

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ ^{Oak Hill} Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

New Digs for Fire & Rescue

NEWS, PAGE 8

Gusty winds blow snow from the roof of Fairfax County Fire/Rescue Station 25 two days after the station's A-Shift spent the day moving from their temporary station at 1840 Cameron Glen Drive to 1820 Wiehle Ave.

Police Shoot Man Who Threatens with Crossbow

NEWS, PAGE 3

Back to School: It's Complicated

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CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH ROAD/726 ROUTE	BRUSH CREEK	12/16/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

BULLETIN

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

RCC ANNOUNCES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Reston Community Center announces the hiring of BeBe Nguyen as its new deputy director effective January 3, 2022. She replaces former Deputy Director John Blevins, who left RCC for a position with Prince William County.

Nguyen has served as RCC Director of Communications for more than a decade and is dedicated, passionate and creative in her efforts to advance the agency's objectives and branding. During her tenure as communications director, Nguyen has led multiple complex campaigns for RCC events, partnerships and community-wide initiatives.

Nguyen is currently leading the project to replace RCC's website – an effort that will provide a comprehensive community calendar for Reston and more effective ways for the public to engage online with RCC.

RCC Executive Director Leila Gordon notes that "BeBe will help RCC integrate our planning and administrative functions as well as continue to provide creative responses to community challenges that align with RCC's mission. I'm looking forward to working together as Reston and RCC grow in the years ahead."

QUALTRICS RELOCATES IN RESTON

Gov. Ralph Northam announced that Qualtrics, an experience management software company, will invest \$15.9 million to relocate and

expand in Reston. The company will move from its former office in Reston to 85,000 square feet of space at 1906 Reston Metro Plaza. Virginia successfully competed with Pennsylvania and Ohio for the project, which will create 400 new jobs.

Qualtrics is the leader and creator of the experience management (XM) category, one of the fastest-growing software markets. The company helps organizations understand what customers and employees are thinking and feeling, and enables them to act on that feedback to provide optimal experiences. The Qualtrics XM Platform™ is used by more than 13,500 organizations around the world to drive customer and citizen engagement, improve loyalty and retention, and grow revenue. Qualtrics recently acquired Reston-based Clarabridge, a leader in omni-channel conversational analytics.

RCC EARNS TWO HONORS

Reston Community Center earned honors in two categories at the 2021 Virginia Recreation and Park and Society's annual conference in Harrisonburg, VA, recently. Bill Bouie, an RCC Board of Governors member since 2003, earned the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award, and RCC's complete renovation of the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center was chosen as the best new renovation (bricks and mortar). Both were for the population category of 50,0001 – 100,000.

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Police Shoot Chantilly Man, Charge Him with Attempted Murder

Parents called for help with their son in mental health crisis; police say he threatened his parents and police when they arrived.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police charged a Chantilly man with attempted aggravated murder of a police officer after he allegedly pointed a bow and arrow at officers outside his parents' home. One of the officers shot 50-year-old Robert Jablonski, who sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The incident occurred in the Brookfield community, last Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 1 p.m.

Police had been called to the 4500 block of Briarton Drive earlier that day by his elderly parents, who reportedly told officers that their son was threatening them. At that time, police helped the family obtain an Emergency Custody Order to assist them in getting Jablonski mental-health treatment.

That order was later issued by a magistrate, and officers returned to the home to serve it.

At 12:56 p.m., police from the Sully District Station tried to make contact with Jablonski, who they say refused their verbal commands. Officers also had information that he might be armed with a weapon.

According to police, "The decision was made to remove the parents from the home and tactically reposition outside to de-escalate the situation. Shortly after, Jablonski exited the home with a compound bow. Jablonski pointed the bow at full draw at officers, and one officer discharged his service rifle. Jablonski was struck in the upper body."

Immediately, police rendered first aid to him until fire and rescue personnel responded to the scene. Jablonski was then taken to



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

Chantilly resident Robert Jablonski with the bow and arrow.

ment policy, he's been placed on a restricted duty pending the outcome of an administrative investigation by the Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau. An independent review will also be conducted by the police auditor.

Police say the officer's name will be released shortly by Chief Kevin Davis, unless there's a credible threat to the safety of those

a nearby hospital for treatment. No officers were injured during the incident and no one else was harmed. The next day, Jan. 5, detectives went to that hospital and served Jablonski with a warrant charging him with attempted aggravated murder of a police officer.

The officer involved in the incident is a six-year FCPD veteran assigned to the Sully District Station. In keeping with depart-

involved, or if additional time is required to thoroughly complete the risk-assessment process.

In addition, a criminal investigation into the use of force is being conducted by the department's Major Crimes Bureau. Davis will release body-camera footage and audio recordings of the 911 call for service, within 30 days, or when it no longer jeopardizes the integrity of the investigation.



Firefighters and engines at the scene of the house fire.

Centreville House Fire Displaces One Person

Fire and rescue units from two counties – Fairfax and Prince William – responded last week to a Centreville house fire that began in the basement and displaced the home's occupant. Damages were estimated at approximately \$37,500.

The blaze started shortly before 7:33 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4, in the 5600 block of Virginia Chase Drive. The first units arriving at the two-story, single-family home discovered smoke coming from the basement, quickly located the fire there and extinguished it.

One person was home when the flames broke out. Fire officials say the occupant was using his sauna when he dropped a towel on top of the heating element. After noticing that the towel was on fire and flames were traveling up the walls, he called 911 and evacuated the house. Fire investigators determined that the fire was accidental; smoke alarms sounded after the blaze was discovered.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Money for Planning Lake Anne in Budget Adjustments

Historic Lake Anne Village Center took a big step toward assurance that it will be a sustainable place for decades to come, said Hunter Mill supervisor Walter Alcorn.

"As part of that effort, Tuesday, Jan. 11, the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee is scheduled to discuss FY 2022 budget adjustments, including \$300,000 for economic visioning and master planning efforts to support the long-term sustainable development planning for Lake Anne," Alcorn said.

The next step for the FY 2022 budget adjustment is for a scheduled public hearing and Board action on Tuesday, Jan. 25. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/2022-board-meetings>

"The county's Architectural Review Board has requested a supplemental report to last year's Lake Anne Infrastructure Cursory Assessment Report to ensure the historic integrity of Lake Anne is preserved as critical infrastructure improvements are made. I am working to make sure this effort is funded as well," Alcorn said.

Take the FCPS Superintendent Search Survey

Superintendent Scott Brabrand has stated his plan to leave at the end of this school year, and a plan to find a new FCPS superintendent is underway. The Fairfax County School Board says it is committed to hiring the best possible candidate for FCPS' next superintendent.

With that in mind, the Board has contracted a search firm to conduct a national search for the new superintendent. Community voices are an important part of this effort.

The school board asks the community to weigh in by participating in the Superintendent Search Survey. The survey allows FCPS parents/guardians, staff, high school students, and community members to share their thoughts on the leadership characteristics and qualities

of the next superintendent. Information gathered through the survey, focus groups, and upcoming town halls will help inform the selection of FCPS' new superintendent.

Parents should check email for a survey link from K12 Insight (survey administrator), which was sent on Jan. 4.

High school students received their survey invitation on Jan. 5, via their FCPSSchools.net email accounts.

If you are a FCPS community member and would like to take the survey, click here https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/superintendent-search?utm_campaign+=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Then scroll down the webpage for the link to the Superintendent Search Survey for Community Members.

The survey deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 18.

FCPS Faces Staff Shortages With the Rise of Omicron

Superintendent pledges to keep students in the classroom, but it will “not be business as usual.”

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools is immediately switching to a new operational plan as the area is being slammed by the size and speed of the Omicron wave.

“We will follow this operational plan for the next two-to-three weeks,” said Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand, on Friday, Jan. 6. “During this time, we must adjust our expectations about instruction and give our staff the space needed to make adjustments and on-the-spot decisions needed to combat this Covid spike.”

FCPS plans to deploy its central office and management staff to school operations.

“It will not be business as usual,” Brabrand said. “These shortages will impact us in every way, from classroom instruction to operations.” Brabrand outlined the plan and asked for patience. “There will be some things that simply cannot happen as we move central office staff to supporting school operations,” Brabrand said.

Brabrand outlined the division’s five-point plan beginning with classroom coverage.

He reminded teachers to upload materials to Schoology and said that FCPS may not always be able to provide StreamIN/CheckIN, the plan for for students who are paused, quarantined, or isolated due to Covid. FCPS will seek a substitute teacher from the sub pool, another teacher or staff member, and Central Office volunteer subs who have instructional experience when a classroom teacher is absent. FCPS could combine two classes with one teacher and group multiple classes together, to provide supervision.

The shortage of school bus drivers is causing delays in bus routes, double-back runs, and students arriving at school after the bell.

“Schools will adjust instruction to ensure that no child is missing important classroom time,” Brabrand said. Check the Bus Delay App <https://bus-delay.fcps.edu/>.

Food Services continues to provide breakfast and lunch, but bag lunches may be offered instead of the regular meals given more significant staff shortages

Brabrand asked families to help beginning with their health and safety:

- ❖ Keep sick children home;
- ❖ Get students vaccinated;
- ❖ Enroll students in optional screening testing



FCPS is resolved to keep schools open.



FCPS is urging families to get their children vaccinated as the best protection against Covid-19.

❖ Use FCPS’ diagnostic testing if a student has symptoms.

❖ Help students use layered prevention strategies: proper masks, wash hands, and use hand sanitizer; and be sure students bring home their laptops and chargers every night.

❖ Finally, he urged parents to apply to be substitute teachers.

“Please know that while things will not be perfect, we are all doing our best. We are all in this together as a community, and it will take all of us to keep our schools open,” Brabrand said, Read Dr. Brabrand’s January 6 Letter to Families

<https://www.fcps.edu/blog/message-families-navigating-january-2022-covid-surge>

The Fairfax County Health Department explained a more specific approach to vaccination for the coronavirus for children and teens.



“There are now expanded vaccination opportunities for teens and children effective this week. Following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health, the Fairfax County Health Department immediately adopts the following recommendations:

❖ individuals ages 12–17 years should get a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months after finishing their two-dose primary series;

❖ individuals ages 18 years and older should get any COVID-19 Vaccine booster dose five months, rather than six months, after finishing their two-dose primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine; and

❖ 5–11-year-old vaccine recipients who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are eligible to receive a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 28 days after the second dose.



Students return to in person learning in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Return to School 2022

After a week of weather closures, FCPS opens with Covid-19 surging.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Regardless of where one lives in Fairfax County or the surrounding jurisdictions, the highly infectious Covid-19 variant omicron is setting records.

Fairfax County Public Schools, the nation’s eleventh largest school district, remains committed to in-person learning. But schools were closed the week of Jan. 3-7 because of weather.

What do you think? Send your thoughts to mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com. You can submit your comments as a letter to the editor at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Dawn Stuvland Crosson is a teacher in Herndon and resides in Reston. “As a teacher and a parent, I am very happy to be back in person. The idea of going virtual again is a terrible one. I’m glad the superintendent is clear that we’re in it for the long haul. Omicron is not a threat to children; no healthy child has died from Omicron -- and most have probably already had it. In contrast, virtual school was terrible for our kids. I still see such tragic repercussions from last year in my classroom, and with my own children. If parents are uncomfortable with sending their kids because of media hype surrounding a new variant of a virus that is harmless to children, they can keep them home, but life should go on as normal. Kids need to be in school.”

Erin Lobato of Great Falls is a parent of a Langley 10th grader and recent 2021 grad. “Quite frankly, given the shocking drop in academic achievement from 2019 to 2020, the incredibly low risk of Omicron to healthy people - especially children - and FCPS’s tendency to focus on style over substance, I’m more worried about their ability to provide our children with a solid education this year.”

Julia Malakoff, Herndon, children in Oakton High School: “Two of my four kids are currently in the Fairfax County School system. (Oakton High School) They both experienced extreme depression, isolation and difficulties learning online last year. My junior, whose grades were barely passing last year, is now making straight As as an in person student. And my freshman has come out of his depression now that he can socialize, have personal attention and be on the track team.

“We are 100 percent for in person learning no matter what.” One parent said that she was keeping her child home out of concerns about an environment safe from Covid infection, but did not want to use her name because of possible backlash.

Fox in the Chicken Coop

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



The General Assembly convenes at noon today, Jan. 12, for its annual legislative session.

There has been much speculation since the November election as to the direction the Commonwealth might be heading with the change in partisan control of the three statewide offices and the House of Delegates. The newly-elected Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General were known quantities in state politics having served in the House of Delegates. The newly-elected governor who will take the oath of office at noon on Saturday, Jan. 15, does not have any elective office experience. After having run a campaign of having to thread a needle among the various factions of his party, it has remained somewhat a mystery as to the direction he might pursue. That was especially true until he had to start taking action to organize his new government.

The new governor set off a firestorm of opposition last week when he announced his pick to be the next Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources. Making up for any lack of experience that he may have in the environmental area, Governor-elect Youngkin announced that he would name former Trump Administration head of the Environmental Protection Agency Andrew Wheeler as Virginia's chief protector of its rich natural heritage. The reaction from those who have worked in natural resource protection in Virginia was immediate.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters issued a press release stating that Wheeler had "presided over an unprecedented rollback of environmental safeguards intended to protect clean air and water across our country — damage that the agency is still working to repair." The leader of the organization went further and described the Wheeler nomination as "hands down the most extreme nomination for an environmental post in Virginia's history and the absolute worst pick the governor-elect could make."

I share the concerns expressed by the League of Conservation Voters with one exception. I believe the nomination of Becky Norton Dunlop to be the Secretary of Natural Resources in Virginia in 1993 by Governor George Allen to be the worst nomination to ever have

been made to a Virginia cabinet post. Dunlop gained her experience in dismantling environmental protection agencies in President Ronald Reagan's administration, and she wreaked havoc on the environmental protection agencies in the state. It was as many at the time expressed "like having a fox in the chicken coop."

Emerging evidence indicates that Wheeler will compete with or even exceed the damage done to environmental protection by Dunlop. In July 2019 the Union of Concerned Scientists issued a list in its blog of "10 Ways Andrew Wheeler Has Decimated EPA Protections in Just One Year." (<https://blog.ucsusa.org/elliott-negin/andrew-wheeler-decimated-epa/>) Among the concerns was Wheeler's gutting of the Obama-era coal ash rule after Wheeler had worked as a coal industry lobbyist. He rolled back Clean Water Act protections even as concerns have been raised about the quality of water in this country.

Environmentalists and activists are hard at work bringing the Wheeler record to the attention of the members of the General Assembly who must confirm his nomination. I oppose the nomination, but the history in Virginia is that the governor gets to pick the people in his administration even if it may mean another fox in the chicken coop.

Let Us Know Your View

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

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU FEB. 19

New Art Exhibits. At McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Give and Take: Building Form (Emerson Gallery) will feature abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham, and Norma Schwartz, while the Atrium Gallery will feature Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider. Both exhibitions run through Feb. 19, 2022. Visit www.mpaart.org/ or call 703-790-1953 for gallery hours.

NOW THRU JAN. 30

Paint & Pen. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Jo Ann Gallery Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Two Artists, One Show with paintings by Angie Magruder and drawings by Bob Biedrzycki. Visit the website: www.restoncommunitycenter.com

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

Color Theory. 7-8:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Learn about color theory, what color combinations work well together, and how to use the color wheel. We will then create art using what was learned. Materials are supplied. Adults.

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

Kite Festival Virtual Workshop. 6 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Makar Sankranti / Uttarayan is the Hindu festival dedicated to the Surya, the Sun God. In Gujarat, the festival is also known as the kite festival, as people of all backgrounds take to rooftops and fill the sky with colorful kites or patang. Kites for Uttarayan are made of special lightweight paper and bamboo and a single bow. The string is often coated with glass powder to make it easier to cut down other kites during the frequent kite fights that take place.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

The Daryl Davis Band. 7 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Daryl Davis is a boogie-woogie pianist who has played with the likes of B. B. King, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. He and his band kick off Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend with an evening of R&B and blues. Tickets to Friday's concert are \$30/\$20 for MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

A MLK Event. 2-4 p.m. Virtual. At 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax will sponsor a virtual teach-in to counter the baseless claims of anti-critical race theory politics and reinforce the importance of teaching inclusive history. Free. Visit the website: www.uucf.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Baratunde Thurston Live. 2 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods - The Center-Stage, Reston. Baratunde Thurston holds space for hard and complex conversations with his blend of humor, wisdom and compassion. He is an Emmy-nominated TV host who has worked for The Onion, produced for The Daily Show,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Daryl Davis Band will perform at the McLean Community Center on Jan. 14 and 16, 2022.

FROM PAGE 6

advised the Obama White House and written The New York Times bestseller How To Be Black. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

MLK, Especially for Youth. 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. For children 6 – 12 Years Old. Free. Children will rotate through a series of activities, including an age-appropriate video and arts and crafts. All activities will be based on the history of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement. A self-contained lunch will be provided. Registration Required. Reg. #704750-2A. Children must be registered in advance and no onsite registration will be available on the day of the event. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Pocket of Freedom. 2-3:30 p.m. Virtual at the Cold War Museum, 7134 Lineweaver Road, Vint Hill. Your Cold War German village is entirely surrounded by hostile forces who are eager to make your daily life as tense and miserable as possible. Luckily, you've got some determined friends. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steinstuecken-a-little-pocket-of-freedom-tickets-187396446817>

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

The Daryl Davis Band. 2 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Davis will return to The Alden to speak on his experiences confronting Ku Klux Klansman on their racist beliefs. Tickets to Sunday's event are \$10/\$5 for MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 17

Reston MLK Celebration. 11 a.m. At Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Reston. Heather McGhee, author, will deliver the Keynote Address. Attendees are invited to the community lunch following McGhee's speech. Tickets are \$5 for Reston residents and em-

ployees, and \$10 for all others. Tickets to the Community Lunch and Keynote Address are required. Tickets are available at the Center-Stage Box Office or by calling 703-476-4500.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Mardi Gras Celebration. 12-2 p.m. At the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Cajun cuisine lunch, Mardi Gras mask making, trivia and entertainment. Dressing up is part of the celebration so be sure to wear purple, green and gold. To register, call 703-281-0538.

JAN. 18-FEB. 1

Mah Jongg Lessons. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Mah Jongg beginner class, Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$90. Send non-refundable check to WoTRS, Attention Iva Gresko, Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmorland St, Falls Church, VA 22023. Include email address, home address, and telephone numbers. Check is your registration. Enrollment limited. Masks required.

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

Performing Arts Documentary. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Learn a little about the performing arts through this one-hour (or so) documentary. Safety permitting, join Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff for a discussion after.

JAN. 21 THRU FEB. 6

"The Dinner Party." Presented by Vienna Theatre Company. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Performance Dates and Times: 8 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays: January 21, 22, 28, 29; Feb 4, 5; 2 p.m.: Sundays: Jan 30, Feb 6. In Neil Simon's farcical take on love, marriage, divorce, and what comes after, six strangers are invited to a mysterious dinner party. They do not know who the other guests will be or why they have been invited. Tossed together in a private dining room, they have a sneaking suspicion that this unorthodox dinner party will forever change their lives. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org for more details or email vtcshows@yahoo.com.

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So Long Old Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As of Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 2000 Honda Accord, which I inherited from my widowed mother 13 years ago, nearly to the day, was officially "totaled" by an insurance adjuster. After my mother died in 2008 leaving the Honda ownerless, I took possession. As I recall, on Dec. 24, 2008, I went to the Montgomery County administrative offices in Rockville and paid my dues (taxes, actually). And though I've had miscellaneous car repairs over the years - fortunately, nothing which was too drastic or expensive, I've not had to make one monthly car payment in almost 13 years. For a non-car person like me, not having a car payment for that many years trumps all negative considerations.

As written about in the "Oh Deer" column a few weeks back, the end of our association (the Honda and mine) was unexpected and for my money - literally, quite unnecessary. The Honda was our back-up/second car. Maybe it was driven 5,000 miles a year, almost exclusively local and most often, it sat in the driveway minding its own business. Now, I'll have to upgrade and consequently incur a new monthly car payment. A car payment I don't want and an extra expense I certainly don't need. Though I'll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company, it won't cover the cost of a new car. In fact, it will barely cover the amount of down payment. And as any of you similarly impacted by a car accident where your car is "totaled" know, the math rarely ends up in your favor, especially if the "totaled" car was old and payment free.

But more to the point if this column. The Honda was one of the last remaining physical links to my parents, particularly my father, who died in early December 2006. He was the driver in the family and the Honda was the only car in the family so most images and feelings I have about my father and a car were from this 2000 Honda Accord, the last car he owned/drove. As such, when I sit in the driver's seat, I remember my father. And I also remember the front of one of his birthday cards which said: "When they made you, they broke the mold." Open card: "You should see what they did to the mold maker." We all laughed. I gave him that card on his 65th birthday dinner which we all celebrated at Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant (his favorite) on the wharf in Boston on or about Sept. 23, 1984 (his actual birthday). It was a memorable occasion to be sure, especially when my father opened the card and shook it to see if any money would fall out.

And though I still have lots of enduring memories of my father (I still wear his winter gloves as well as an old collard short-sleeve Polo shirt of his - which amazingly sort of fits), nothing conjures his memory and is so physically enveloping - literally, as the front seat of the car where when driving, he spent the last years of his life. And now that feeling/his presence is gone.

I imagine I'll get reconnected to his memory every month for the next 36 at least, when I make my new car payment. It won't quite be the same as sitting in the Honda payment free. Nevertheless, I'm sure I'll still feel a car connection to my father. After all, I'll be driving a car that he helped me buy.

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



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The new \$15 M Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Station 25, 1820 Wiehle Ave, Reston, Va.

Gusty winds blow snow from the roof of Fairfax County Fire/Rescue Station 25 two days after the station's A-Shift spent the day moving from their temporary station at 1840 Cameron Glen Drive to 1820 Wiehle Ave.

Move in Day for Fire and Rescue Station 25

New and improved station in Reston nearly doubles the size of its predecessor.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A-shift at Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station 25, Reston spent the day moving from their temporary station at 1840 Cameron Glen Drive to their sparkling new station on their former site 1820 Wiehle Avenue, all while crews were running calls Thursday, Jan. 6. Just shy of two years ago, on Jan.

28, 2020, a similar scene played in reverse. A-shift had the distinction of moving out of the old station and into their temporary station. Their old one-level station, deemed “grossly undersized” at 7,750 square feet, as described in the Feb. 19, 2018 project description, was demolished in March of 2020.

The two-and-a-half-bay structure designed in 1972 lacked sufficient space for existing equipment and operational support functions. It

could not meet the needs of the department, expanding to meet Reston’s increased service demands with the additional high-density commercial and residential development due to the expansion of the Metrorail to Dulles Airport.

The approximately \$15 million two-level station nearly doubles the size of its predecessor with its 17,150 square feet and four drive-through apparatus bays. Constructed with a contemporary look

to complement the urban feel of Reston Town Center, LeMay Erickson Willcox Architects of Reston targeted LEED Silver certification with sustainable design strategies that include site selection, water use reduction, regional materials, recycled content materials, low VOC interior finishes, and Photovoltaic panels.

According to the architect’s portfolio, “The new building expands support function through updat-

ed gear lockers, shop and storage rooms, control room, and lobby all connected and easily accessible to the first-floor apparatus bays. To meet the increased shift sizes, 41 parking spaces were required, thereby reducing the usable land for the building foot print resulting in this two-story design. The living quarters, administrative offices, and bunk and locker rooms were programmed above the apparatus bays along the second floor of the facility.”



The original building of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Station 25, Reston located at 1820 Wiehle Ave. in Reston was built in 1972.

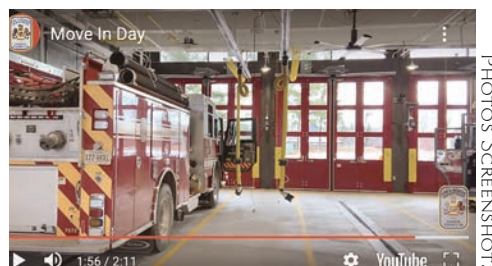
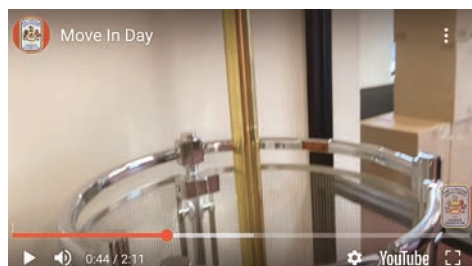
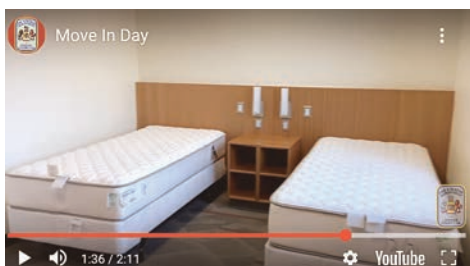
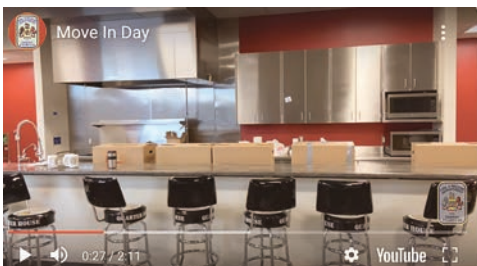


March 23, 2020-Station 25 Reston is razed.



Dec. 29, 2020- Station 25 Reston taking shape.

PHOTOS SCREENSHOTS



PHOTOS SCREENSHOTS

It is move-in day, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, for Station 25 Reston.