

Delta Variant Has Room to Run Rampant

Removing invisible vaccine barriers for communities in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Jump on a moon bounce, grab an empanada from a food truck and get a Covid vaccine. That's right. The Fairfax County community is scrambling on multiple fronts in a war against Covid's Delta variant as the County recorded 124 new Covid cases Sunday, Aug. 1. The County is doing whatever it takes to increase the number of vaccinated to reach the gold medal of herd immunity. Fairfax Health District reported on Aug. 1, 58 percent of all Fairfax County Health District residents were fully vaccinated; 64 percent received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Some local agencies are easing the way for people to receive on-site vaccinations at places like their apartment complexes and holding vaccine and family fun days. Some individuals are masking up indoors to protect others and themselves. New data released on July 30 in the UVA COVID-19 Model provided by the University of Virginia Biocomplexity Institute and released by the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC's data made public the same day on the spread of the Delta variant are causing concern.

According to the UVA model, the key takeaways are that the Delta variant poses a "significant public health concern" based on the current course of the pandemic. The Delta variant is dominant in Virginia, seeing case growth with 10 of 35 Health Districts experiencing surges. One reason for the surge is that the Delta variant has room to run primarily among unvaccinated people. Vaccination rates are still below herd immunity levels, and many Virginians are returning to normal.

ON FRIDAY, the CDC released evidence that the Delta variant was easily contagious and those vaccinated less protected than they may think. Vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant carry similar viral loads in their noses and throats as the unvaccinated. While they can spread the disease, they are rarely hospitalized.

Delta is here, though, in Fairfax County. The UVA model reports over 70 percent of all new COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth as the Delta variant and predicts this



People begin to line up for the vaccine.

figure will reach 90 percent by mid-August.

The Delta variant is considerably more transmissible and causes more severe cases than prior variants. Studies suggest that it may be nearly "twice as likely to cause illness requiring hospitalization compared to earlier variants...Delta is also more likely to cause reinfections in those who have pre-

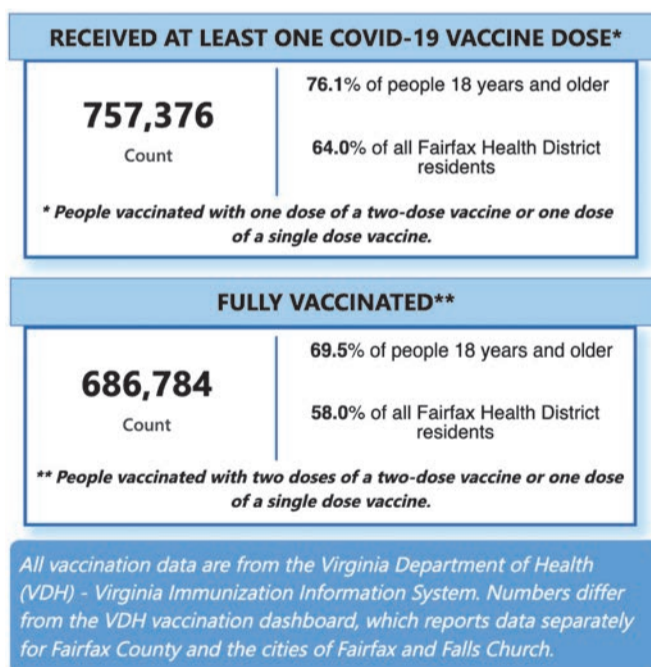
variant is "more capable of causing breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated individuals than prior strains... confidence in the efficacy of these vaccines remains high," according to the UVA model. People who do get infected are less likely to experience severe illness requiring hospitalization. "The vaccinated individual may feel few or no symptoms of illness, but still be infectious to others," according to the UVA model.

On July 27, the CDC issued guidance if a person is fully vaccinated, "to reduce the risk of being infected with the Delta variant and possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission." According to the CDC, new data shows that unlike other Covid variants, people vaccinated and infected with the Delta variant can still get high viral loads and could spread the virus.

"Unlike the Alpha variant that we had back in May, where we didn't believe that if you were vaccinated, you could transmit further, this is different now with a Delta variant," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said.

Jessica Gutierrez-Lugo is a Community Organizer with Opportunity Neighborhoods. On Saturday, July 31, Gutierrez-Lugo helped manage a Healthy Family Fun Day with a moon bounce, games, food trucks, and raffles at the Berkdale Apartments in the Town of Herndon. However, the event's purpose was an enticement, an intentional outreach to the community enabling adults and children 12 years and older with parental permission to get vac-

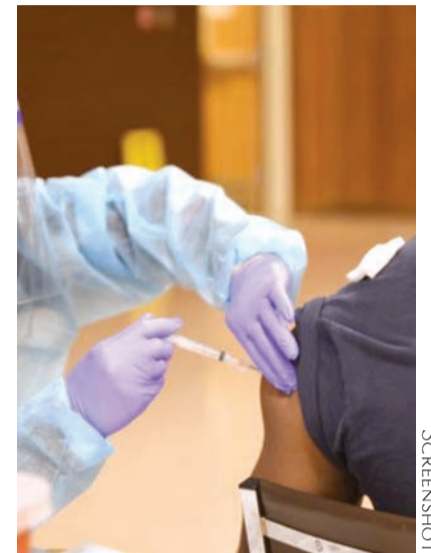
SEE REMOVING, ON PAGE 8



As of Aug. 1, 2021. 64 percent of All Fairfax Health Districts residents received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose and 58 percent of all Fairfax Health District residents are fully vaccinated.

viously had COVID-19 and recovered," according to the UVA COVID-19 Model Weekly update.

Vaccines remain the best defense against the Delta variant to reduce the risk of infection and severe disease. While the Delta



Vaccination remains the best tool in preventing a Delta variant surge.

Fairfax County Holds County-wide Vaccine Equity Clinics

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Bringing the COVID-19 vaccine to the people rather than relying on them to find their way to a site is one option to get people vaccinated and slow the surging Delta variant.

In May 2021, the Fairfax County Health Department began to review vaccination data across the county regularly. "Using land parcel population estimates and vaccination data, our epidemiologists have identified some neighborhoods that are under-vaccinated," said Sharon D. Arndt, Director, COVID19 Response High Risk Task Force Leader Community Health Development Division Fairfax County Health Department.

"Working with community partners and residential management companies, we have established pop-up clinics in many of these neighborhoods to offer the vaccine and to improve vaccination rates," Arndt said.

"We have recently begun to deploy vaccine navigation teams to neighborhoods to help connect residents to nearby vaccine appointments that can be found on staywellnova.com," she added.

According to Arndt, their Vaccine Equity Clinics began in early February. They held clinics in FCPS schools, community centers, board offices, libraries, retail space, homeless shelters, houses of worship, and residential management companies.

"We work with different anchor vaccinators to deliver the vaccine - such as Safeway, Neighborhood Health FQHC [Federal Qualified Health Cen-

SEE FAIRFAX COUNTY, ON PAGE 8

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#WeAreAlexandria



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Majestically sited overlooking the grand Potomac and Belle Haven Country Club, this home features a welcoming gallery foyer with large room sizes, wide hallways, and gleaming hardwood flooring. It has been strategically positioned with 4 balconies and a deck to maximize viewing. The main level features a study, stone sunroom, and generous living and dining rooms. The eat-in kitchen is exceptional and adjacent is the window-filled family room. The lower walk-out level has an oversized garage and spectacular 1,500-bottle wine cellar. 6115 Vernon Terrace
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Spending Spree General Assembly returns to Richmond to appropriate federal stimulus cash.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the 1985 hit movie “Brewster’s Millions,” Richard Pryor is given the task of spending \$30 million in 30 days. Hijinks ensue. In some ways, that’s also the plot of the General Assembly session this week. But the stakes are bigger, and the jokes aren’t as funny.

Lawmakers are working their way through appropriating \$4.3 billion of stimulus cash from the American Rescue Plan. Most of the money was already earmarked before lawmakers arrived in town as Gov. Ralph Northam made a series of announcements outlining his priorities. Each of those announcements indicated a tacit agreement between House Democrats and Senate Democrats and the governor’s office.

The biggest item on the list of spending items is a huge infusion of cash into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, pumping \$862 million into the fund in an effort to prevent tax increases on businesses in 2022. Because the trust fund is usually replenished by taxes levied on business, they would have been on the hook for restoring it. But the infusion of cash from Uncle Sam means taxes won’t go up for business owners.

“Shoring up the commonwealth’s unemployment insurance trust fund is a smart investment that will prevent Virginia businesses from paying higher taxes and allow our economy to continue surging,” said Northam in a written statement announcing the proposal. “Together with the General Assembly, we are taking important steps to ensure Virginia remains a place where businesses, workers, and families can all thrive.”

The proposal was viewed by some critics as a gift to big business at a time when many people are struggling to make ends meet, yet



Senate Finance and Appropriations Chairwoman Janet Howell oversaw the massive spending bill in the Senate, where senators appropriated more than \$4 billion in federal stimulus money.

back because you’re dealing with a situation where you have someone who’s not paying rent. That’s not a healthy situation if you’re a landlord.”

Most Democrats don’t share that view.

“This should not be used as an opportunity to get rid of anyone,” said Del. Cia Price (D-95). “Get your money, and then let’s move forward.”

Republicans tried and failed to make several amendments to the spending plan, offering a number of potential changes as the spending bills moved through the House and Senate. One of the Republican amendments was introduced by Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), who is also on the ballot for attorney general this fall. He introduced a budget amendment that would have given the attorney general authority to prosecute straw purchases of firearms.

“If you want to lower gun violence in Virginia, where well north of 80 percent of crime is done by repeat offenders, you get the repeat offenders off the streets,” said Miyares. “You go after those who are trying to traffic and buy guns illegally and you put them behind bars and off our streets.”

That amendment, along with every other proposal from House Republicans, was defeated by the Democratic majority. Many Democrats said that it was noteworthy that Miyares voted against all the gun-violence prevention measures last year but now wants to use the special session to crack down on straw purchases. Some questioned the need for creating new authority for the attorney general and the timing of the proposal.

“If Delegate Miyares wants to use the budget and this session as an opportunity to film a campaign commercial, it’s certainly his prerogative. He wouldn’t be the first one to do it,” said Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). “As far as I know this has not been an issue that is under-prosecuted or people get away with anything here.”

another sign of how the new Democratic majority in the House and Senate are often business friendly to the detriment of working families. Some people said the dollar amount set aside to help business

analyst at the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. “There are trade offs involved and there are differences in terms of timing of when certain benefits would really affect whoever would be impacted by the proposal.”

Lawmakers are also spending \$700 million to expand access to broadband internet; \$312 million to improve HVAC systems in public schools; \$250 million for Rebuild Virginia grants to help small businesses; \$125 million to modernize sewer systems that dump raw sewage into rivers and streams (including the one in Alexandria); \$20 million for bonuses to law enforcement officers; \$10 million for food banks; and \$10 million for substance abuse treatment services.

“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never

easy,” said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who is chairwoman of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

The appropriations bill also allows lawmakers an opportunity to set some new policies as budget language, creating a new requirement for landlords to apply for rental assistance from the Virginia Rent Relief Program before evicting anyone. Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) tried to create an exemption for small-scale landlords who have a handful of properties. When asked about his budget amendment, Petersen said landlords should not be forced to apply for rental assistance.

“You seem to think that applying to the federal government is no fuss no muss, and they’ll just open up your application and write you a check that day. It doesn’t work that way,” said Petersen. “The landlord oftentimes wants the property

“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never easy.”

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32),
chairwoman of the Senate Finance
and Appropriations Committee

owners next year could have been better spent by helping people in need now.

“That’s the kind of thing that we think should be balanced against some of the immediate needs,” said Chris Wodicka, senior policy

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Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar.

Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

FRIDAY/AUG. 20

Golf Fundraiser for Rising Hope Mission Church. Are you an avid golfer looking to demonstrate your skills? Maybe you want to be part of a team to support Rising Hope? Or, you’re looking for a way to spend some time outdoors with friends and eat really great BBQ? Join in the morning at Greendale Golf Course

for Rising Hope’s Inaugural Golf Tournament to raise funds to help men and women of all ages who are struggling to overcome poverty. Maybe golfing isn’t your thing - how about sponsoring a hole on the course? They also have sponsorship opportunities available. Visit risinghopeumc.org/golf for more information. You must register by Monday, August 9. Email events@risinghopeumc.org with any

questions.

STEM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, stemvolunteers.org, needs STEM professionals to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the D.C. metro area during the 2021-22 school year. If you care about K-12 STEM

education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, send a note to bcalinge@aaas.org with your home address.

SHEEHY AUTO STORES

LAUNCH SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

From now through Aug. 9, Sheehy Auto Stores
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Fairfax County's Level of Transmission: Substantial

Protect yourself and those around you; updated recommendations for school and more.

Following a recent increase of cases, Fairfax County has been elevated to a state of substantial COVID-19 community transmission for the first time since early May.

"After a careful look at the data, our Health Department determined that per CDC guidance we have unfortunately reached a 'substantial' level of COVID-19 transmission," said Chairman Jeff McKay in a message to Fairfax County residents. "We are thus recommending that everyone, including individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19, wear a mask in public indoor settings."

The number of COVID cases has continued to increase with the spread of the Delta variant, McKay said. Most cases involve people who are not vaccinated, and there are few hospitalizations or deaths of people who are fully vaccinated.

"With this all said, in addition to masking, it is incredibly important that you get vaccinated if you have not," McKay said. "If you want schools to reopen and give our kids (many are not yet eligible to be vaccinated) a fighting chance at protection, you will need to get vaccinated for them. Please, I urge that you schedule your vaccine appointment now." <https://www.vaccines.gov/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their K-12 school mask recommendations in response to emerging data about the Delta variant. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to all schools.

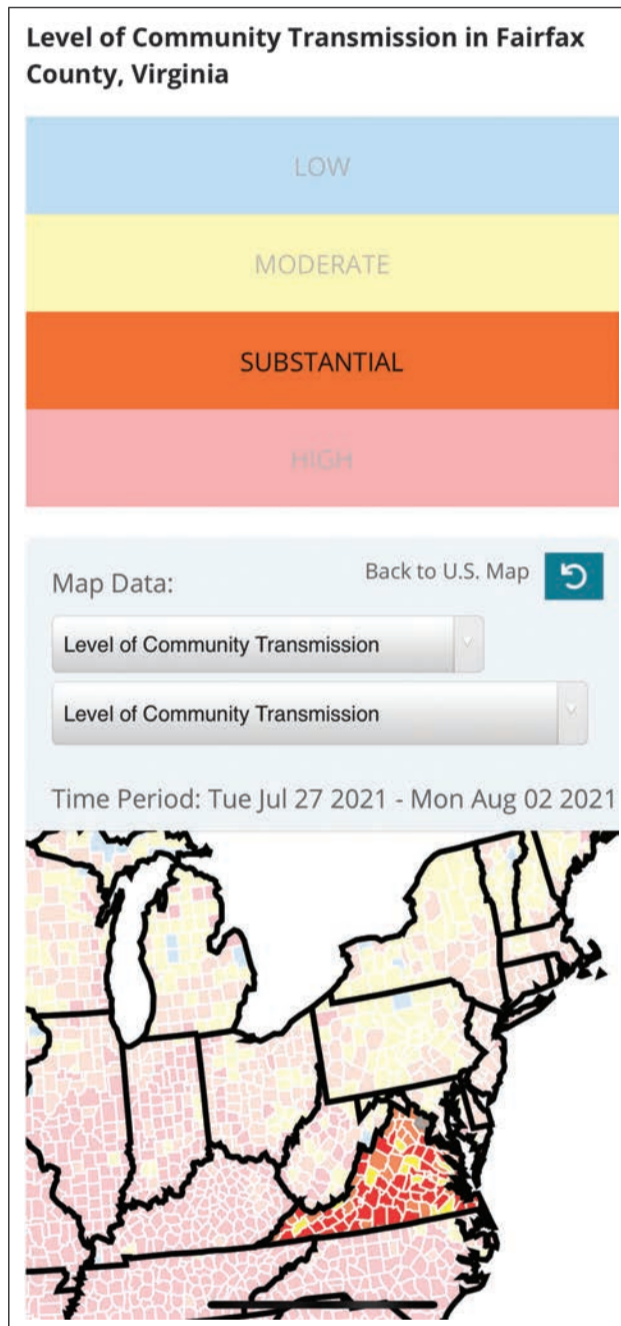
This week, the CDC has updated guidance about precautions to take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. The CDC has updated information for fully vaccinated people given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant currently circulating. The CDC has added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission, which includes Fairfax County, as well as the City of Alexandria and Arlington.

Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, the CDC says, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

Fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Other recommendations: choose outdoor gatherings over indoor gatherings, stay home and get tested when symptomatic or exposed; wear a mask over your nose and mouth in public indoor settings, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others, and wash your hands.



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

Because Fairfax County is currently in a state of substantial transmission, everyone, regardless of vaccination status, should wear a mask in public indoor settings. The CDC also recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to all schools.

On Aug. 3, the five Northern Virginia Health Directors issued a joint letter from the Health Directors of Fairfax County, as well as the City of Alexandria, and Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties to Northern Virginia Mayors, Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers with the recommendation that individuals wear masks while indoors in government and other public settings, regardless of vaccination status. The recommendation follows all five jurisdictions' recent upward trend in average number of daily cases and being categorized as communities of substantial transmission.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

A scooter spot on campus at George Mason University.

Now Another Mode Of Transportation In Fairfax County

County okays 600 of these "shared mobility devices."

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There are a couple of localities in Northern Virginia where scooters are running rampant, and soon Fairfax County will be included in that unofficial club. Recently 600 e-scooters were approved to operate in Fairfax County and will soon hit local pavement. Like bicycles, e-scooters can be used on a highway, sidewalk, shared-use path, roadway, or crosswalk, but cannot operate above 10 mph, the county said.

Scooters actually fall under an ordinance regulating shared mobility devices, to include motorized scooters, that was approved in 2019 and went into effect Jan. 1, 2020. Operators are allowed an initial maximum fleet of 300 devices per operator based on usage, so the 600 in this first program are divided between two companies, Link and BIRD.

Scooters are a common site in Arlington, the City of Alex-

andria, and on George Mason University campus, and scooter parking in these locations has become somewhat of an issue. The rules seem to be bending in many cases in these locations. In Fairfax County, once riders reach their destination, they should leave the device parked in an area that does not impede normal car or foot traffic. If an e-scooter is parked in an inappropriate place or left on private property, it falls upon the random resident to contact the device operator listed on the e-scooter and the operator must move it.

Some residents chimed in on social media about this when the county announced it. "Most riders just abandon scooters on sidewalks or park trails... So annoying..." a Facebook user posted.

"Do you have to take a safety and awareness test to rent these?" asked suzrejo.

"City of Fairfax has scooters left all over the sidewalks and a lack of safety toward pedestrians," said another comment.

SEE SCOOTERS, PAGE 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA MCCORMICK

Alexis McCormick is hoping to earn a medal at this week's Junior Olympics.

Pressure for Athletic Success Can Lead to Stress

Balancing the need for athletic achievement with emotional wellbeing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Practicing with her club track team three days each week, training with a private coach on the other four days and balancing a challenging academic workload led to a stressful school year for Alexandria high school senior Alexis McCormick. This week, she is hoping that her training will pay off as she competes in the National Junior Olympics.

"We're living in such a hyper competitive environment and there is so much pressure on kids to succeed. All of the kids are so stressed," said Alexis's mother Samantha McCormick. "It would be stressful under any condition, but last year there was the added layer of distance learning. I think that when athletes like Naomi Osaka and Simone Biles speak out it causes parents to take a look at their own children."

Creating a balance between emotional wellbeing and meeting expectations for academic and athletic success can be challenging. Local mental health professionals explain some of the reasons behind the mental health issues that are connected to athletes and what parents can do.

"It's extremely difficult to cultivate a healthy sense of self in body and mind given the pressures of societal expectations and social media," said Herndon psychologist Janet Owens. "Peers are lauding athletic accomplishments on social media."

A need to succeed that is driven in part by parental pressure can lead to emotional fatigue and low self esteem, says Bethesda therapist, Katherine Harden. "It's how much passion a child has themselves that makes a difference in mental health issues," she said. "When a parent pushes a child to focus on a sport they don't love, whatever it is, the

professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Specialization leads to more of one's identity and self-worth coming from successful performance in a single sport," he said. "Perceived threats and worries increase if we are not accomplishing our goals and having fun playing sports. We may feel helpless and hopeless about improving our performance."

Support from loved ones can mitigate some of the mental health issues that are associated with the pressure to be high-achieving. "Parents can help prevent their children from experiencing anxiety and depression by providing support and unconditionally valuing their children regardless of athletic performance," said Short. "It helps to have other sources of achievement outside of sports, or to participate in multiple sports."

As a high school student, Jason Gamble, PhD was a nationally ranked track and field runner. Today he is a child psychologist who specializes in anxiety and depression. "As athletes we only knew of one thing, the training to reach the goal. What happens when an adverse event happens such as injury, loss, or other significant bumps in the road?" he asks. "One thing to consider is teaching your child resilience skills, foundations of gratitude and how to stay focused on a growth mindset versus spiraling downward because of a setback."

"Parents can help prevent their children from experiencing anxiety and depression by providing support and unconditionally valuing their children regardless of athletic performance."

—Jerome Short, PhD

mental health issues begin to seep in. This is because the underlying thoughts are, 'I don't have a voice' or even 'I won't be loved if I don't perform in this job I don't even like.' That's an awful lot to ask a child of any age to carry, especially if they have a perfectionistic coach driving the same sentiments. It's too much for anyone."

Specializing in one sport puts a child at risk for anxiety and depression suggests Jerome Short, PhD,

ogist who specializes in anxiety and depression. "As athletes we only knew of one thing, the training to reach the goal. What happens when an adverse event happens such as injury, loss, or other significant bumps in the road?" he asks. "One thing to consider is teaching your child resilience skills, foundations of gratitude and how to stay focused on a growth mindset versus spiraling downward because of a setback."



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Special Session 2 Begins

The General Assembly will allocate the nearly \$4.3 billion Virginia has received from the federal economic stimulus bill.

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

On Monday Aug. 2, the General Assembly gavelled in for a two week “2021 Special Session 2” called by Gov. Ralph Northam for the purpose of allocating the nearly \$4.3 billion Virginia has received from the federal economic stimulus bill — the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that passed the U.S. House of Representatives and was signed into law by President Biden on March 11. It feels wonderful to be back in the House Chamber meeting with my colleagues safely, yet still wearing my mask, and in person for the first time in over a year. We will be hard at work crafting the budget and ensuring that each federal dollar the Commonwealth receives is put to good use serving our citizens in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and our recovery efforts.

HB/SB 7001 includes many priorities critical to getting the Commonwealth back on its feet. This bill allocates \$3.5 billion in ARPA funds while prudently holding back almost a billion dollars as a hedge against further unforeseen

issues due to COVID-19 infections rising with the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. The budget focuses on a few areas key to recovery: education, child care, rental assistance and housing, and public health initiatives. These initiatives will include money for child care, rental assistance and housing, public health, helping workers, public schools, small business relief, and expansion of rural broadband.

\$862 million will be put towards replenishing the unemployment insurance trust fund so that Virgin-

ia businesses will not have to pay any more into it with the business tax rates capped at current levels for the next year, which will provide relief to small businesses as we begin to recover. Funding will be added to support Virginia Em-

ployment Commission’s efforts to center capacity, enhanced security, and hiring additional adjudication staff.

Virginia has led the nation in distributing federal rental relief funds to those in need, with 43 percent of the first round rental relief already distributed. \$800 million in additional federal rental relief assistance now will be distributed, which is even more important because the federal eviction moratorium expired this week. Virginia’s current rent relief policy of requiring a tenant or landlord to apply for rental assistance prior to proceeding with an eviction for non-payment of rent will continue. Moreover, this budget provides an additional \$2.5 million to Legal Aid for civil indigent defense in eviction cases.

As I discussed in my article a few weeks ago, one of the largest expenses this budget takes on relates to the expansion of broadband. Universal broadband will

open doors to prosperity for many of the areas in the Commonwealth that currently lack reliable, high speed internet. With broadband, Virginians can access educational opportunities, telehealth, and remote work opportunities.

Significantly to many in our community, \$120 million will continue Virginia’s utility assistance program to provide relief to residential customers. The budget also places a moratorium on Phase II Electric Utility disconnections for low-income individuals until March 1, 2022.

Also, the budget provides substantial appropriations for wastewater nutrient removal, and combined sewer overflows (CSO), including \$125 million matching funds for the Alexandria, Lynchburg, and Richmond CSO projects (\$50 million is for Alexandria). \$250 million will be invested in school ventilation improvements to prevent COVID-19 infections, \$111 million will go towards higher education financial aid, including \$11 million for private colleges. Importantly, \$25 million will be set aside to alleviate the state park maintenance backlog.

As of this writing, the budget has passed its second reading on the floor of the House of Delegates and should pass the House on Wednesday Aug. 4 and the Senate soon thereafter.



Krizek

Virginia’s current rent relief policy of requiring a tenant or landlord to apply for rental assistance prior to proceeding with an eviction for non-payment of rent will continue.

On the Deaths of MPD Officers Kyle DeFreytag and Gunther Hashida

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), who represents the Northern Virginia suburbs of the Nation’s capital, today issued the following statement on the deaths of Metropolitan Police Department Officers Kyle DeFreytag and Gunther Hashida, both of whom reportedly died of suicide months after responding to the Jan. 6 attack on

the U.S. Capitol. “I mourn the passing of Officers DeFreytag and Hashida,” said Beyer. “They, and all of the officers who defended the Capitol and our democracy on Jan. 6, are heroes and deserve our thanks. It is increasingly clear that many of those who put their lives at risk to protect the Capitol that day are still suffering from both physical and

mental wounds.” Officers DeFreytag and Hashida are the third and fourth police officers to die by suicide in connection with the Jan. 6 attack. The deaths of U.S. Capitol Police Officers Howie Liebengood and MPD Officer Jeffrey Smith were confirmed earlier this year. Smith and DeFreytag resided in Beyer’s Northern Virginia district, as did fallen U.S. Capitol

Police Officer Brian Sicknick. We encourage anyone in crisis to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text TALK to 741741

TJ Parents Welcome Most Diverse TJ Class in History

... and denounce the anti-CRT division.

We are parents of students and graduates of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technolo-

gy (TJ), and are greatly concerned about recent events and growing misinformation surrounding the changes to the admissions process and anti-racism discussions at the prestigious school we love and respect.

We, TJ parents, have a wide variety of opinions about the particulars of the TJ admissions policy

and procedures; there are likely as many opinions on the “ideal” admissions policy for TJ as there are parents, students, and alumni, but we believe in working together, coming to a compromise, and find-

SEE TJ PARENTS, PAGE 7

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

Marcia Hobson Community Reporter mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon Contributing Writer msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore Contributing Writer kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes Display Advertising, 703-778-9410 hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9431

Publisher Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh
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OPINION

TJ Parents

FROM PAGE 6
ing resolution.

Most importantly, while some members of the community have spoken loudly and negatively, we here all agree that the members of the newly announced incoming Class of 2025 fully earned their acceptances to the school, and we look forward to welcoming them all into our community. Although some of us did not agree with how the admissions changes were handled, we are pleased that this new class is the most diverse class in TJ history, with a majority of Asian American students and a substantial increase in the number of historically underrepresented minorities. This is about TJ maintaining academic excellence while being more open and inclusive, promoting social emotional learning, and preparing our students for 21st century skills like teamwork and critical thinking. It's also about including students from low-income families, which will represent 25 percent of the incoming class, as opposed to the usual 2 percent. We wholeheartedly believe that this increased diversity will enrich our school community even more and we welcome the Class of 2025 with open arms.

We also feel strongly that many of the actions and words of members of the "Coalition for TJ" have inflamed, distorted, and confused the issues, often alienating the community. The Coalition has for months now waged a divisive, false, and negative campaign, insisting that any changes are "anti-merit," "racist," and specifically designed to "purge Asians," as one of its most outspoken members declared in a recent Washington Post Op-Ed.

The Coalition leaders' many appearances in numerous media outlets have made them the public face of TJ parents—but they absolutely do not represent our community. They have used these platforms to make constant calls for the resignation or firing of the school's principal and FCPS superintendent, and for the recall of members of the School Board. This spring, the Coalition became synonymous with the campaign against so-called "critical race theory," and its proponents have even targeted our school's PTSA and want it to be fully engaged in the "fight against CRT." False and cruel attacks were launched against the new PTSA president — who notably was the first Chinese-American president of the TJ PTSA — because she wanted the PTSA to focus on its usual student-centered and welcoming activities for students, parents, teachers, and staff

SEE TJ PARENTS, PAGE 11

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Removing Vaccination Barriers

FROM PAGE 1

nated. No barriers, no travel, no child care needed.

"We are providing the Pfizer vaccine. This is a collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, Fairfax County Health Department, and Health Works for Northern Virginia," Gutierrez-Lugo said. "In this area of Herndon, the numbers for adults to be vaccinated are very low. So, we are trying a more intentional outreach in these communities."

According to Gutierrez-Lugo, what they did before didn't work, registering people to send them to sites on a particular day and time. Many of the people in this part of town worked two jobs while balancing childcare, eldercare, food-sourcing, and life. If something happened, that became their priority, not the vaccine.

"It's just not our culture. We are in survival mode," Gutierrez-Lugo said.

In her role with Opportunity Neighborhood, Gutierrez-Lugo recalled that she had asked people if they were vaccinated in June. For most, the answer was no, but they were thinking about it. "I asked them if the vaccine was available to them at their apartment complex would they get it, their answer changed to yes," Gutierrez-Lugo said. "That's when we decided something had to change...This is what we have to do so that we can get out of this pandemic."

GUTIERREZ-LUGO said that the day before, a twelve-year-old agreed to get the vaccine. On Saturday, she stood in line, without her mother, paper in hand, excited to get immunized because she was going to middle school. However, when told she needed her mother there for permission, she felt overwhelmed and ran back to Gutierrez-Lugo, saying, "It's too much. I can't do it. Mom needs to be with Grandma." Gutierrez-Lugo arranged for one of the Opportunity Neighborhood ambassadors to stay with the grandmother. The mother arrived, and the young girl received her vaccination.

"It's barriers like that for our people, even little barriers. It's just overwhelming, and she's twelve. Maybe for you, maybe for me, we can overcome the barriers. But not for these people who have been through trauma more than once in their lives, and they are survivors. Little things like that, it's just overwhelming," Gutierrez-Lopez said. "We have to carry these communities until they are self-sufficient until they are empowered. Just a little push, that's all they need."

On the day after the event, Gutierrez-Lopez said, "Only 42 people vaccinated. We ran out of vaccines, sadly. At least 20 people didn't get the vaccine; they were referred to CVS."

Town of Herndon Vice Mayor Cesar del Aguila stopped by the Berkdale Apartments. According to del Aguila, the event's intentional outreach to a community primarily under-served and struggling appeared a success. "Vaccinations are critical, and this population is at greater risk and therefore in much need of these services. Schools open in three weeks, and we must vaccinate as many residents as possible," del Aguila said. "We



Masks are the norm.



Jessica Gutierrez-Lugo (third from left) is a Community Organizer with Opportunity Neighborhoods. She is with youth at the Berkdale Apartment in the Town Herndon, where in partnership with nonprofit Cornerstones, a Pfizer vaccine and Family Fun Day was held, bringing the immunization to the doorsteps of community members.

need to bridge the cultural, economic, and income divide in our town," he said.

A little over a mile in the sought-after



A mile from the vaccination site, cars line up in a church parking lot in the historic district of the Town of Herndon as people wait to be tested for COVID-19 at the site.

historic district of the Town of Herndon, vehicles lined up throughout the morning, waiting for COVID-19 testing.

Scooters

FROM PAGE 4

Fairfax County staff will create a process for complaints about e-scooters and shared mobility devices related to improper use or abandonment. Staff will coordinate implementation of the complaint process with bordering jurisdictions and present a summary in the first year of SMDs in early 2021. In order to report any issues related to scooters and other shared devices, emails can be sent to consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Scooter Mania

Scooters started out as basically a skateboard with a handlebar, but now it's moved into the electronic, high tech mode of transportation that does take some balance, skill and a set of nerves. A helmet is recommended when riding a scooter, but it's only a recommendation. The helmets may seem like a no-brainer but "Fairfax County does not have the authority to regulate helmets although many companies do that voluntarily," they state on the website.

Bird is an international scooter company that claims the "Bird 3" is "the world's most eco-conscious scooter," but on the website, it takes a lot of digging to find out the details, like how to pay for it? An app and a credit card, of course.

The Washington Area Bicyclists Association has chimed in, supporting this mode of transportation, saying "scooters provide a low-emission, affordable and on-demand travel option and an alternative to private or shared cars." They also state that users "must not use any cellular telephone, text messaging device, portable music player, or other device that may distract you from operating the vehicle safely."

According to the Bird rules, riders must be at least 18, physically fit to ride it, assume all risks for injuries, and obey all helmet laws. At GMU, their rules are posted at several scooter parking spots around campus, but any helmet rules are not stated on the posted sign.

Payment to use a Bird scooter is through "credit card, debit card, or another agreed payment method," which limits the use to only card holders. This could limit county scooter users as well.

Over at Link, it's much of the same although Link scooters go up to 15 miles per hour, and the rule in Fairfax County is 10 miles per hour.

According to Rebecca L. Makely, Consumer Services Division Director at Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services "permittees are encouraged to provide a cash-based or non-smartphone mechanism to access Shared Mobility Devices," although it is not clear if Link or Bird have other payment methods.

For any issues related to scooters and other shared devices email consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County Holds County-wide Vaccine Equity Clinics

FROM PAGE 1

held neighborhood clinics in the Mt. Vernon area at the Audubon, Creekside, and Lafayette communities; Lincolnian area at Lerner Towers; Springfield area with Springfield Neighborhood Resource Center; Herndon area at Berkdale Apartments; and Chantilly area at Meadows of Chantilly.

Specific for the in-the residential-neighborhood vaccine events, Arndt said they

held neighborhood clinics in the Mt. Vernon area at the Audubon, Creekside, and Lafayette communities; Lincolnian area at Lerner Towers; Springfield area with Springfield Neighborhood Resource Center; Herndon area at Berkdale Apartments; and Chantilly area at Meadows of Chantilly.



PHOTOS BY TOM ROBERTS

John Moorman, left, presents Alexandria Rotary Club president Pam De Candio with a 1935 edition of *This Rotarian Age* by Rotary founder Paul Harris during the organization's July 27 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

'Service Above Self'

De Candio takes helm of Alexandria Rotary Club.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

After more than a year of virtual meetings, the Rotary Club of Alexandria gathered in person to formally install Pam De Candio as the 93rd club president at the organization's July 27 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

"This club has come to mean a lot to me personally," said De Candio, who first joined the organization in 2011. "I have made great friends and we are able to do good works in the community. It's a very special organization."

A resident of Del Ray, De Candio is senior vice president of commercial lending at John Marshall Bank. She graduated from Fort Hunt High School and continued her studies at George Washington University and Georgetown University.

Sergeant-at-arms Peter Knetemann administered the oath of office to De Candio as outgoing president John Moorman officially turned over the reins of the organization.

"This has been a challenging year but still we were able to accomplish a lot," said Moorman, who led the club's weekly meetings and special events via Zoom. "I had a lot of help and a lot of good advice from a great board. I relied heavily on people that were smarter than me and made wise decisions that were always for the best of the club."

Moorman turned over his gavel and presented De Candio with a 1935 edition of *The Rotary Way* by Rotary founder Paul Harris.

"Pam is going to be a great president," Moorman added. "The club is in good



Newly installed Alexandria Rotary Club president Pam De Candio talks about her goals for the organization July 27 at Belle Haven Country Club.

hands and we will keep accomplishing great things."

In addition to her service as a Rotarian, De Candio has served on the Boards of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Police Foundation, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Art on the Avenue.

De Candio is the fifth woman to lead the Alexandria club, founded in 1928, following Katherine Morrison in 1999, Loretta Sebastian Willis in 2003, Gayle Spurr in 2010 and Joan Renner in 2015.

"So many people have been giving me good advice as I take on this task," De Candio said. "This club is filled with special people with amazing talents and a willingness to help you when you call. I could not be in a better place."

www.alexandriarotary.org



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Streams Get a Lift from a County Program

‘Operation Stream Shield’ is called a win-win-win.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

As storms continue to wash trash, construction debris, tree limbs and leaves into the suburban streams throughout Fairfax County, a program was developed by officials to clean up the streams while providing a paycheck to those in need.

This program, called “Operation Stream Shield,” is a partnership between the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to benefit the environment and provide a paycheck for individuals experiencing homelessness. “It’s a win-win-win,” said Sharon North, spokesperson for Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Ser-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

At Little Run Stream in Alexandria, three members of Operation Stream Shield fill their bags.

vices. The county teams up with people from the Eleanor U. Kennedy Community Shelter, Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter, and The Lamb Center to go out to the streams a total of eight trips a week to clean the streams. The participants are then paid for their work, and on several occasions, it has led to a regular or seasonal job for those who needed it.

“We have a lot of debris pulled from the streams,” said Emily Bur-

ton of the Stormwater Planning Division at the Fairfax County Department of Public Works.

Burton said the program idea came from Albuquerque, New Mexico. “We modeled it very closely with their program,” she said. Fairfax County started their pilot program in October 2019, and kicked off the program in May 2020.

They also rely on contact with the various “Friends of ...” stream

groups to work out the particulars. In the Mount Vernon area, they work with Friends of Little Hunting Creek and Friends of the Dyke Marsh, and in Springfield, they are working with the Friends of Accotink Creek group.

From the Friends of Accotink Creek, Philip Latasa has seen the benefits from working with the teams at Operation Stream Shield.

“We as Friends of Accotink Creek greatly appreciate the effort Fairfax County is putting into removing unsightly and harmful trash from our streams as well as removing some of the ubiquitous noxious exotic invasive plant species that are overwhelming so many of our parks,” Latasa said. He noted that the work can be hard in difficult terrain and weather, but the participants are clearly motivated to get the job done. “It is a clear win for all parties that this program also gives dignity and income to shelter residents, helping many to return to self-supporting status over time,” Latasa said.

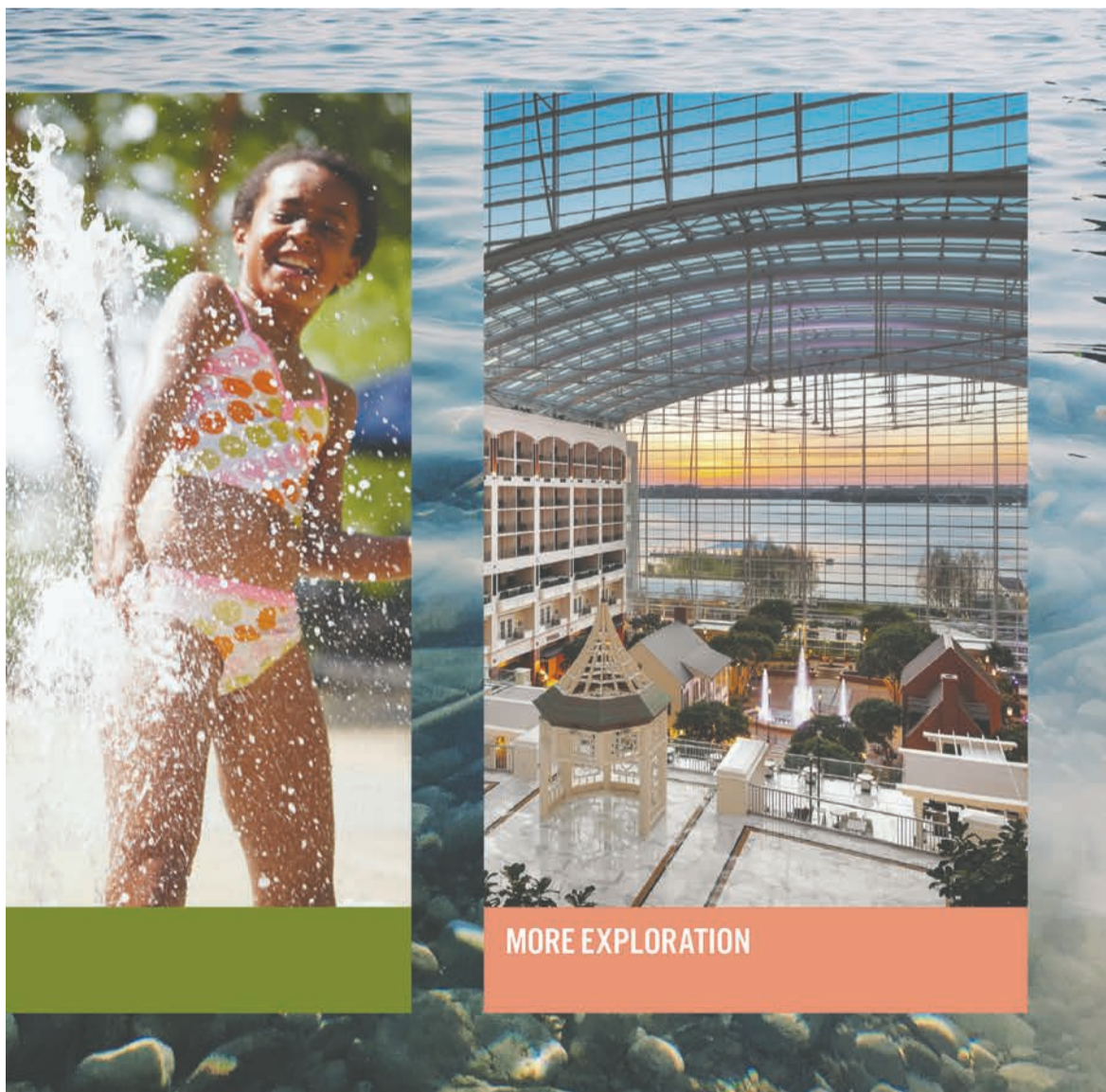
The county has a “litter hotspots,” map to help teams locate places that need help. In Springfield, for example, one hot

spot for litter is Lake Mercer along South Run, and another is on Accotink Creek just south of Fullerton Road. These spots are marked with an X on the map.

Over in Mount Vernon, there are spots along Little Hunting Creek and Paul Spring Branch, west of Hollin Hills. On the map, there is also the ability to report litter spots that are encountered.

Non-Native Plant Removal

One part of the Operation Stream Shield deals with non-native plant species that are at the streams and causing problems for the trees and native plants that grow along the banks. The county has a video on their website created by the Fairfax County Park Authority to identify the non-native, invasive species that are encountered at the streams. Although kudzu and ivy seem to be the main culprits, the video helps identify others like Japanese Barberry, Porcelain Berry, Mile a Minute vine and Oriental Bittersweet to name a few. The video shows how to identify the plants, how to cut and pull them down, and tools needed to accomplish this.



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NEWS

TJ Parents Welcome Most Diverse TJ Class in History

FROM PAGE 7

— regardless of anyone’s political views — rather than on CRT and

admissions changes. Who would have imagined that that would become controversial? These toxic attacks finally led her to resign on July 28.

Why is this fight at TJ relevant to the rest of Fairfax County and perhaps the rest of our region? Because TJ is the proverbial canary in the coal mine. The demonization and manipulative weaponizing of “CRT” by Coalition leaders, conveyed in a manner which does not promote unity, and combined with their bullying and censoring tactics, are clearly attempts to silence alternative views and crush efforts to promote diversity and belonging.

This in turn threatens to tear our school community apart, which is the complete opposite mission of a school PTSA. That same toxic playbook is already happening in Loudoun County, with School Board

meetings so contentious police have had to be called in. The attempted hijacking and perversion of an institution that historically has enabled volunteer parents of all political stripes to work together in support of our students and teachers — the PTSA — needs to be contested and reversed. We hope more parents in Northern Virginia will come to recognize and push back on the divisive tactics we are experiencing at TJ, because only together can we demand civility, and ensure the safe, tolerant, inclusive, and welcoming schools all our students deserve.

Bruce Anderson, Caiyi Li, Justine Byun, Natalie Lorenz Anderson, Kate Carey, Elaine Maag, Steve Chang, Chaya Thyagaraja Merrill, Dana Cibulski, Sujatha Narayan, Julie Cox, Parvathi Rachakonda, Penny Dunlop, Yvette Soliz Rivers, Susan Es, Dorian Rivers, Michelle Gilles Chris Rodriguez, Heller Sanjita Sethi, Stacey Heller Mae Ybanez-Uy, Khurram Khan and Yan Yuan

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

throughout the area will collect new school supplies to benefit students in each community.

Needed supplies include:

- Paper: lined paper, copy paper, construction paper, spiral notebooks, composition books, index cards;
- Pencils & Pens: blue or black pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil sharpener, pencil case, colored markers, crayons, highlighters, dry-erase markers;
- General Supplies: dry-erase boards, paper clips, 3-ring 2” binders, pocket folders, report covers;

Classroom staples: stapler, staples, rulers, protractors, glue sticks, scissors, tape, calculator;

Basics: tissues, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer.

FREE CYBER TRAINING

The Virginia Cyber Skills Academies (VCSA) is a state-sponsored training program for NOVA residents financially impacted by COVID-19 that provides free cyber training to residents ready to start or boost a career in cyber. VCSA was recently launched to help current cyberse-

curity professionals with upskilling and those wanting to enter the sought after cybersecurity field with reskilling. The program is only open to citizens who are stationed in or permanent residents of Northern Virginia and is only funded for this year, so applicants should apply as soon as possible. Applicants can earn certifications from the SANS Institute, a highly regarded and well-recognized cybersecurity learning platform. Visit the VCSA website at www.vacyberskills.com.



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Alexandria Restaurant Week Returns With In-Person and To-Go Offerings

70+ Restaurants to Participate Aug. 20-29, 2021

For 10 days and two weekends, more than 70 restaurants in Alexandria, Va., will offer a \$49 in-person and/or to-go dinner for two during Alexandria Restaurant Week, Aug. 20-29, 2021. www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com

Nearly 50 of the participating restaurants will offer solo diners a \$25 in-person and/or to-go dinner for one, in addition to serving the \$49 dinner for two. This dinner-for-one offering was created during Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go in January 2021 in response to increased interest from single diners during the pandemic. The online menu book makes it easy to browse delicious selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries and enjoy special menus in-person or from the comfort of your own home.

<https://www.flipsnack.com/BCB58C-CC5A8/2021-summer-alexandria-restaurant-week/full-view.html>

New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include Ada's on the River, a new riverside eatery in Old Town built around a



custom wood-burning oven; KungFu Kitchen, known for its Northern-style authentic Chinese food in the West End; and Sisters Thai and the Magnolia Dessert Bar, a new restaurant duo in Old Town North's EDENS development. More than 40 restaurants will offer the \$49 dinner for two and \$25 dinner for one both in-person and to-go, including Cedar Knoll, Myron Mixon's and Royal Restaurant.

Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases

the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. From neighborhood favorites to restaurants specializing in international cuisine, guests will savor the flavors of Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries.

View our menu flip-book and view participating restaurants at www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go Menu Highlights:

- ❖ Enjoy unparalleled views of the Potomac at newly opened Ada's on the River with Scallop Crudo or Melon Salad to start followed by Prime NY Strip Au Poivre or Pan Seared Branzino Fillet.
- ❖ Head to French eatery Bistro Sancerre in Old Town for date night and choose from Escargot, Truffled Deviled Eggs and more to start and end with delectable Profiteroles or Chocolate Mousse.
- ❖ Enjoy an Instagrammable setting at The Loft at Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap in Del Ray with a three-course offering for one or two people featuring Grilled Chicken Alfredo, Italian Lemon Cake and more, or take it to-go.
- ❖ In Old Town, The Light Horse's dine-in or to-go dinner offering includes an abundance of options, including Build Your Own Mac N Cheese, Duck Confit Empanadas and more.
- ❖ In the Carlyle neighborhood, Tequila & Taco offers a three-course dinner for two in-person or to-go featuring a Dip Trio, Mixed Enchiladas or Tacos + Empanadas plus a Key Lime Pie dessert.
- ❖ Old Town North's Yunnan by Potomac, a southwestern Chinese noodle house, recently reopened after renovating its dining room and offers a hearty meal filled with steamed Lotus-Leaf Buns, Handmade Dumplings and Mixian Noodles.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Garden Tour: Green Spring Up and Down. 10-11:30 a.m. (Adults) Extension Master Gardener docents lead a special "Grand Tour" of Green Spring! View some upper demonstration gardens, then take the garden path less travelled to explore the naturalistic lower garden areas: the Virginia Native Plant Garden, woodland stream valley, and ponds. Tour involves a steep slope with loose gravel. \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks (code 8A0.10PR) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.



The Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale will take place Aug. 14-15 in Old Town and Del Ray.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Tea with Martha Washington. 1 p.m. At Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Join Martha Washington for a cozy tea as she shares memories of her and the General's life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War and Presidency, and at their beloved Mount Vernon. Enjoy some of the Washingtons' favorite treats and delicacies prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Following the program, guests are invited to take a self-guided tour of the estate. Call 703-780-2000 or

visit mountvernon.org

THURSDAY/AUG. 14

Savory Soiree: "Two to Tango: Celebrating Piazzolla at 100." 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria.

Honor the centennial year of Astor Piazzolla with a multi-course dinner of Argentinian food and Malbec wine – and the singular sound of the bandoneon in a program featuring the entrancing music of the composer who brought tango to international attention, along with other celebrated tango composers and original music by Emmanuel Trifilio.

Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgarden-concerts/>

AUG. 14-15

Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale. Throughout Old Town and Del Ray. One of the longest running seasonal summer shopping events returns to the D.C. region's Shop Small destination for independent boutiques, Alexandria, with the annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale throughout Old Town and Del Ray. The event features record participation with more than 70 Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts and offering discounted summer merchandise

plus activations on King Street and in Del Ray. Learn more at VisitAlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale.

SUNDAY/AUG. 15

Brush Up Your British. 2-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. Celebrate Britain's National Afternoon Tea Week by exploring linguistic and cultural differences between Britain and America. Compare customs and manners in these two nations "divided by a common language" - at the tea table and beyond! A link to the virtual program will be emailed up to an hour before the start of the program. Optional afternoon tea boxes prepared by our caterer

will be available for pick up at Green Spring Gardens between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the day of the program.

Tea boxes include savory finger sandwiches, pastries, scone with cream and jam, and tea bag.

Lecture only: \$12/ Optional tea box: \$24. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktaks (code FB8.E4K2) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

Fri. Aug. 6: Air Supply "The Lost In Love Experience" \$99.50

Sat. Aug. 7: 1964: The Tribute \$35.00

Sun. Aug. 8: EU Featuring Sugar Bear "Birthday Show!" \$39.50

Mon. Aug. 9: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy \$69.50

Thu. Aug. 12: Paul Thorn w/ Jamie McLean \$39.50

Fri. Aug. 13: Chrisette Michele \$69.50

Sat. Aug. 14: Ann Wilson of Heart \$115.00

Sun. Aug. 15: Jonathan Butler \$55.00

*All shows are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

Obituary



Richard Thomas Linnemann was born in Durham, N.C., September 18, 1943, the third child of Calvin and Adelia Linnemann. He grew up in Burlington, N.C., and graduated from Walter Williams High School.

Richard continued his education at Duke University. He never lost his enjoyment of Duke Football and Basketball games. He signed up to go to the Vietnam War. He was awarded several awards: The National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and a Bronze Star.

After his return from the War, Richard went to Law School and became a Labor Relations Lawyer at the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization. He had an excellent career dealing with Labor issues in the U.S. Government.

Richard was an excellent Uncle, Brother, Son and Friend. He enjoyed spoiling his nieces and nephews, and always supporting the family in any way he could.

There will be a Memorial service on September 2nd, 2021 at Aldersgate Methodist Church at 11am. in Alexandria Virginia. Friends and Family are Welcome.

Legals

Legals

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND
FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE
FOR THE DAVISON ARMY AIRFIELD AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, Virginia

Description. Interested parties are hereby notified that the Department of Army (Army) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the Proposed Action described below. Notice is also made for a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA), prepared by the Army to comply with Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management, and EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Army NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 651).

Proposed Action. The Army proposes to implement an Area Development Plan (ADP) for Davison Army Airfield (DAAF) on Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The proposed ADP would provide DAAF and its tenant organizations with the required facilities and infrastructure to fully support their ongoing missions. Implementing the ADP for DAAF would also address multiple operational safety concerns along the runway and improve the functional layout of the airfield. Projects in the proposed ADP would be implemented over the next 30 years.

Public Review. The Final EIS is available for a 30-day public review period starting August 6, 2021 and ending September 7, 2021. The Final EIS and FONPA are available for view or download online or by request:

Online <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>

Compact Disc Request by email to:
FortBelvoirNOI@usace.army.mil

Request by U.S. Postal Service mail to:
U.S. Army Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works
Attn.: DAAF Final EIS
Environmental Division, Chief
9430 Jackson Loop, Building 1442, Rm #226
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-5116

Due to closures of public facilities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, printed copies of the Final EIS and FONPA will not be made available at local public libraries.

Additional Information. The Final EIS and FONPA consider and address comments that were received during the 45-day public review period for the Draft EIS and Draft FONPA between July 24 and September 8, 2020. None of the comments required substantive changes to the Proposed Action, alternatives, or EIS impact analysis.

Record of Decision. The Army's Record of Decision (ROD) for the Proposed Action will be announced in the Federal Register no sooner than September 7, 2021. The ROD will identify the environmentally preferred alternative, the Army's selected alternative for implementing the Proposed Action, and mitigation and protective measures that the Army will implement to minimize environmental impacts from the selected alternative.



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Still Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though not nearly so much as last week. Improving for sure, but “slowly and painfully,” as the Emergency Room doctor predicted. “Weeks, not months,” she replied in response to our “How long?” question. Now back to Gate A17 in Houston:

“Would you mind if I said a healing prayer for you?” I looked over at Dina, and we both said “No, not at all.” The lady, Solange was her name, motioned for a male companion standing a few feet away to come over to where she and I were sitting. She explained to him the reason and within a few seconds, they both began praying for me. Though their words were not identical, they both invoked “God, Jesus Christ, the father, his children, died on the cross” and so forth for about 15 seconds in a sincere attempt to heal my burns. After her companion walked away, I looked back over to her and said: “Actually, my feet are not the worst problem I have. I have cancer.” Which prompted her, this time alone, to invoke similarly powerful references on my behalf. When she completed her healing, we both thanked her. She asked if we lived in Houston and told us of her church where healing, as I witnessed today, is a regular element and she assured me that some of her fellow parishioners have been healed. Who am I to question the power of God? Nobody, that’s who. Praise the Lord and pass the percocet.

Now I’m sort of looking forward to my next recurring quarterly scan scheduled for mid-September to see what happens. My last few scans have been characterized as “stable.” Shrinkage would be a change and a welcome one at that. However, after being given a terminal, stage IV non small cell lung cancer diagnosis in Feb. 2009 with a “13 month to two year” prognosis, 12 and one half years later, I have learned to embrace “stable.” It may not cure, but neither will it kill. Nor is it ideal, but it’s a living for which I’m extremely grateful.

Anyway, back to real-time. It’s now a bit more than two weeks since “the burning.” I am sort of ambulatory but only by using a “walker,” and infrequently as possible. The more I stay off my feet, the less damage I will do to the skin as it heals from the inside out; the main reason the recovery is so slow and arduous. But I am able to “walker” now to my in-home office from my den where I’ve been laid up, literally, approximately 30 feet, where I can access my desktop computer and type this column, email and on-line bank, et cetera; a distance which would have been too painful to ‘walker’ even a few days ago. So yes, progress indeed.

In an odd confluence of circumstances, ever since I burned my two soles, I haven’t really thought much about my underlying, overriding condition: cancer. “The burning” seems to have taken over my subconscious. Rather than compound the daily grind of living with cancer, the burns and subsequent at-home care have done just the opposite: they replaced whatever medical preoccupation I had/have about my cancer with the difficulties and challenges caused by these second degree burns. In a weird way, it’s been an easier last few weeks, emotionally, as so much of my focus and treatment has been on this new/temporary problem instead of the existing permanent one: stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer. I wouldn’t say it’s been a relief and certainly not a reprieve, but it’s definitely been a break in the action, if you know what I mean? Nevertheless, I’ll be happy when I’m back to abnormal and can walk again without any assistance. And the next time I’m at the beach, I’ll be the one wearing sneakers and socks all day. You can be sure I won’t walk barefoot ever again.

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

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NEWS



The bocce competitor's bracket ranges up to the over 90-years-old category. Register now for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics at <https://nvso.us/>

FILE PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Opens 39th Year in September

BY SHIRLEY RUHE ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Step up and claim your Olympic medal awarded after each event. There is something for everyone at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO), set to begin Sept. 18 with the opening ceremony at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington at 9:30 a.m.

More than 50 events will be offered from swimming, tennis and the softball throw to jigsaw puzzle and bowling. Although some past events will no longer be offered this year, crossword and table tennis doubles have been added.

Herb Levitan, this year's event director, says NVSO eliminated events this year such as bridge and Mexican train dominoes where people had to sit close together. Levitan has been competing himself since around 2007. He says it's good to try new things and even though you see the other competitors once a year, you make friends for sure.

The events will be offered at 17 community centers, parks, schools and clubs from Sept. 18-30th beginning with the 1600 meter run and ending with bocce and horse-shoes.

Participants must be 50 years old by Dec. 31, 2021 and live in the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun, Fauquier, Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. County.

This is the 39th season for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, and a number of participants have been competing for years.



The horseshoe competition is held each year at the Fairfax City Senior Center, Green Acres. Register now for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics at <https://nvso.us/>

Some have returned to a college sport while others have retired and taken on a new challenge. Some enter as many as 10-12 events and train most of the year while others join an event with a friend and just for fun.

Registration this year is online only with a \$15 registration fee which covers multiple events. Registration closes Monday, Sept. 6. It is expected that all participants will have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and will follow all protocols during the competition.

See <https://nvso.us/> to register and for a schedule of events.

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