty would help put

just into the justice system in the Commonwealth. Between 1901 and 1981, 258 Black people were executed in Virginia at a rate nearly six times the rate of white people. Not a single white person was executed for any crime other than murder while Black persons were executed for crimes that included armed robbery and attempted sexual assault. During its history stretching back to 1608, Virginia put to death 1,300 people including the most women and young children of any state in the Union.

This legislative session may be the most historic yet in reforming the criminal justice system. Bills pending before the current session include repealing mandatory minimum sentencing, ending felony possession for drugs, reforming the broken probation system, instituting automatic expungement of criminal records, establishing pay parity for public defenders, and ending presumption against bail.

Virginians will be no less safe in their person or in their possessions when the laws become more just, fair and equally applied regardless of one's race. Laws that are just are more likely to be respected and certainly easier to defend.

Volunteering for Area Parks

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

As many citizens take a renewed interest in community service as an energy outlet and to help others during the challenges of the pandemic, we note the on-going efforts of 2018 Ellie Doyle Park Service Award honoree Michael Applegate. Applegate, a familiar figure to users of Laurel Hill Park, has been logging a minimum of 30 hours weekly since 2016. Initially concentrating on mowing along walking and biking trails, of late he has been spending more time on drainage improvement and expanding trail verge areas into the thicker brush.

This week we found Applegate assisting the area's County Maintenance Operations crew in improving an old broken drain at the Park's Ashton-Snowden entrance. A small broken pipe and brickwork dating from the prison era, lining a portion of Giles Run, were improved with a larger volume pipe and added trail for access. Applegate hand dug rocks into the stream bank using a shovel and pick, framing the large water carrier pipe. County maintenance crew members then



Laurel Hill Park volunteer Michael Applegate stands at his hand dug rock wall lining creek drainage.

used mechanized equipment to cover the pipe and line the passage with border rocks.

The enhancements add improvements needed after relocation of some Giles Run Disc Golf Course



County park maintenance employees Gabe Fetzer and Christian Croke (in cab) work with volunteer Michael Applegate to improve the trail and drain dated from the prison era.

holes to accommodate the land sale and housing development adjacent to the course.



'A Much-Needed Project' to Relieve Traffic

Plans for Route 28 widening are moving along.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Eventually, the pandemic will subside and rush-hour traffic – with all its headaches and frustration – will resume on Route 28 in Centreville. But a plan is en route to widen this major highway in Fairfax County and thereby relieve both local and commuter traffic.

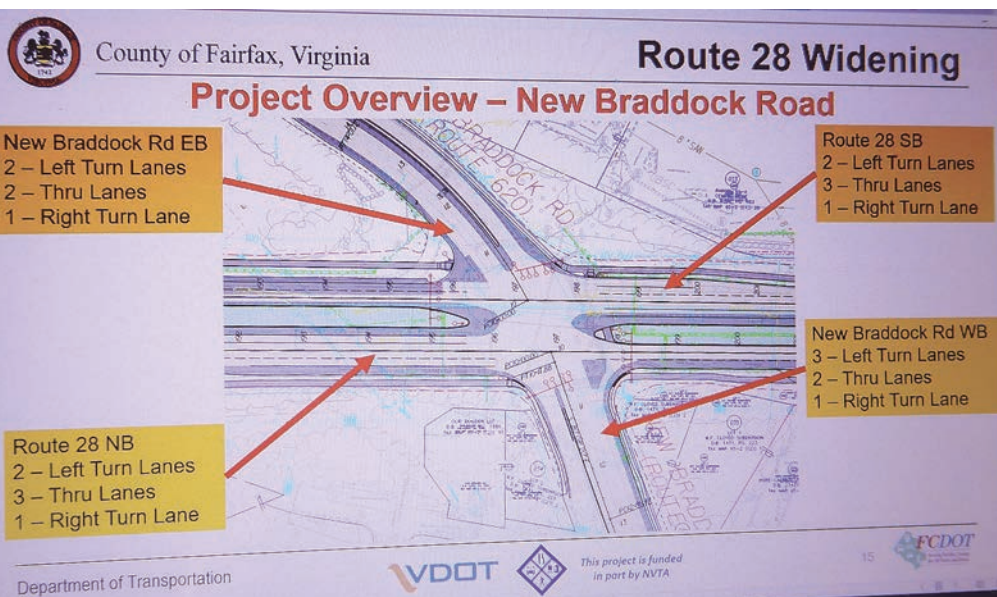
Toward that end, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) recently held an online meeting to update the public about the project. Participants included FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny; Jim Beall, Section Chief of FCDOT's Transportation Design Division; Joe Fragale, with Shirley Contracting Co., the project's design/build contractor; and county Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Pat Herry (R-Springfield).

Pleased to hear that things are moving along well with the Route 28 widening, Herry said, "This is a much-needed project that will bring us much-needed relief."

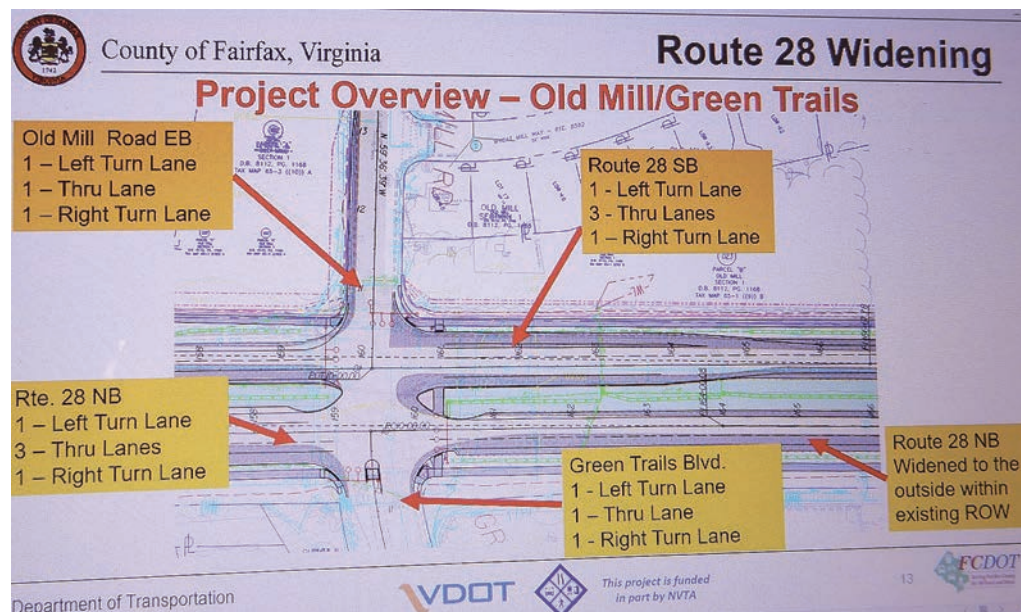
UNDER THE PLAN, Route 28 will be widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, from the bridge over Bull Run at the Prince William/Fairfax County line to the Routes 28/29 Interchange in Centreville. Besides adding more through lanes to Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will improve intersection operations, as well, by upgrading existing traffic signals and improving bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28.

This is a county project being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). To get it accomplished as quickly as possible, it's being done via a design-build process. This method allows for more-rapid progress by combining and overlapping the design, right-of-way, utility and construction phases. As a result, many of the tasks are done con-



A look at work planned at the New Braddock Road/Route 28 intersection.



What's on tap for the Green Trails Boulevard/Old Mill Road intersection with Route 28.

currently, rather than one after another.

The \$88.35 million road widening is fully funded, with the majority of the money coming from NVTA Regional Funds and State SmartScale Funds, as well as local dollars. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has already endorsed the design plans.

Northbound Route 28 will be widened on the outside; and on southbound Route 28, the center line will be shifted over 5 feet so a future lane could go in the middle. The curves north of Compton Road and south of New Braddock Road will be improved for

better sight distance, and Bradenton Drive will remain unsignalized,

Due to lack of funding to do more, Route 28 will just be widened to six lanes, but it's being designed for eight lanes in the future. And noise and environmental-impact analyses are both being based on eight lanes existing in 2040 at the loudest hour of the day.

IMPROVEMENTS will be made at all signalized intersections by adding turn lanes and/or one or more additional lanes on side streets. Doing so eliminates split-phase, sig-

nal operations and improves overall intersection operations. Proposed are:

- ❖ Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at New Braddock Road;
- ❖ Dual left-turn lanes on northbound Route 28 at Machen Road;
- ❖ Triple left turns from westbound New Braddock to southbound Route 28;
- ❖ Adding one lane on both westbound and eastbound Compton Road, eastbound Old Mill Road and westbound Old Centreville Road (at the north end of the project).

In addition, median crossovers at Darkwood Drive and south of Compton Road will both be removed. There'll be some right-of-way impacts on various parcels, but the land acquisition will be done for a road with all eight lanes, so it won't have to be done again later.

Initially, four design options were proposed for the intersection of Ordway, Compton and Old Centreville roads. But because of budgetary constraints, Ordway's alignment will remain the same, with just the new lanes being added.

"We've eliminated the stormwater-management pond at New Braddock," said Fragale. "[Instead], the property south of Ordway will be used for a stormwater-management pond, and there'll also be one northwest of the Bradenton/Route 28 intersection."

At the southern end of the project, work will begin at the Prince William County line and progress to Green Trails Boulevard/Old Mill Road in Centreville. At the same time, work will also start at Green Trails/Old Mill and continue northward to the Route 29 Interchange.

Since this project contains federal money, a proposal for noise mitigation is required for neighborhoods where the projected noise levels will exceed established criteria. But the residents must declare, in writing, that they want noise walls.

Potential noise barriers are currently being evaluated. One is for the east side of Route 28, between New Braddock Road and Darkwood Drive; the other is for the west side of Route 28, north of Compton Road.

Permanent roadway widening is slated to begin this spring and summer. Night work during construction is likely, but there'll be no lane closures during peak travel hours. Substantial road construction is expected to be finished by spring 2023, with final completion set for that summer.

2021 Virtual Fairfax County Teen Job and Opportunity Fairs: Signup Begins Feb. 1

For the past few years Supervisor Pat Herry's office, Fairfax County Public Schools and Connection Newspapers, along with Supervisors' offices, businesses, and community organizations including our local chambers, have hosted very successful teen job fairs and career-building workshops. These events focused on students and young job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. The

fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for our employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions.

This year Herry is once again teaming up with Connection Newspapers, Fairfax County Public Schools, community chambers and organizations and fellow Board members to bring our community two Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops. Normally, there are 5-6 fairs at local high schools. With the limitations of the on-

going pandemic, this year's fairs will be hosted virtually through Brazen, a professional virtual job fair platform. The virtual fairs are scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fairs will be open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment, volunteer opportunities, or tips on building their resume. Free online booth space will be provided to businesses and organizations to advertise their available positions. We will also host resume and career building sessions

with our Chamber of Commerce partners.

Beginning Feb. 1, students as well as employers can register to attend at this link, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs.

First jobs are important, and these events help connect teens with employers and prepare our youth for the workforce. This year especially, students and employers are desperate for opportunities provided by the fair with the hope that some normalcy will begin this summer.

Announcements

Announcements



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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
THROUGH MARCH 26, 2021

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. The program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2021-2022 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

or contact Lily Jones, Division of Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1888.

FRRL GIVES FREE BOOKS TO AREA STUDENTS

This winter, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library is providing almost 2,000 free, new books to children in Reston. In conjunction with school meal programs, organizations all over the country have also been providing free books to children during this time of crisis and isolation. Inspired by these organizations, FRRL saw an opportunity to foster young readers in our own community.

The FRRL Book Bites project will distribute nearly \$15,000 worth of new books to children at four Reston public schools during meal pickup times. Books were chosen from nationally recognized and recommended children's reading lists, with direct input from school librarians, reading specialists, and staff. Books were received, inventoried, sorted and bagged by volunteers. Volunteers will also hand out the books at the schools in the coming weeks. Students and families coming to pick up meals and snacks will be able to take home books as well. Bundles are arranged by reading level (e.g., "K-1") and families will be able to take bundles for multiple students within a given household.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

The Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation of Reston is hosting speaker, Mark Oppenheimer, on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Dr. Oppenheimer is an author, speaker, and professor at Yale University. His current writing project is Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood about the Squirrel Hill neighborhood in the aftermath of

the 2018 synagogue shooting. Sign up to attend this presentation at the website: <https://nvhc.shulcloud.com/form/speaker-series-2/11.html>

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is accepting applications for college scholarships for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Eligible students include high school seniors, undergraduates, and graduate students in Northern Virginia. Community Foundation manages 12 scholarships and administers the funds for 18 other scholarships that support Northern Virginia students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The applications for scholarships are due by 5 p.m. on April 2, 2021. To learn more about each scholarship opportunity and to apply visit: cfnova.org/grants-and-scholarships.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

Fiber Art 5 Ways. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. At Reston Community Center -- Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. "Fiber Art 5 Ways" showcases contemporary quilts. These works use fabric and thread to make original art that may be new to those used to thinking of quilts as simply bed coverings. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

PARKS REDUCE DEER POPULATIONS

Manassas National Battlefield Park, Catocin Mountain Park, Antietam

and Monocacy national battlefields, and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Harpers Ferry national historical parks will conduct deer management operations in 2021 to protect and restore native plants, promote healthy and diverse forests and preserve historic landscapes. Operations will take place at Manassas from Jan. 15 to Feb. 28, 2021, and at all other parks from Feb. 1 to March 31, 2021. Extensive safety measures will be in place to protect park visitors and neighbors during operations. Under the direction of NPS resource management specialists and in coordination with law enforcement park rangers, highly trained firearms experts experienced in conducting wildlife reduction operations will primarily work at night when the parks are closed to the public in a manner proven safe and effective.

NOW THRU FEB. 6

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) presents the Mary B. Howard Invitational: An Excellent Thought About a Quality Idea, a group exhibition featuring new work by Rahne Alexander, Matthew Mann, Omolara Williams McCallister, Zia Palmer, and Mojdeh Rezaeipour. The artists were selected by Guest Curators Zoë Charlton and Tim Doud, co-founders of | 'sindikit |, and Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Associate Curator Erica Harrison to revisit an older artwork and to redevelop the work into a new project. The exhibition's online viewing room is currently available, and a video-walkthrough and public programs will be announced soon. Visit restonarts.org.

Announcements

Announcements

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA ACCREDITED BUSINESS LIFETIME WARRANTY A COMPANY OF ALHS

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
AND! 10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
+ 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!**

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

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

Announcements

Announcements

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA • VACATION RENTALS



500 VACATION HOMES

Selling fast for summer 2021 due to need to escape covid



Book now for best selection!

www.brindleybeach.com

877-642-3224

Announcements

Announcements

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

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

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

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



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.

FEB. 2-26

The Learning Connection. At The Old Firehouse, McLean. The Old Firehouse Learning Connection is a supervised e-learning program supervised by staff, for students in the 5th-10th grades. The program will provide a supervised environment for students to complete their school-led virtual instruction. Staff will provide limited socially distant recreation opportunities for students during their breaks. Program waivers, participant contracts and additional information will be sent to all registered participants prior to the start of the program. Cost is \$300. To register, visit: www.oldfirehouse.org or call 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 3

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Sponsored by The Alden. Join the Unruly Theatre Project's virtual fall improv shows from the comfort of your couch! Register online and a Zoom link and password for the show will be emailed to you. Participants must register two hours in advance of showtime. Register online at www.aldentheatre.org.

SATURDAY & MONDAY, FEB. 6 & 8

"The University of Wonder & Imagination." 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. The University of Wonder & Imagination is now enrolling students of all ages and magical abilities...and there's a place with your name on it! Assemble with your fellow students and journey to the most unusual of universities, where the mysterious Professor Bamberg will send you off to interact with the liveliest of lecturers, choose your subjects of study, enter themed rooms (such as Math, Science, and Art!) and encounter all kinds of problems and puzzles, unlocking your magical powers as you go. The decisions made by you during the event will shape your unique experience. Purchase tickets \$15/\$10 MCC district residents.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Folklore Society of Greater Washington's Mini-Fest. 7 p.m. Online. Featuring an online concert with international world musician Kinobe, followed by storyteller Noa Baum. After an intermission enjoy sassy blues and honky-tonk music from singer/guitarists Eleanor Ellis and Martha Burns. Free, but reservations

are required. Information and reservations: <https://fsgw.org/event-3738989/Registration>

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Worst Spy Ever. 2-3:30 p.m. Cold War Museum (100% virtual). Most damaging spy ever? Robert Hanssen. Learn why from the Historian of the FBI. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ultimate-betrayal-robert-hanssen-people-he-got-killed-and-the-lessons-tickets-123410242357>.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Meet Author Kiley Reid. 2 p.m. Cosponsored by The Alden and FCPL. Cosponsored by The Alden and the Fairfax County Public Library. Celebrate Black History Month with Kiley Reid, bestselling author of "Such a Fun Age." Reid is the instant New York Times bestselling author of "Such a Fun Age," a critically acclaimed new novel that shines a bright light on the subtle, yet deeply impactful aspects of race and privilege in America. To register or for more information, visit www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

McLean Uncorked Part 3. 5-6 p.m. Free admission; registration is required. For beginners and connoisseurs alike, this wine experience will not disappoint! Join your friends, start your Super Bowl celebration early, or surprise your Valentine and enjoy this fun, virtual, live and interactive wine tasting and food pairing event. Four unique wines for this tasting are available to pre-purchase by registrants at Balducci's in McLean. A wine expert will lead this session and explore the selected wines as well as other interesting aspects of the art of wine tasting. To register or for more information, visit www.mclean-center.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Have a Heart Program. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Give a gift from the heart this Valentine's Day by creating a handmade heart at Sully Historic Site. Learn how to create a heart using wet felt technique. No needles are required. Celebrate the season of love of by decorating the heart just the way you like and sharing it with a special someone. This half-hour program at Sully Historic Site is for a family of up to four people. Cost is \$30 per family. Social distancing and face coverings are required. Call 703-437-1794.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

Search for Winter Waterfowl. 10-11 a.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Burke Lake Park is teeming with wildlife, even in the coldest months of winter. See what birds are calling the lake home this season with the park's "Waterfowl" program. During the program, you will walk the shores of Burke Lake in search of winter waterfowl. Be on the lookout for birds, such as loons, lesser scaups and ring-necked ducks. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. This program is designed for participants age 12 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-323-6600.

County Adopts Trust Policy

FROM PAGE 3

ported, Mancía said they ended up in the countries they fled out of fear of abuse. "Some of them were even killed."

Yanira Martínez is a CASA Member and resident of Fairfax County for eleven years. She is a single mother from El Salvador who cleans offices to support her family. Martínez and her family face Covid-19 without health insurance. She has fought for years so that at least now, with the Trust Policy, she has one less thing to worry about as she cares for her children.

Nuet Le is an ACLU People Power Fairfax member and has lived in the United States for forty-five years. She fled Vietnam as a youth with her family to escape the violence and persecution. "I remember what life was like in Vietnam, where police could pick you from the street or your home at any time. Then your family might never see you again. I understand why immigrants and people of color in Fairfax are afraid of the police and won't call them for help. Why they're afraid to get Covid tests or get treatment from the health department," Le said.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.	
25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Patios & Drainage
Your neighborhood company since 1987
703-772-0500

J.E.S. Services
Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured

- Planting & Landscaping Design
- Drainage & Water Problems
- Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New
- Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid
- Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose
- Retaining walls of all types

All work Guaranteed

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

Progress, I Guess?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I received in the mail today what in the sales/marketing world, we'd call a "pre-approach" letter. It was a letter confirming that my health care provider is aware of me and my covid needs. Moreover, it offered up the tantalizing notion that one day (although they didn't specify) when it is my turn, I will indeed get contacted/scheduled for my inoculation. Unfortunately, they couldn't be any more specific because their allotment of vaccines barely scratches the surface of the actual need. Nevertheless, both my wife and I have been assured that we are on a list. I suppose that's something. As "Forrest, Forrest Gump" would say: "One less thing."

Not that I'm paranoid about catching the virus or ever do I throw caution to the wind by actually integrating into the outside/formerly normal world, especially considering the comorbidity I represent: cancer, but all things being equal, I'd sure like to receive my inoculation. I'd just as soon die of old age. And my wife is doing everything she can to make that happen. She has me on a very short leash. I'm barely able to heel. A pandemic will do that.

As we begin our second year of living dangerously, the vaccines certainly offer hope. Hope can't iron out the logistics, however. Apparently, at least according to the daily news coverage, inoculating so many people in so many places with or without the proper refrigeration is a nearly overwhelming task. Then add in the necessary ingredients: ppe, masks, syringes, swabs, trained inoculators, et cetera, and you've got a hurdle Edwin Moses couldn't overcome. To see that this virus has killed more Americans than died in World War II is a stunning reality to behold. Seeing the death tally rise every day is a jaw-dropping/head-shaking moment. Progress, so far, has been hard to come by. Though there are some alternative theories and explanations about the actual numbers, I tend to believe what the news organizations are telling us. I really don't see the motivation to do otherwise.

Ultimately, we're all responsible for our own actions - and inactions, and the consequences that follow (I only heard that a million times from my father while growing up). If I was to contract covid, I'd have no one to blame but myself. My wife might blame others as she's very impatient/indignant of people who are not adhering to public health advisories and who don't abide by the Vulcan philosophy, especially during a worldwide pandemic: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." And it doesn't seem a stretch to ask/expect that your fellow man - and woman, should respect the constriction of some of our freedoms as together, hopefully, we work to overcome this once-in-a-century health crisis. In an odd kind of karma, what goes around does indeed come around. And to prevent this virus from continually coming around, we must be mindful of the scientific facts as more and more is known about this virus.

Still for those of us who have survived this worst pandemic since the Spanish Flu, it's one year and counting. I don't view it as much of an accomplishment, more a series of random strokes that add up to luck. However, since luck doesn't last forever, and can't exactly be counted on, I was happy to receive today's letter acknowledging that the health care powers that be know who I am and where to find me and that I need a vaccination. Presuming otherwise, in the midst of an organizational challenge the likes of which haven't ever been experienced by the current generation in charge, or previous generations for that matter, would be illogical. Here's hoping we all "live long and prosper."

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

Fighting Hunger in Local Neighborhoods

Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus rolls into action.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Wheels on the Bus” is a classic children’s song that tells the story of a little bus going “All ‘round the town.” On Saturday, Jan. 30, Fairfax County’s little Fastran buses traveled all ‘round the county, to 21 locations, in a fight against hunger. For its tenth year, Stuff the Bus was at it again to meet the critical need to help restock local food pantry shelves after the holidays.

The demand for food has never been greater than this year due to the economic disruption caused by the pandemic. Little Fastran buses parked at 21 locations from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside county facilities, including many Board of Supervisors’ offices and the Pennino building in Fairfax to allow donors to comply with social distancing recommendations and collect food donations outside. The buses would return for second runs on Saturday, Feb. 6.

Cars arrived at the Hunter Mill District Supervisor’s Office of Walter Alcorn (D), 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, shortly after 10 a.m. Residents of the district had been generous with prior Stuff the Bus donations during the pandemic. Collections at this site would benefit nonprofits Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and Cornerstones who, according to Supervisor Alcorn, “work tirelessly to support families dealing with food insecurity.”

“Every jar of peanut butter or can of beans helps, and I am grateful for all supporting Stuff the Bus,” Supervisor Alcorn said.

Esther Fausett of Reston and her son, Solomon, 5, were the first to place their items on the bus. “For my birthday, I asked my children to volunteer,” said Esther.

According to the County website, for those who cannot donate in person, monetary donations can be made by visiting the partner nonprofits’ websites or by visiting Volunteer Fairfax’s Stuff the Bus Donation



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

With a little help from his mother, Esther Fausett, Solomon, 5, of Reston hands his food donation bag to Jose Gomes, Fairfax County MV Transportation Fastran Bus Driver in the parking lot of the Hunter Mill District Supervisor’s Office, one of the 21 Countywide Stuff the Bus donation locations on Jan. 30.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Auxiliary Police Officer Tony Gul and Fastran bus driver Idris Farah are ready to load these food donations onto the bus for nonprofit WFCM’s food pantry. This Stuff the Bus food drive was held Saturday, Jan. 30, outside the Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly.

Page. Nonprofits can turn donated dollars into more meals with a monetary donation by purchasing food in bulk or through special discounts. Monetary donations also allow pantries to purchase culturally appropriate foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, low-fat dairy products, and lean proteins, which can’t be collected through food drives.



Members of the Herndon Town Council and Herndon staff at the Town Council Public Session on Jan. 26.

Herndon Town Council Fills Vacancies

On Jan. 26, the Town Council of the Town of Herndon approved in a vote of 7-to-0 four items on the consent agenda.

Council appointed Councilmember Naila Alam, as the Town’s elected official to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority’s Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (NVTA PCAC) for the 2021-2022 term.

Council reappointed Clark Hedrick to the Board of Zoning Appeals to a five-year term ending Dec. 31, 2025.

Council reappointed Matthew Ossolinski as the “Architect/Architectural Historian” to the Historic District Review Board for a one-year [non-resident] term ending Feb. 28, 2022.

Finally, Council appointed Andrew J. Czekaj, III as the Town of Herndon member to the Phase II Dulles Rail Transportation Improvement District Advisory Board to fill an unexpired four-year term ending Jan. 31, 2024. The Town of Herndon continually seeks individuals interested in serving on the town’s boards, commissions, and advisory and ad hoc committees. For additional information about serving on the Town’s boards, commissions, and ad hoc committees contact the Town Clerk or visit the Talent Bank Application page on the Town’s website.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Andrew J. Czekaj, III



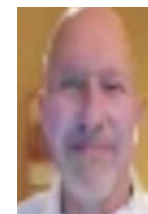
Clark Hedrick



Councilmember Naila Alam



Matthew Ossolinski



Affordable Senior Apartments Proposed for Centreville

FROM PAGE 2

At the Jan. 18 meeting, attorney Brian Winterhalter, representing Michaels, said the proposal is scheduled to go before the county Planning Commission on Feb. 3 and the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 23. He also noted that county staff is recommending approval and then listed the changes that have been made to the initial proposal.

“Since our last presentation, we’ve increased the amount of tree preservation in the courtyard and have committed to using natural and native landscaping,” he said. “We reduced the number of parking

spaces from 150 to 135, which also reduces the amount of impervious surface on the site. And we plan to channel the water [run-off] in as environmentally sensitive a way as possible.”

This will be accomplished via two, bioretention basins on the property to maximize phosphorus removal through treatment. More than 85 percent of the water from the impervious area is to be treated by a water-quality facility.

In addition, Michaels added a canopy to the front of the building so there’ll be a covered walkway for drop-offs and pickups. “The canopy was a really good idea,” Winterhalter told the land-use panel. “Thank

you for your suggestion.”

Furthermore, he said, “We took another look at the trail connection, and there’s an existing trail running west to east that will be maintained in place on this property. That way, people can head east without encroaching into the resource protection area.” He also said the applicant has met with several homeowners’ associations about this project, as well as with land-use groups in both the Sully and Springfield districts.

REGARDING THE DECREASE in parking spaces, SDC’s Lewis Grimm asked if 135 spaces would be “sufficient to cover the expected demands of residents, visitors and

staff.” Winterhalter said yes and added that people could park on Autumn Willow, too.

Resident Jehanne Arslan asked how the stored water would be released from the site. Engineer Steve Gleason, with Gordon & Associates, replied, “When the water in the bioretention area reaches capacity, it will be conveyed through a storm-sewer line to the creek.”

The joint land-use committee then told Winterhalter it had no objections to this project. “The county’s in dire need of these kinds of facilities,” said WFCCA Land-Use Chairman John Litzenger. “So we encourage this type of development.”