

# CONNECTION

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## Why Students Are Still Wearing Masks

PAGE 4

Brinkley Clayton and children who took the school bus for Keene Mill and Ravensworth elementaries were masked for school on Tuesday. Federal rules require masks to be worn on all public transportation, including school buses.

## Fairfax Loses 2 Park Leaders in One Week

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## Prosecuting Bike Fatalities

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OPINION, PAGE 5, G. 9 ♦ SENIOR INTIMACY, PAGE 11 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, OPERA, PAGES 13

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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# ‘At Stake Is the Nonpartisan Nature of our Elections’

## Fairfax City Council mulls November elections, term limits.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

According to the City Charter, elections in Fairfax City are held every two years, the first Tuesday in May, in even-numbered years. But when Virginia’s General Assembly changed all city and town elections from May to November, Fairfax legally had to adopt an ordinance to that effect so it would be in compliance with state law.

It did so at a City Council meeting shortly before the holidays. As a result, the current Council members’ two-year terms of office won’t end June 30, as they were supposed to. Instead, they’ll continue an extra six months – until November – and the same will be true for the mayor and members of the School Board.

However, City Attorney Brian Lubkeman said the City was considering asking the General Assembly if – instead of holding the next elections this November – Fairfax could hold them in November 2023. That way, he explained, they’d be on an odd-year cycle so



David Meyer

they wouldn’t be held during state and national elections and become partisan.

He also mentioned the possibility of changing the Council’s terms of office from two to four years. Ultimately, City Council took no action on this proposal – but just the very idea caused a lively, heated and often impassioned discussion during the public hearing that ensued.

“Council’s desire to arbitrarily change their own terms from 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 years



Sang Yi

seems self-serving and denies the voice of the people,” said resident Janice Feather. “And you’d have a higher voter turnout if your elections were tied to the dates of the national ones.”

Her husband James was also opposed. “There’s no justification for these changes,” he said. “I encourage you to reconsider this action.”

Steve Stombres, a former Fairfax mayor and councilmember, didn’t want the City

“I never got the sense that any of my colleagues was in it for themselves, or are self-serving. ... Our residents’ views should dictate who should sit up here.”

— Sang Yi, City Counsel

to even adopt the ordinance. “I’ve been involved in national politics my entire life,” he said. “I didn’t support the General Assembly action to eliminate May elections. They’re about City issues and attract an informed electorate.

“So I advise you to set back your adoption of the ordinance – don’t bring national politics into City issues. Ask the General Assembly not to dictate to cities and towns when to hold their elections. And if it has to be a November election, make it during a state election cycle, not a national one.”

SEE FAIRFAX CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 7

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## Losing the Greatest Park Leaders

BY PAUL GILBERT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NOVA

**O**n Jan. 16 and on Jan. 17,, two of the greatest leaders of parks in Northern Virginia passed away. First, it was Art Little who served on the Board of NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) for 33 years from 1987 to 2020. The following day, Darrell Winslow, who had served as Director of Parks and then Executive Director of the regional park system from 1966 to 1995, passed away.

Tom Brokaw coined the phrase “the Greatest Generation” to capture those that participated in WWII. Art Little fit that generation fighting in both WWII and Korea. Darrell Winslow was younger, serving the Army in Europe during the 1950s. Both exemplified the best qualities that Brokaw highlighted: responsibility, humility, work ethic, and community. This generation built many of the institutions that have been central to our civic lives for decades, including parks. As public lands, parks are central to creating community. We have all become more aware of this during the pandemic when the public has turned to parks like never before. Thankfully because of the work of Mr. Little and Mr. Winslow, those parks were there for us.

Darrell Winslow was a graduate of NC State University, an Army Veteran, and an experienced Park and Recreation professional when he was hired by the Regional Park Authority in 1966. At the time, the agency was seven years old and had acquired a little over 2,000 acres, mostly along the Bull Run and Occoquan Rivers. Winslow’s first task was to create some operations. The very first regional Park operations were opened at Bull Run Marina off of Yates Ford Road. He was given a budget and a Sears Catalog as he told the story. He ordered a shed to be used as the concessions building and bought as many Jon boats as he could get. They sold worms and sandwiches, and his only rule for the attendant is that they must



**Feb. 11, 2020 presentation to Art Little from NOVA Parks at Fairfax City Council: From left are Brian Knapp (NOVA Parks Board), Julie Little, Art Little, Michael Nardolilli (NOVA Parks Board), and Paul Gilbert (NOVA Parks Executive Director). Little, 93 in this photo, died Jan. 16, 2022. Read more about Art Little and the presentation. <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2020/mar/02/legend-selfless-service-northern-virginia/>**

keep the sandwiches on the shelf above the worms. With that, the first health and safety standards were set. Within two hours of opening, all the boats were rented, and all the sandwiches were sold. Today over 87% of the operating expense for NOVA Parks are generated through operations. Darrell Winslow started this model, and by the time he retired in 1995, the system had grown to 10,000 acres, including many of the parks people associate with the regional system.

Art Little was appointed to the NOVA Parks Board by Fairfax City Council in 1987. In addition to the military, he served in the top ranks of the CIA. He earned a Bachelor’s

Degree from George Washington University and a Master’s Degree from Auburn University. He wanted to give back to the community he was from, and Parks was his interest. He served on both the City’s Park & Recreation Advisory Board and the NOVA Parks Board. Art served as a commander of an Air Force base, and he often drew comparisons between running a regional park system and running a busy military base. During Art Little’s time on the NOVA Parks Board, the agency went from about 9,000 acres to over 12,000.

In the late-1980s to the mid-1990s, both Mr. Winslow and Mr. Little worked on the



**Darrell Winslow**

completion of the W&OD Trail that stretches 45 miles from Shirlington to Purcellville. They oversaw significant improvements to Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, including the Atrium, and created a new golf course in Brambleton and many other new lands and facilities.

They gave of their time and talents and created a lasting legacy that has benefited millions of park users every year.

On Nov. 17, 2019, the NOVA Parks Board presented a lifetime achievement award for Darrell Winslow to his daughters. And on February 11, 2020, an award was presented to Art Little by the NOVA Parks Board in front of Fairfax City Council to celebrate his 33 years of service on the Board.

Through service and civic contributions, Darrell Winslow and Art Little made our world a better place. We are forever indebted to them and the many others of their time that built parks and other civic institutions that are central to our society.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Zoom meeting, Jan. 29, re Willard Health Center

Fairfax City and Fairfax County are redeveloping the Joseph Willard Health Center and Sherwood Community Center sites into a single destination for health, wellness, fitness, childcare and performing arts in downtown Fairfax City. Located at the corner of Layton Hall Drive and Old Lee Highway, the new recreation and health-service facility will replace the current Willard Health Center

and will include a campus redesign connecting to the Sherwood Center.

The project includes demolition of the current Joseph Willard Health Center and construction of a new, approximately 95,000-square-foot facility in its place at 3750 Old Lee Hwy. and will also expand the existing Sherwood Center at 3740 Old Lee.

To learn more about what’s planned and to allow residents to have input into the project, a virtual Zoom session is set for this Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9-10:30 a.m. To register, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZckf-6hrjMsEtZt95TynAjZy5JVUJWCl6vf>.

Once registered, an email link and call-

in number will be sent to the email address they provide. In addition, an in-person, drop-in event will be held at the Sherwood Community Center sometime in mid- to late February. The date will be announced later.

#### Fairfax Man Dies after Jan. 8 Vehicle Crash

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department’s Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing to investigate a fatal crash that happened just before midnight, Jan. 8, on

Route 29 at Forum Drive in Fair Oaks. The victim, a pedestrian, was Joel Gonzalez, 22, of Fairfax.

Police say he was crossing Route 29, from north to south, at its intersection with Forum Drive, outside of the crosswalk. According to officers, the driver of a 2004 Toyota Sienna was traveling east on Route 29, entered the intersection on a green light and “struck Gonzalez in the roadway.” He was rushed to a hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries. Preliminarily, say police, “Speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash.”

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 14

# FCPS Takes Legal Action Challenging Gov. Youngkin's Ex. Order No. 2

**County School Board files suit jointly with six other boards.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Monday, Jan. 24, seven school boards, including five in northern Virginia: Fairfax County, Falls Church City, Alexandria City, Arlington County, and Prince William County, as well as the cities of Richmond and Hampton, jointly filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) Executive Order that would allow parents to send children to school without wearing masks.

According to the order, "Parents of any child enrolled in a(n) elementary or secondary school or a school based early childcare and educational program may elect for their children not to be subject to any mask mandate in effect at the child's school or educational program."

Gov. Youngkin wrote in the order, citing § 1-240.1 of the Code of Virginia, that "a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child."

The online FCPS statement, which was posted on Monday, Jan. 24: "At issue was whether locally-elected school boards have the exclusive authority and responsibility conferred upon them by Article VIII, § 7 of the Constitution of Virginia over supervision of the public schools in their respective communities, or whether an executive order can unilaterally override that constitutional authority," the statement read. Also at issue is whether a governor, through executive order, could rescind a lawfully adopted statute, Senate Bill 1303, without the Virginia General Assembly's legislative action.

Former Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) signed Senate Bill 1303, on March 30, 2021, and as approved, it expires on August 1, 2022. The approved bill requires that each school board offer in-person instruction to students five days a week. "Each school board shall also provide that in-person instruction" in a manner in which it adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, to any currently applicable mitigation strategies for early childhood care and education programs and elementary and secondary schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Monday, Jan. 24, marked the first day that Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Executive Order went into effect, but students were not in schools because of a professional development day



**FCPS regulation requiring universal masking remains in effect in accordance with state law. Students must adhere to the requirements of Regulation 2109.2. Face masks are included in the student dress code and failure to comply remains an SR&R violation.**



**Superintendent Scott Brabrand is pictured here with two pupils, one of whom is holding a vaccination card. FCPS is working toward a time when they can begin to scale back safety measures, like universal masking, but that time has not yet arrived.**

in FCPS.

The moment had not come for schools to eliminate universal mask wearing, a critical component of layered health and safety mitigation strategies, school districts assert.

The Virginia Health Department stated on Monday, Jan. 24, that COVID-19 transmission rates remained high. Hospitals around

SEE FCPS, PAGE 12

## Kids Mask Up for School

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**P**arents faced contradicting messages regarding mask requirements for area schools after Gov. Glen Youngkin's executive order number two was designed to give parents the ability to decide whether their children should wear masks at school. Virginia law also requires masking into March. Guidance from the Center of Disease Control continues to recommend mask wearing and Fairfax County Public Schools have not changed their mask requirements.

Parents were certain that masking was still required and many felt it was the right decision.

Parent Dr. Erica Reynolds Clayton of Burke said, "Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Brabrand has been excellent about communicating what is going on with the parents by way of thorough, regular emails. I support Dr. Brabrand's decision [to mandate masks] and was grateful that he included pediatric medical experts during his Town Hall," held the evening of Jan. 24.

SEE MASK UP, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY SHAWN NEWMAN

**Safety patrol member Cora Newman and other kids at the bus stop headed for Keene Mill Elementary School were wearing masks or had them at the ready on Jan. 25. Federal rules require masks to be worn on all public transportation, including school buses.**

## Brabrand: 'Stay the Course'

**We have a right to do things up until that right impinges or infringes on the rights of others.**

MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**S**uperintendent Scott Brabrand invited families to a virtual community town hall and question and answer session Monday evening, Jan. 24. Throughout the hour, Brabrand and others discussed the latest pandemic information, the rationale and science behind the division's COVID-19 mitigation strategies, and the lawsuit filed by the Fairfax County school board in collaboration with six other Virginia county school boards in response to the governor's Executive Order on mask opting.

At one point, answering a person's question about FCPS taking away students' rights to opt-out of mask-wearing, Brabrand said that the pandemic had required a collective sacrifice for our community, our country, and our world.

"I'm frustrated too. I want to see the



MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**Students, parents, and guardians arrive masked at FCPS' McNair Farm Elementary School.**

COVID cases go down, but I also believe our responsibility is to all of our students. And we have to do the appropriate balancing of

SEE BRABRAND, PAGE 12

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## OPINION

# Session Update: Charitable Gaming Reform

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Perhaps one of the “heaviest lifts” — as we say in the General Assembly — on my legislative agenda this session is my effort to reform the Charitable Gaming system here in the Commonwealth. In fact, a third of my legislation this year is dedicated to this reform effort.

This is not just bipartisan, but a bicameral endeavor with my colleagues Sen. Bryce Reeves (Spotsylvania), Sen. Adam Ebbin, and Sen. John Bell (Loudoun).

If you are not familiar with Charitable Gaming, you may have heard of churches or fraternal organizations such as the Moose Lodge or Elk Lodge holding bingo games, raffles, or, more recently, Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournaments to raise money for charitable causes in the community. Not only are these games fun to participate in, but they raise money for good causes, and they’re run by volunteers. At least, that is the intention.

Unfortunately, over the past year that I have served as the Chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Charitable Gaming, my colleagues and I learned that the Charitable Gaming system we currently have in the Commonwealth is broken. The current leadership of the Charitable Gaming Board has vested interests in charitable gaming in Virginia and makes a profit off of this gaming. As we held numerous hearings over the summer, we heard from various stakeholders around Virginia on the issues and worked with our legislative team to create solutions with the goal of reforming Charitable Gaming in Virginia into a transparent and fair system, free from conflicts of interests, with clear definitions, penalties, a powerful enforcement arm, and with the goal of raising funds for charity as first and foremost in mind.

Our legislative agenda includes the six pieces of legislation that I introduced on the House side to achieve these goals. You can view all of these and follow their journey this session at [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov):

HB 763: This bill would restrict electronic gaming to inside the social quarters of social organizations,



and within their home locality.

HB 764: This bill requires the registration of landlords that lease premises to a qualified charitable organization. The bill also prohibits an organization from conducting any Texas Hold ‘em poker game where the game has no predetermined end time and the players wage actual money or poker chips that have cash value.

HB 765: This bill changes the Charitable Gaming Board from a policy board to an advisory board.

HB 766: Establishes the Charitable Gaming Fund as the receiver of all fees and penalties collected by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in its administration of charitable gaming laws. This bill also charges the Illegal Gaming Enforcement Coordinator with enforcement of charitable gaming laws and establishes a tip line for members of the public to report concerns about illegal gaming. A small percentage of funds collected by the Department is given to the problem gambling fund.

HB 767: Provides for a civil penalty of not less than \$25,000 and not more than \$50,000 for any person or organization that conducts charitable gaming without a permit, conducts games after suspension of a permit, or violates any other charitable gaming laws.

HJ 36 - Charitable Gaming JLARC study on whether a stand-alone gaming oversight agency would allow for more focused oversight of all types of legal gaming in the Commonwealth and alleviate potential conflicts of interest.

I, along with my Senate colleagues, held a joint press conference on Monday morning announcing our intentions with this year’s legislation and highlighted our concerns with the Charitable Gaming system. We sent a letter to Speaker Gilbert requesting that he relieve the members of the Charitable Gaming Board who serve at his pleasure, and we plan to send similar letters to the Senate Rules Committee and Governor Youngkin. Ultimately, our goal is to create a Charitable Gaming system that emphasizes charity and not gaming and helps the legitimate charitable gaming organizations, because what they do for the community is important and beneficial.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### SEEKING SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women’s softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the website [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org) or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

#### JAN. 25-APRIL 14

**ESL Classes.** 7-9 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. In-person and online ESL classes. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. Online registration starts on December 15 at

<http://www.lordoflifeva.org/esl>  
Cost is \$20.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 10

**AARP Webinar.** 2-3 p.m. Virtual. At 10817 Windemere Lane, Fairfax Station. Learn how to recognize online relationship scams in this 30-minute webinar. Lots of people meet friends and potential love interests online through dating sites, social media, or mobile apps. It can be a great way to meet people, but recognize that not everyone is who they say they are online. These scams aren’t just targeted at people who are looking for a relationship on a dating site or app. They can occur through social media and even through email. In this 30 min-

ute webinar, they’ll discuss the red flags to be on the lookout for anyone engaging in online relationships. Free. Registration link: <https://aarp.cventevents.com/ORS02102022>

#### TUESDAY/FEB. 22

**Springfield Blood Drive.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Springfield Masonic Lodge, 7001 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Masonic Lodge and Springfield Volunteer Fire Department will host a blood drive. Drop-ins are welcome. Visit the website: <https://www.inovablood.org/contact-us/>

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# Update from Session Week 2

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



In the second week of this year's General Assembly, Governor Youngkin gave his State of the Commonwealth speech to a joint session of the House of Delegates and Senate, and we began serious work on over 2,000 bills.

While I was pleased that Governor Youngkin said he wants all Virginians to get vaccinated for COVID-19, supports a Chesapeake Bay cleanup and ending raw sewage discharges into the James River, he also advocated for many policies that many people of the 36th Senate District do not support, policies like charter schools and funding cuts to schools and our transportation.

Senate committees advanced several of my bills recently.

The Transportation Committee approved my legislation to require police officers to advise drivers why they have stopped the driver's vehicle before requesting the driver's license and registration. When police stop a car, drivers can often become anxious and upset and believe they were not violating any law. This happened to one of my constituents recently and her incident escalated into an arrest for driving while intoxicated. She submitted to a breath test which showed she had no alcohol on her breath and the Commonwealth's Attorney asked for the charges to be dropped. The entire episode would have been avoided if the officer had told her the basis for her stop. The full Senate will debate this bill this week.

Another bill would allow child accident victims to invest proceeds from injury settlements and use the funds for college, trade school or

**The Transportation Committee approved my legislation to require police officers to advise drivers why they have stopped the driver's vehicle before requesting the driver's license and registration.**

registered apprenticeship programs in what is called Virginia's 529 Program. Under current law, settlements are either invested in certificates of deposit or restrictive annuities approved by a judge.

Another bill I introduced would create a new Circuit Court judgeship in Prince William County. Prince William is now the second largest jurisdiction in Virginia and it takes 18 months to get a hearing date for civil cases like family law matters, business disputes or personal injury. All other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia address these cases in fewer than 12 months.

The Judiciary Committee approved my legislation that extends the Supreme Court of Virginia's judicial review program to retired judges who continue to hear cases and allows the legislature to decertify any judges who have problems. Today, retired judges can continue to hear cases and there is no formal program to obtain objective feedback on their performance or initiate their removal.

I also introduced several budget amendments of local interest. I am proposing to repurpose the \$2 million that Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Mark Sickles secured for River Farm last year to purchase River Farm and use it as a grant program to improve public access to the property. I have requested \$5 million to

connect Pohick Bay Regional Park to public water and another \$5.4 million to fund water and sewer lines for permanent outdoor restrooms at all Fairfax County Public School stadiums. One of the wealthiest counties in America should have permanent restrooms at these community facilities.

I have suggested that we use funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARPA) to eliminate our \$250 million state park maintenance backlog at parks like Mason Neck and general funds to complete the Phase II and Phase III buildout at Widewater State Park in Stafford County. I have also requested \$200,000 to continue Good Shepherd Housing's services to families receiving government aid that was started this year.

Over 70 constituents attended our Mount Vernon-Lee Town Hall on Saturday and I have town hall meetings scheduled with other delegates and senators for Lorton, Occoquan/Woodbridge and Dumfries/Montclair. Please see [www.scottsurovell.org](http://www.scottsurovell.org) and my Facebook and Twitter pages for more details. I look forward to discussing your concerns and answering your questions.

Please send me any feedback at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org). It is an honor to serve you in the Virginia Senate.

# Protecting Student Learning

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



Last week I spoke to the members of the House of Delegates about my concerns of protecting student learning under the new administration in Richmond. The Governor's first Executive Order raised more questions than answers as to the intent of the order.

Entitled "Ending the Use of Inherently Divisive Concepts, Including Critical Race Theory, and Restoring Excellence in K-12 Public Education in the Commonwealth," its opening page has little with which I would quarrel: "The foundation of our educational system should be built on teaching our students how to think for themselves."

The following three pages of directives set the administration on an investigation to find Critical Race Theory (CRT) in the curriculum even though it is not taught in the public schools. The 14 directives have the staff looking in every document, every file folder, and seemingly behind every nook and cranny to root out CRT. This wild goose chase called for in Executive Order One to find something that

does not exist is akin to the calls for a forensic audit of all election results to support the Big Lie that fraud and corruption in the last presidential election allowed the election to be stolen.

My red warning light goes off with the Executive Order for in Virginia we have gone down such a path in the past much to the embarrassment of the state in the eyes of the Nation. The Lost

Cause was an effort on the part of the Southern states to justify the Civil War, glorify the participants, and claim the high ground for it having been fought. All those Civil War monuments that have been removed in the past couple of years for the false narrative they helped to promote were part of the Lost Cause movement.

Virginia's contribution to the Lost Cause effort to give a different meaning to the causes of the Civil War was the establishment by the General Assembly of a legislative commission to oversee publication of new textbooks on Virginia history and government. The Commission realized many difficulties in trying to have professional historians and teachers cooperate in writing a selective history of the Commonwealth. One legislative member of the Commis-

sion explained that "we want to emphasize the greatness of Virginia and take out any reference to poor people."

One historian wrote that the textbooks "portrayed Virginia's white leaders in unfailingly flattering lights, its enslaved residents as happy and contented beneficiaries of benign masters who civilized and Christianized them, and its Indians as savage barbarians in some contexts or as primitive simpletons in others." (Tarter, *The Grandees of Government*, University of Virginia Press, 2013)

My personal experience with state-written textbooks came in the mid 1960s when as an intern teacher I refused to use the textbook for it left out so much of Virginia history including the slave economy, the resulting Civil War and the Jim Crow era and its consequences. Objections by educators, ridicule in the press, and embarrassment by state officials led to these books being abandoned.

Executive Order One seems obsessed with what it calls "inherently divisive concepts." Considering history that is truthful in our highs and lows can lead to better understandings and a stronger more inclusive state than can efforts to ignore, white-wash or mislead in our history. We do not want politicians writing our textbooks!

## CONNECTION

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# Fairfax City Council Mulls November Elections, Term Limits

FROM PAGE 2

Another past City councilmember, Allen Griffith, also said City elections shouldn't be involved with partisan, national elections. Concerning four-year terms, he said, "When I was on the School Board, rebuilding the schools was an eight-year project. Time together does make a difference."

Gary Rasmussen, yet another former councilmember, said past Charter Commissions "recommended four-year terms, and nothing happened. Go for it now – it's the right thing to do."

But resident Susan Trencher disagreed. "We elected you for a two-year term, not four years," she said. "It's the electorate's decision – not the sitting members of the Council."

Matthew Eddy was "adamantly opposed to four-year terms" and warned the Council members that voters "will remember what you do."

Billy Bates predicted the "lowest voter turnout" in 2023 because "there are just state senate elections, and it's a year before the presidential election. Putting [City] elections at the same time as presidential elections wouldn't make them partisan and would increase voter turnout. And having four-year terms was voted down before."

Furthermore, added Katie Johnson, "Two-year terms give us an opportunity for a reset, if we find our City has gone off course."

Councilmember Jon Stehle asked, "We don't have the authority to extend our terms, right?"

Lubkeman said that's correct. "Council would have to request the General Assembly take an action to do this," he said. "You're not taking that action, this evening."

"We were elected last May for two years," said Councilmember Sang Yi. "Now we'll have to serve 30 months, instead of 24 months. And if we changed the

election to November 2023, we'd be here 42 months – and I can't support that. To import national politics into our elections isn't in the best interests of our citizens. I recommend we have elections November 2022 for a one-year term. Then we could have a November 2023 election for two years."

Besides that, said Yi, "I never got the sense that any of my colleagues was in it for themselves, or are self-serving. It's almost impossible that the local candidates will get the same level of attention that the presidential candidates will. This is a flawed situation; our residents' views should dictate who should sit up here."

"What's really at stake here is the nonpartisan nature of our elections and our political life here in the City of Fairfax," said Mayor David Meyer. "If we had an election in November 2023 for four-year terms, we'd never be on the ballot with presidential or governor candidates – only with the state delegates and senators representing us. This makes it a local election."

"If we had a November 2022 election, people would have to announce their candidacy in January or February, file by June 8 and campaign as soon as possible. Funding costs for November 2022 and '23 elections would double or triple, and first-time candidates would be at a disadvantage. Jurisdictions who moved their

elections to fall have seen an exodus of nonpartisan candidates. Our issues aren't Democrat or Republican issues. Our national, state and regional elections have become highly politicized and polarized – and our City elections could become that way, too."

City Clerk Melanie Crowder then read an email from former mayor Rob Lederer, into the record. "Two-year terms are best and allow citizens to comment on the issues and their progress. Term changes have always been put to a voter referendum. In the last one, over 67 percent voted against having four-year terms."

**"We elected you for a two-year term, not four years. It's the electorate's decision – not the sitting members of the Council."**

— Susan Trencher

**Concerning four-year terms, "When I was on the School Board, rebuilding the schools was an eight-year project. Time together does make a difference."**

— Allen Griffith, past City councilmember

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# Impact of Vehicle-Bicycle Collisions in Fairfax Courts

## FABB's discussion with Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Community Justice and Policy.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) and Pia J. Miller, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Community Justice and Policy in Fairfax County, discussed vehicle-bicycle collisions on Jan. 19. Miller talked about how vehicle-bicycle collisions are handled in the county's criminal justice system. The interview was set up so bicyclists could learn more about the process, including plea bargains, in the aftermath of three bike fatalities in Fairfax County 2021. Before the discussion began, FABB President Bruce Wright said that Miller indicated she could not address specific cases.

Miller began her presentation by offering an overview of Virginia's criminal justice system. The police investigate. No case exists in the Commonwealth's Attorney's office until a person is arraigned and a decision is made where the trial will occur. It could be in one of the state's two district courts, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and General District Court, or in Circuit Court.

According to Miller, the prosecutor's first and most significant task after the case is brought to the attention of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office is to ensure that they will comply with ethical requirements. Prosecutors do not proceed until they demonstrate that they have met the "burden of proof" requirement based on facts, evidence, and possible witnesses.

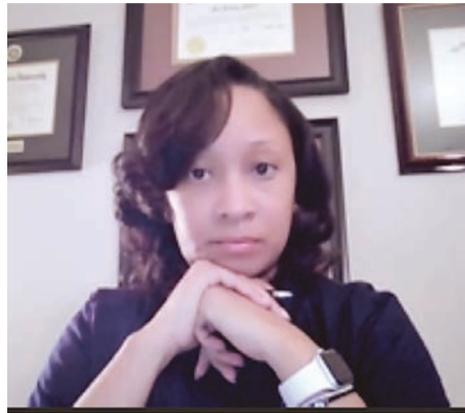
The preponderance of the existing evidence must be sufficient to initiate and win a criminal prosecution. Miller said, "You are going to look for your police report. You are going to make sure that you have your necessary witnesses... You need to speak to your witnesses to make sure that they know when the court date is. Are they available to testify? Do they want to testify?"

The second step for the prosecutor is to figure out what is going on. According to Miller, that is the point she would talk to the defense. This is when a plea bargain would be appropriate. Miller said that she would ask the defense counsel about their client. Whether a prosecution should be pursued or whether a plea bargain should be reached is determined in light of these considerations.

"What can you tell me about any mitigating factors or anything that you are possibly thinking? For me, we talk about whether or not a plea would be appropriate. So, once I have done my diligence as a prosecutor, and I know what evidence I do or will not have, and whether or not I can even meet my burden of proof, that's when I start talking about, we need to either move this case out, or we don't," said Miller.

### Fairfax County's Three Fatal Vehicle-Bicycle Collisions in 2021

Matthew Jaeger, 33 of McLean, was killed on Dec. 29, 2021, after entering the intersection of Ingleside Avenue with Dolley Mad-



SCREENSHOT  
Pia J. Miller, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Community Justice and Policy in Fairfax County.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS  
Fairfax County cyclists like these students in Reston near Langston Hughes MS and those crossing the street in the Town of Herndon are "vulnerable road users."

ison Boulevard. He was struck in the road by a driver traveling in the southbound lane.

Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero, 24, of Alexandria, was killed after a June 3 crash. Riding her bicycle, Alvarez Romero entered the crosswalk to cross Telegraph Road on the south side of the Franconia Road intersection. She proceeded east through the intersection in front of a 2020 GMC Savanna, traveling north on Telegraph Road and having a green traffic signal. It resulted in the crash.

Ray Buza, 64, of Chantilly, was killed May 21 after riding east on Hidden Canyon Road. A car turned left in front of him at Blueridge View Drive, resulting in the crash. The motorist was charged with a "failure to yield" traffic infraction and a \$167 fine.

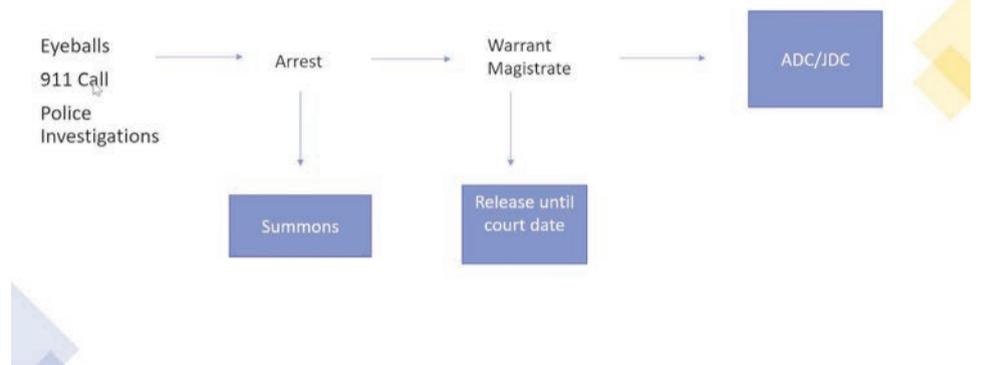
A question and answer period followed. Statements are lightly edited for clarity.

**Q: Where does a cyclist start if there is a collision?**

A: Call the police.

**Q: Are you familiar with the Virginia**

### Overview of Virginia Criminal Justice System



SCREENSHOT  
Overview of VA Criminal Justice System- Police investigate, not the Commonwealth's Attorney office.

There are a lot of little things ... Whether or not we're trying to set an overall example by deterrence is not necessarily at the forefront because we don't want to start doing it if somebody is truly a first-time offender. For somebody who has a perfect driving history, our office policy is such that we're not trying to use that person as an example. That makes sense.

**Q: What about hit and run? Is there some incentive to prosecute those cases to the fullest, to send a message that you stay when you get involved in a collision?**

A: The difficulty with hit and run is that normally there is a parallel civil case. Insurance companies don't wait. Once the victim is made whole on the civil side, the criminal side dries up, and that's not on us. The defense counsel and the police have resolved it. So, it's not as though we're shying away from making an example out of everyone. But that's also not the point of what our office does is as it relates to prosecution.

**Q: Are written transcripts available on how things play out in court or plea deals?**

A: Most of the time in district court, you will not have a court reporter because it's not a court of record; Circuit Court is a court of record.

**Q: Are hearings open to the public?**

A: As long as they are adults, yes.

**Q: Do you have any advice for us as advocates to ensure that cyclists are safe and drivers more responsible for their actions that harm cyclists?**

A: While I hate to put the onus on the bicyclists, anything you can do to help yourself is the best you can get at this point. GoPros are easy to obtain. Call the police; make sure they take the information from you because if you haven't given it to the police, then we have evidentiary chain of custody issues that we might have to deal with as the prosecutors. So, give it to them. Keep your copy; provide them with a copy.

# Northern Virginia Faces Loss of Legislative Experience

## Redistricting Creates Opportunities and Forces Change.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**R**edistricting maps, used for voting for Virginia's Senate and House seats, were finalized by the Virginia Supreme Court on Dec. 28, approving the map plan developed by Special Masters appointed by the court.

The effort followed analysis of 2020 U.S. Census data which documented population shifts, making it necessary to adjust districts to maintain roughly the same population sizes in each, in keeping with the one person - one vote concept. Virginia's redistricting commission, in its first year, was not able to come to agreement, moving the process to the State's Supreme Court.

Virginia's Constitution allows, but doesn't require, consideration of the addresses of incumbent legislators, who must live within the district they represent. They were not considered in the maps approved by the Supreme Court in December. As a result, several new Districts created have two or more incumbents.

State-wide, seven Senate districts and 19 House districts have more than one current legislator living in them. Eleven Senate districts and 23 House districts have no incumbents, While this provides opportunities for new candidates with new outlooks, it also means the loss of many experienced legislators.

In the northern Virginia area, the two Senate Districts which have pairs of incumbents include the two most senior Senators in the General Assembly, Richard Saslaw (1980) paired with Dave Marsden, and Janet Howell (1992) paired with Jennifer Boysko.

In the House there are four northern Virginia pairings, impacting incumbents, Kathleen Murphy and Rip Sullivan; Dave Bulova and Dan Helmer, Kaye Kory and Marcus Simon; and Eileen Filler-Corn and Kathy Tran.

Each these House incumbents received significant majorities in their last election, held November 2021, capturing from 53 to 72 percent of the vote. Two area Senate districts and three House districts have no incumbents.

Current incumbents continue to represent their prior constituencies until the next election. The date of that election is unclear, awaiting determination of a lawsuit in the federal appeals court, which could require House incumbents to run again in 2022 within the newly mapped territories.

### Virginia's principles of redistricting

Voting districts have been a contentious area in U.S. politics. The U.S. Constitution does not address state legislative redistricting creating an area of polit-

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



**Senator Richard Saslaw (D-35th), the most senior VA senator, and former House Speaker, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41st) both face potential primary campaigns with other incumbents after redistricting paired them with other incumbents (Shown at 2020 public hearing)**



**Senator Janet Howell, second most senior senator, and member of the powerful Finance and Appropriations, Privileges and Elections, and Rules Committees, is another area senator paired with another incumbent in the new redistricting map . Shown at 2019 campaign event)**

ical maneuvering. Supreme Court rulings have helped to set precedent, including that "the Equal Protection Clause demands no less than substantially equal state legislative representation for all citizens, of all places as well as of all races." The Voting Rights Act of 1965 mandates that electoral district lines cannot be drawn in such a manner as to "improperly dilute minorities' voting power." In a 2019 case, the Supreme Court held that the Republican led House of Delegates did not have the legal right to challenge a lower court opinion that struck several district maps in the Commonwealth they had drawn, as an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.

The Virginia Constitution outlines four principles in its redistricting criteria:

1. Population equity - "Every electoral district shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory ..." Va. Const. Art. II, § 6. Every electoral district shall be drawn in accordance with the requirements of federal and state laws that address racial and ethnic fairness, including the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

2. Voting Rights and political participation - provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and judicial decisions interpreting such laws. Districts shall provide, where practicable, opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to elect candidates of their choice." Va. Const. Art. II, § 6.

3. Communities of interest - "Districts shall be drawn to preserve communities of interest." Va. Code § 24.2-304.04(5).2

4. Political neutrality - "A map of districts shall not, when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Va. Code § 24.2-304.04(8).

5. The Commission may review political data to ensure compliance with this political neutrality provision and may consider incumbent addresses as part of the drafting process.

# New Tax on Plastic Bags

## BYOB now means 'bring your own bag.'

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Jan. 1, 2022, Fairfax County joined many jurisdictions including Arlington and City of Alexandria with a disposable plastic bag tax of five cents per bag, charged at the point of sale to consumers at grocery stores, convenience stores and drug-stores. To avoid the tax, consumers may bring reusable shopping bags. Paper bags are not subject to the five-cent tax, although certain retailers may have their own fees for paper bags, including Wegman's at the Hilltop Shopping Center in southern Alexandria.

The purpose of the tax is to curb the collective use of disposable plastic bags, reduce the amount of plastic waste in local waterways, roadways, and open spaces and the damage it causes. Plastic pollution is a problem for ecological and

health reasons, the county said, and it is not biodegrade like wood or other natural materials. Instead, plastic materials photodegrade, breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces but never fully disappearing. Pieces of plastic both large and very, very small can find their way into the food and water supply for humans and wildlife.

Several neighboring jurisdictions have also enacted a disposable plastic bag tax. Arlington County and the City of Alexandria also have a bag tax effective Jan. 1, 2022, while the City of Falls Church's tax will take effect April 1, 2022.

Revenue from this tax will be collected by the Virginia Department of Taxation and will be disbursed to each locality monthly. The bag revenue will go to:

- ❖ Environmental cleanup programs
- ❖ Pollution and litter mitigation programs
- ❖ Educational programs on environmental waste reduction
- ❖ Provision of reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) benefits

### VIEWPOINTS

PHOTOS AND QUESTIONS BY  
MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION  
AT THE BELLE VIEW SHOPPING CENTER

## What do you think of the bag fee that is charged at stores now?



"I'm for it, I try to bring my own"

- **Diane Morano, visiting friends in Mount Vernon**



"I'm from California, I'm used to it, I have reusable bags for this purpose"

- **Amber Larue, on a temporary assignment in Northern Virginia**



"I don't know what the money is going to be used for"

- **Chris Ames, Alexandria resident**



"It's unnecessary, I understand we should save more of these bags but it's awful"

- **Jaqueline Martinez, Belle View resident**

# New County Supervisory Districts/Precincts Get Name Review

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Dec. 7, 2021, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a redistricting plan for the county using 2020 census population data, as required by law. With the input of a 19 member citizens' advisory commission, the approved plan moves seven voting precincts, shifting the territories of seven of the nine current supervisory districts: Braddock, Lee, Mason, Mount Vernon, Providence, Springfield and Sully, and retaining a total of nine supervisor districts. The action is effective immediately, but is subject to certification by the Virginia Attorney General.

The redistricting plan is based upon the concept of one person - one vote; maintaining districts at roughly the same population size in order to have fair and equal representation as populations shift. This county process addresses only board of supervisor districts, voting precincts, and school board representation areas. It does not impact school boundaries, or State General Assembly and Congressional districts. Supervisors and school board members now representing the impacted districts will complete their current terms, which expire Dec. 31, 2023.

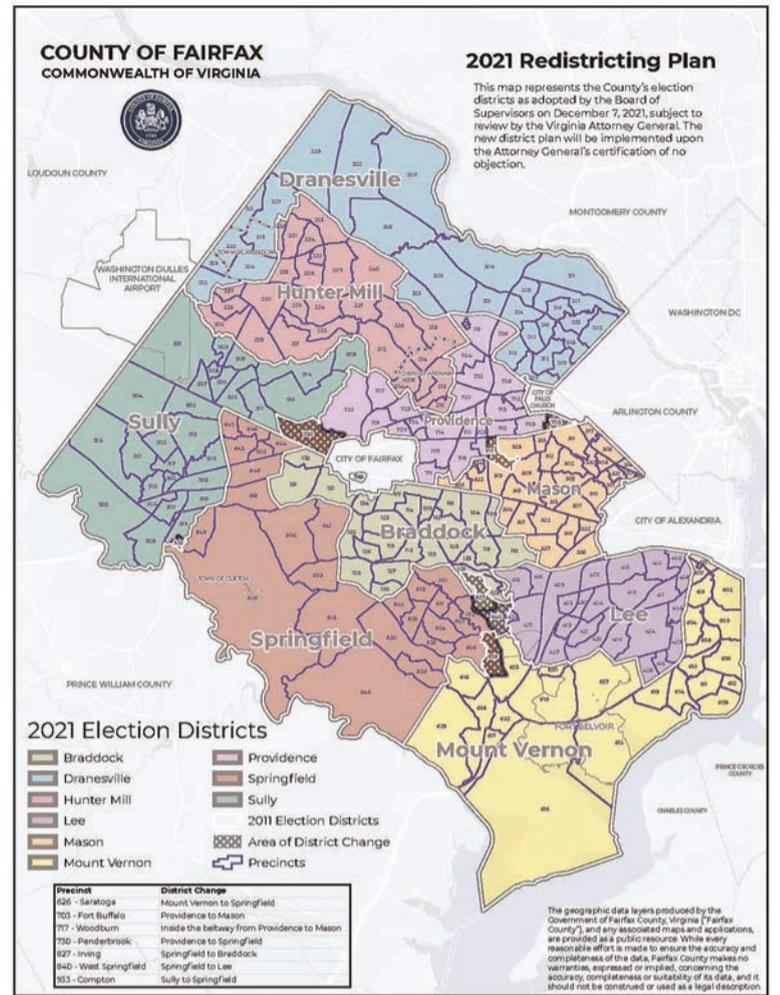
## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The advisory commission now turns its work toward considering whether new names for the districts and precincts are appropriate. Their recommendations are due to the Board of Supervisors by March 1.

Review of current names will consider their appropriateness and inclusiveness; whether any names are offensive to the community, including those associated with Confederate history or racism, or counter to the philosophy of One Fairfax.

For example, Ravensworth Precinct which moved from Braddock to Mason District, is a name associated with a Lee family tobacco plantation that held slaves, and Hunter Mill is associated with a Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart property. Other criteria for review include whether names are confusing to residents and geographically significant; of historical significance or no longer reflective of life in that part of the county; are aspirational of the future life here; or if a name change would be disruptive to the economic interest of the District or Precinct.

Residents with interest or who would like to give input to the advisory board which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, can find information at [www.fairfax-county.gov/redistricting.gov](http://www.fairfax-county.gov/redistricting.gov).



New District maps adopted Dec. 7, 2021

# Legislators Outline Session at Weekend Townhalls

**With Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Jennifer McClellan, and Scott Surovell, and Delegates Wendy Gooditis, Paul Krizek, Irene Shin, Mark Sickles, and Kathy Tran.**

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**A** little more than a week into the 2022 General Assembly session, legislators in the Fairfax County delegation moved from pre-session town halls to holding in-session meetings, to keep citizens apprised of what's happening in Richmond. In virtual meeting formats, drawing 50-75 participants per town hall session, legislators tackle questions on a wide variety of topics. Since Northern Virginia district seats are all held by Democrats, topics raised by the audiences tend toward their supporters' interests and concerns.

## TOWN HALL FOR MOUNT VERNON AREA

Introducing the Mount Vernon town hall on Saturday, Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), lamented that although newly sworn Republican Governor Glen Youngkin called for unity during his inaugural address, his actions through 11 executive orders were worrisome, far from striking a bipartisan tone. Surovell cited Youngkin's action to overhaul the role of the State's diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, naming a critical race theo-

ry critic to the position, who the Governor said will also serve as "ambassador to the unborn."

Surovell and other Democrats took issue with the action of new Attorney General Jason Miyares, firing 30 members of that office's staff, including 17 members who were not political appointees; Miyares declaring "There's a new sheriff in town." Miyares also fired University of Virginia and George Mason attorneys. Surovell called the actions "disturbing."

Given the Democrat majority in the senate, Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Jennifer McClellan, and Surovell re-assured participants concerned about roll-backs from favored Democrat gains of the past two year, including reproductive rights, gun control, local collective bargaining, and minimum wage increases, for example. Any bill must be passed by the House, Senate, and signed by the Governor to become a new law or replace an old one, so the Senate has the ability to block those actions. The senators were less confident about any new bills passing that could not attain bipartisan support.

Nomination of former coal industry lob-

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME



Sen. Scott Surovell



Sen. George Barker

byist and Trump administration director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Andrew Wheeler, to be the State's secretary of natural resources was also on the mind of participants, drawing several questions. Speakers expressed concern about Wheeler's actions to rescind Obama-era environmental regulations. Wheeler's appointment, which must be approved by the General Assembly, will be considered by the Senate agriculture committee, and voted on by the Senate on Friday.

During town halls, Senators highlighted

bills they filed related to problems including: methane reduction; safety of multi-family condo buildings; leave for organ donors; standards for skilled nursing home staff; more transit with low or no fares; unfreezing school support staff positions; preventing establishment of charter schools; better financing of public schools; assuring easy voter registration, early voting, and secure elections; and restricting sale of noxious invasive plant species by nurseries and retail stores with bills sponsored by Delegates Paul Krizek (D-44) and David Bulova (D-37), to list a few. Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), a member of the important House appropriations committee, highlighted work on the Commonwealth's two year budget plan, with items for health care, Medicare waivers, nursing home staff salaries, rebuilding the Lorton food bank, and promoting education.

Legislators shared that the Senate was ahead of the House in proceedings to date, with Senate floor votes on several bills accomplished last week; House floor voting began this week, on Jan. 24.

## CLIFTON WOMEN HEAR FROM LEGISLATORS

Speaking at an event hosted by Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia on Sunday, Jan. 23, Sen. Barker

## SENIOR LIVING

# Romance and Intimacy after 60

Reviving and developing romantic relationships in the golden years.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**E**rika, a 63-year-old practicing attorney who lives in McLean, says that she and her husband of 33 years are living as though they are roommates. “We have separate bedrooms,” she said. “We really don’t talk except for superficial conversations about politics. I’m lonely so much of the time.”

With the goal of restoring the romance and intimacy that they once shared, Erika and her husband have begun couples counseling. From scheduling date nights to overcoming resentments that hamper affection, local therapists say those over 65 can harness their maturity and life experience to revive or create healthy relationships.

“Although challenges exist, so does your interest in romance and intimacy,” said Brandon Keene-Orton, Assistant Professor of Counseling at Marymount University. “Don’t let existing stigmas harm your sexuality.”

Some older couples no longer have parental responsibilities like driving carpools and coaching little league games, which creates space for satisfying romantic relationships.

“With the worries from raising young chil-

dren behind them, increased free time, new and old love relationships can be life enriching,” said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Marymount University and the creator of a “Sexuality in Older Adulthood” in her Adulthood and Aging class. “In older adulthood – as it was in previous years – intimacy and closeness, which may include sexual intimacy, are vital for a long and healthy life.”

Some seniors lack an interest in romantic relationship because of the belief that such connections are not attainable, suggests Alexandria therapist Mark Anderson Ed.D. “As we age our bodies change and our sexual abilities change,” he said. “Many people find it very difficult to talk openly with their partner about these changes. It makes them feel like they’re letting their partner down, like they’re broken or useless.”

Redefining romance and tailoring it to meet the specific needs of both people in a relationship can ease apprehension and restore a desire to pursue a satisfying relationship.

“The focus of sex tends to shift towards intimacy and deep connection as the focus of fulfillment at this stage of development,

which is a welcome shift for many couples,” said sex therapist Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., who is also a Professor of Psychology at Marymount University.

Broken trust and ineffective communication have the power to destroy intimacy. “Every couple, no matter how compatible, have some issues or areas of conflict,” said Anderson. “If the couple isn’t able to work through these issues with a therapist or on their own, they can build up hurts and resentments that are hard to let go of. These hurt feelings create a distance between the partners that gradually erodes their sense of connection and intimacy.”

Working through a source of contention in a way that makes both people feel heard and understood can reinforce the bonds that hold together a romantic relationship. “Be candid about your needs. Do not listen to respond, listen to understand,” said Keene-Orton. “From there, healthy, honest, and forward conversations can make you and your partner reignite and maintain the flame.”

The ability to trust one’s a vital part of any romantic relationship, advises Anderson. “If a partner loses the sense that they trust their partner, that they are no longer emotionally and physically safe, it creates a barrier to intimacy,” he said. “The loss of trust may come from a major event like infidelity or may build slowly because of a series of small

“With the worries from raising young children behind them, increased free time, new and old love relationships can be life enriching.”

— Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Marymount University

issues where someone feels that their partner doesn’t have their back.”

“When trust is restored, couples can begin to really talk about what’s happening, or not happening, in the bedroom,” he continued. “They can open up about their feelings, fears, shame, and confusion. Then, instead of being a source of conflict, it becomes an opportunity for the couple to work together to regain that sense of love.”

Rather than thinking of a sudden relationship overhaul, take small steps to create intimacy. “Spend time together to build a connection,” said Bethesda therapist Carol Barnaby. “Seniors who have been together for a long time often have to work to maintain their relationship, realizing that the person you are with is probably not the same person as when you began your relationship.”

While people change over time, the aspects of the initial attraction might remain the same. “We should also take a look at some of the romantic characteristics that you’ve enjoyed in the past and now miss,” said Anderson. “Try to recreate those.”

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# Brabrand: ‘Stay the Course’

FROM PAGE 4

individual rights. Our whole country was formed on this balancing act of individual rights and balancing those with the rights of others. I have a right to do things up until that right impinges or infringes on the rights of others,” Brabrand said. He added that FCPS is committed, as they have been since the pandemic began, to moving out and through the pandemic together.

Dr. Michell Boyd, assistant superintendent for special services, FCPS, Dr. Nardus King, interim chief equity officer, FCPS, Benjamin Schwartz, MD, Fairfax County Health Department, and Russell Libby, MD, head of Virginia Pediatric Group, were among the guest speakers.

Brabrand said that as students returned to school on Tuesday for in-person instruction, the division had been successful throughout the pandemic, never having to close a school due to public transmission of COVID within a building.

“Our COVID transmission rates have been extremely low, less than one-half of 1 percent,” Brabrand said. “My message to you remains a simple one. Stay the course. We must stay the course here at FCPS and continue to utilize the safety mitigation strategies around the COVID-19 pandemic that have allowed us to continue to have a school environment that is safe for students and our staff.”

According to Brabrand, they, and others — parents, guardians, and students — must think about the needs of everyone as the division moves forward. “That’s our hope tonight,” said Brabrand. “You will listen with open minds and open hearts, and we’ll continue to have a door here for you at FCPS.”

Boyd said that despite the high COVID transmission rate in the county and across Virginia, FCPS had zero COVID outbreaks since returning from winter break and only 36 outbreaks with 151 cases in the 2021-22 school year. With over 200,000 students and staff at FCPS, Boyd said that this did not oc-

cur in isolation.

“Universal masking is recommended,” at times of high levels of community transmission, said Boyd. The CDC recommends universal mask wearing indoors for staff and students ages two and above regardless of one’s vaccination status.

“The recommendation from our federal health authorities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is that everyone wears masks at this time,” Boyd said. She added that the Northern Virginia health directors recommended that their Virginia superintendents talk about the importance of universal masking during high transmission. The Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics continues to strongly recommend that children wear masks in school when infection is high.

Boyd acknowledged that, at times, students wear their masks incorrectly and have to be reminded to pull them up. “But by and large, we want to celebrate that FCPS students have stepped up and have answered the call to keep themselves safe, to keep their friends safe, and to keep their community safe,” she said.

Concerning the problems associated with student face mask compliance, FCPS will continue to handle them in a tiered fashion, “in a caring manner and in our caring culture,” according to Boyd. She defined her efforts as being directed toward informing and educating rather than engaging in confrontation.

Students would first be redirected to wear their masks and may be redirected as staff worked with them. If there were still compliance challenges, staff would solicit the support of student service personnel, followed by engaging in conversation with parents and guardians.

“If FCPS exhausted this tiered approach to redirecting and supporting students ... students who would not comply would be excluded from in-person instruction,” said Boyd. Such does not include students with religious or medical exemptions,

continue to access in-person instruction,” stated the FCPS Jan. 24 announcement.

School boards had been placed in a “legally untenable position” and were confronted with an executive order that conflicted with the constitution and state law.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) became the first district to announce they would continue to require all staff and students to wear masks inside on school grounds and buses as part of their layered approach to safety. In its online posting announcement, APS noted, “The federal requirement from Feb. 2, 2021, is still in place on all forms of public transportation. Anyone riding a school bus is therefore required to wear a mask when riding on our school buses to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Face masks are included in the student dress code and failure to comply remains an SR&R violation. According to FCPS, “Intentional removal of or refusal to wear a face covering during the times face coverings are required by all students will be treated as a violation of Regulation 2613.”

Brabrand shared his concerns around the governor’s Executive Order Number Two, stressing that Senate Bill 1303 says they should be providing in-person instruction following CDC guidelines.” In the end, we will respect the legal process, and we are confident that we have a strong legal case. ... Now at the height of the number of cases per 100,000, the largest ever seen in FCPS,” the best course is staying the course, requiring masks.

Brabrand assured the community FCPS would work with them and produce a roadmap toward more flexible mitigation strategies, including those for more flexible mask-wearing as transmission eases.

## Q&A

Three thousand eight hundred people were online for the town hall during the Q and A. (Content slightly edited for clarity and length.)

### Q: Has the school district attempted to limit harassment to students, parents, and staff concerning mask use?

A: Brabrand: We continue to work with our principals, Office of School Safety and Security. We have a strong relationship with our Fairfax County Police Department, and we have an SRO (school resource officer) in all our middle and high schools.

### Q: Clarification on the type of masks is requested.

A1: Schwartz: The CDC document talks about the importance of a mask fitting well, having multiple layers, and a mask that a child will wear effectively and consistently. While KN95s and N95s have a higher filtering ability, if they don’t fit or if children don’t wear them consistently, they will not be effective. (The) CDC wasn’t recommending that children do not wear cloth masks, but rather that they wear the best mask with the best filtering capacity that they can wear consistently, effectively, and without any gaps around the sides.

A2: Russell Libby, MD: But with kids, they scream, they yell, they laugh, they talk, they sing, they do all the things that will generate the flow of potentially infected or virus-carrying particles in their breath that will be



FCPS family, Aruna and Rushi Patel with their daughter. “We are in favor of masks staying on. We definitely agree as it is for everyone’s safety.”

there for others to catch. And wearing that mask is most prominently intended to help reduce the spread from someone who’s asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic but carrying that virus. It might then infect someone else who would go home and infect their family, grandparents or others.

(Kids) carry a significant burden that we impose upon them by questioning and trying to undermine the real public health that all of us are here to advocate. They think they bought something home to their families that infected someone that killed someone. The potential for harm is so much greater than the potential for good.

### Q: You are taking our kids’ right to choose, and I don’t feel that is right.

A: Brabrand: I think part of the pandemic is particularly hard for people balancing individual rights for how I want my child to go to school, with those rights’ impact on the rights of other children, who also have a right to go to school and to go to school in a safe environment.

Brabrand ended the town hall saying that the pandemic caused more fatalities and casualties, than the number experienced during World War Two in wartime casualties. (World War II, 405,399 U.S. deaths. COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Deaths are more than 850,000)

“If this were a war, this is one of the most significant attacks on our country that we’ve ever endured. And so, we are facing that challenge between life and liberty that is fundamentally rooted in our own origin story as a country. I’m confident that we can continue to stay together, to work together, and to communicate the very latest in science and how to get us through this pandemic,” Brabrand said.

“I’m just going to commit to you as I continue to finish my final year as superintendent and in my final year over a span of 30 years in Fairfax County, to work with all of you, to listen whether you agree with me or not, that I’m coming to you with a humble heart, with a servant’s heart to support your kids, (and) to support our staff that supports your kids,” Brabrand added.

## FCPS Takes Legal Action Challenging Gov. Youngkin

FROM PAGE 4

the state had a reported seven-day case average of 3,804 patients. Two weeks earlier, on Monday, Jan. 10, and five days before Youngkin signed Executive Order Number Two, Gov. Ralph Northam had issued a limited state of emergency for hospitals already overburdened by historic coronavirus case-load increases. Hospitals had entered crisis level, and the CDC continued its recommendation to retain universal mask-wearing as part of layered health and safety mitigation strategies.

“School divisions need to continue to preserve their authority to protect and serve all our students, including our most vulnerable, who need these mitigation measures, perhaps more than anyone, to be able to con-

## Kids Mask Up for School

FROM PAGE 4

Parent Patty Helms, of Burke, indicated, “Our family is fully vaccinated and we plan to have our kids continue wearing their masks at school. We always emphasize that wearing a mask protects them, and the people around them. My kids get it.”

Mother of two, Sara Helfer of Burke, said, “It was a no brainer to continue to wear masks at school. Even though we are all vaccinated we want to provide the fullest protection for ourselves and others, and we also want to help ensure COVID numbers stay low so schools can stay open.”

# Contemporary Chamber Opera Takes Center for the Arts

“Three Decembers” from Virginia Opera delves into a family trying to cope and reconcile.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Opera offers audiences a modern family drama exploring often unseen sides of contemporary family life. “Three Decembers,” is an intimate, chamber opera based upon an unpublished play by multi-Tony Award recipient Terrance McNally. His librettos for “Kiss of the Spider Woman” and “Ragtime” won Tony Awards.

“Three Decembers’ is proof that opera is not all about powdered wigs and ball gowns. Opera, at its core, tells a story, and this story is both modern and relevant,” said Peggy Kriha Dye, General Director/CEO, Virginia Opera.

“Three Decembers” centers on annual Christmas letters written over three decades by a Broadway diva to her two children. It is a family estranged from each other; yet trying to find an ounce of acceptance, perhaps reconciliation. The opera takes on issues including AIDS, addiction, and interpersonal dishonesty as the family struggles with their relationship.

The time settings are December 1986 (Ronald Reagan was President), December 1996 (Bill Clinton was President) and December 2006 (George H. Bush was President). With music that moves from sweet ballads to stormy, the score is rich with emotions and bold directness as composed by Jake Heggie. Libretto is by Gene Scheer.



Karen Ziemba

“Adding this work to our repertoire continues a longstanding tradition of bringing our audiences a variety of fresh and compelling operatic experiences” said Adam Turner, Artistic Director, Virginia Opera. “Jake Heggie is one of this generation’s leading American composers, with critically-acclaimed works like ‘Dead Man Walking’ and ‘Moby-Dick’ regularly programmed by opera companies all over the world.”

“Having the opportunity to introduce our audiences to the musically rich and dramatically compelling world of Jake Heggie’s voice is something I’ve been looking forward to for many seasons,” noted Turner.

The production stars Tony Award winner (“Contact”) mezzo-soprano Karen Ziemba as the challenging mother Madeline. Her children are Charlie (baritone Efraín Solís) and Beatrice (soprano Cecilia Violetta López).

In a conversation, Ziemba described her character Madeline as “a good person, but



Cecilia Violetta Lopez



Efraín Solís

## Where and When

Virginia Opera presents “Three Decembers,” at Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Performances: Saturday, Feb 5, 2022, at 8 p. m. and Sun, Feb 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$110, \$70, and \$40. Call 703-993-2787 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu). Notes: Sung in English with English Surtitles. There will be a pre-performance discussion. Patrons required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before the performance or negative Rapid Antigen test within 48 hours. Patrons will be asked to show proof of vaccination, or the negative test, with a photo ID prior to entering the theater. Masks will be required while in the theater. For more information visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu/plan-your-visit/what-expect](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu/plan-your-visit/what-expect).

a person with flaws.” She is a “Broadway diva who is away from her children many a December ... always working.” Keeping in touch with her children through letters is not easy and it brings distance and resent-

ments. As the opera progresses through its 90 minutes, unexpected dark family secrets are exposed to the harsh light of day.

A most intriguing family saga awaits as Virginia Opera’s “Three Decembers,” takes the Center for the Arts stage.

## CALENDAR

### SATURDAY/JAN. 29

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier, which is located on the third level of the Center for the Arts Lobby, 45 minutes prior to curtain. Celebrate the diamond jubilee anniversary of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) with a program featuring Kian Soltani. RPO is a vanguard of classical music performance and under the direction of its new Music Director, Vasily Petrenko, is being recognized as one of the world’s most forward-thinking and boundary-pushing symphony orchestras. Tickets are \$75, \$60, \$45, half-price for youth through Grade 12. Visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 29

**Installation of Rabbi Glazer.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. At Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Formally installing Rabbi Chana Leslie Glazer in a sacred ceremony committing ourselves

to strengthen our congregation with her leadership. A weekend of special services and activities will celebrate this occasion. Visit the website: <https://www.adatreyim.org/installation.html>.

### MONDAY/JAN. 31

**My Gym Fun.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Young children can enjoy music and movement, stretches and exercise, songs and dances, balance and agility skills. Part of the City of Fairfax’s FUNDAY Monday program. Register online. Free event. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

### SATURDAY/FEB. 12

**Clifton Ping Pong Tournament.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Hosted by the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA). Questions? Call or email Steve Bittner at: 571-229-3493 or email [stephen.n.bittner@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.n.bittner@gmail.com)

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html). Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or [eileen.thompson1@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.thompson1@gmail.com).

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become

a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

### ONGOING

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaalrea@aol.com](mailto:donaalrea@aol.com).

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2022-2023 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

**BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV**

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

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

FROM PAGE 3

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

**SatARTday Showcase this weekend in Fairfax**

Nearly 50 artworks from some of the diverse artists in the Fairfax City area will be on display this Saturday, Jan. 29, from 4-6 p.m. during the SatARTday Artist Showcase. This free event will be held at Patriots Pub & Grill at 10560 Main St. in Fairfax City. (Go to the VIP Glass Room to the back right). Art will be available for purchase.

**Nominate a Fairfax City 'Woman of Influence'**

The City of Fairfax Commission for Women is seeking nominations for its Women of Influence Award. It's an opportunity to recognize and celebrate some of the outstanding women who live in the City and have made a significant impact on the lives of City residents. An awards ceremony will be held at a Fairfax City Council meeting during Women's History Month (date to be determined).

The nominee must be a City of Fairfax resident, and the work for which she's being nominated must benefit City residents. Elected officials or candidates for office are not eligible. To make a nomination, go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/human-services/commission-for-women/online-women-of-influence-nomination>. Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, Feb. 11.

**Bottle Caps Needed for Green Acres**

The Fairfax City Commission on the Arts is collecting plastic bottle caps to create a mural at the Green Acres Center on Sideburn Road in Fairfax. Caps of all sizes and colors are welcome. They may be dropped off at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., or at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy.

# NEWS

## Driver Charged in November Fatal Crash

Earlier this week, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit obtained an arrest warrant for the driver of the 2016 Dodge Ram in the Jan. 6 fatal crash involving a 51-year-old passenger. A 40-year-old Woodbridge, man was charged with reckless driving; he was served with a summons releasable warrant.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit continued to investigate after a 51-year-old man died following a crash that occurred after 8 p.m. Saturday evening, Nov. 6, 2021, in Fairfax Station. Detectives determined the driver of a 2002 Nissan Frontier was attempting to make a left turn onto Freds Oak Road from northbound Fairfax County Parkway. The driver of a 2016 Dodge Ram was traveling southbound on Fairfax County Parkway. The driver of the Nissan proceeded through the uncontrolled intersection, which resulted in the Dodge striking the Nissan on the passenger side.

The driver of the Dodge remained at the scene of the crash and was not injured. The driver and the passenger of the Nissan were both taken to a nearby hospital for injuries sustained in the crash. The next day, the passenger, Daniel Breda of Fairfax Station, succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the Nissan remains hospitalized.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This was the 16th non-pedestrian related fatality in 2021 in the County.

Year to date in 2020, there were 10 non-pedestrian related fatalities.

### POLICE REPORTS

#### MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT STATION

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 6138 North Kings Highway (7-Eleven), 1/19/22, 10:12 p.m. Two men entered the business, displayed a firearm, and took property. No injuries were reported.

**UPDATE: MALICIOUS WOUNDING:** 7614 Richmond Highway (McDonalds), 1/10/22, 4:25 p.m. Two groups got into an altercation with each other inside the restaurant. The altercation became physical and resulted in two men being taken to the hospital with injuries that were deemed non-life threatening. One of the men remains hospitalized. On Jan. 19, officers arrested and charged a 21-year-old Alexandria man with aggravated malicious wounding.

#### MCLEAN DISTRICT STATION

**ABDUCTION:** 2900 block of Caribbean Court, 1/18/22, 7:51 p.m. A man approached the victim, displayed a firearm, and demanded to be driven to a residence in D.C. After dropping the man off, the victim reported the incident to police. No injuries were reported.

#### MASON DISTRICT STATION

**STOLEN AUTO RECOVERY:** 6000 block of Leesburg Pike, 1/19/22, 8:44 p.m. An officer saw a 2010 Toyota Corolla that was reported stolen from a nearby jurisdiction. As the officer was coordinating a traffic stop on the vehicle, the driver, a 26-year-old man from Fredericksburg, parked the vehicle and attempted to walk away. The man was arrested and charged with grand larceny.

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:** 5618 Columbia Pike (Smoke and Vape), 1/20/22, 1:26 a.m. Two men forced entry into the business and took property.

#### RESTON DISTRICT STATION

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 13470 Coppermine Road (Sunoco Gas), 1/19/22, 9:34 p.m. A man entered the business, displayed a firearm, and demanded property. No injuries were reported.

#### FRANCONIA DISTRICT STATION

**ASSAULT/ ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Fairfax County Parkway at Richmond Highway, 1/17/22, 11:31 a.m. The operator of a rideshare vehicle called police after a female passenger assaulted him. As officers were investigating, the female assaulted one of the officers. The 29-year-old woman of Fredericksburg was arrested and charged with assault on a law enforcement officer. No injuries were reported.

**ROBBERY:** 7000 block of Manchester Lake Boulevard, 1/18/22, 11:23 a.m. A man approached the victim, implied he had a weapon, and took property. The man left in a Honda sedan. No injuries were reported.

**LARCENY/ DRUNK IN PUBLIC/ ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT:** 8900 block of Lorton Station Boulevard, 1/19/22, 6:35 p.m. Officers were called for an intoxicated woman who was being disorderly and stole property. The 26-year-old woman of Washington, D.C. was arrested and during the arrest she assaulted the officer twice. She was charged with drunk in public, petit larceny, credit card theft, and assault on law enforcement officer. No injuries were reported.

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:** 6869 Springfield Boulevard (Mint Tobacco and Vape), 1/21/22, 3:35 a.m. Two men forced entry into the business and took property.

## Legislators Outline Session at Weekend Townhalls

FROM PAGE 10

(D-39) shared his optimism about continued progress on bipartisan areas and confidence in a unified position within the Democratic caucus. Sen. McClellan (D-9) described this year's Democratic action on issues such as voting rights, clean environment, climate change, reproductive health and access to abortion as "defensive," but with proactive work on some areas related to education where common ground could be found, such as funding for construction, renovation, and salaries and for support positions. Disagreements over mask and vaccine mandates, and charter schools will likely continue, said McClellan.

Del. Tran (D-42nd) added that position differences regarding masks are clear in Richmond; visible in the party division in the House between Democrats wearing, and Republicans not wearing, masks.

Freshman delegate Irene Shin (D-86th), who attended her swearing in wearing a traditional Korean dress to represent her Korean-American heritage, (represented by a staff member at the meeting), is sponsoring a bill prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion, as one of six bills she is sponsoring for her first session. Shin can expect a bit of traditional good-natured harassment by other members when her first bill of the six is considered on the House floor.

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## Not Bad, Considering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

By the time this column prints, a month or so after I wrote it, I will be approximately one month into my three-month warranty extension. That meaning, as I'm regularly able to joke - THANK GOD!, that my end of December quarterly scans indicated tumor and bone weakness as stable. Not that I have a clue how quickly my fortunes could change but, I figure I have at least until my next quarterly scans in March before there might be a metaphorical fan involved. Since my oncologist is not in the predicting business nor inclined to discuss scenarios either, my life as a stage IV papillary thyroid cancer patient will continue to be one gigantic/on-going wait and see.

Which for the past nearly 13 years - from my initial late Feb., '09 diagnosis to the present has been my m.o. And quite thankfully/amazingly, my 'operandi' continues. And since I'm not, as it concerns my cancer diagnosis/evolution from non-small cell lung cancer to papillary thyroid cancer, a particularly deep thinker, or even much of a researcher into similar case studies, I sort of roll merrily/naively along. Though I wouldn't quite characterize my 'roll' as care-free and unencumbered; nonetheless, I am rarely bogged down or depressed by most of it.

As for the least of it, as a cancer patient I am part of unfortunately a much larger group of similarly disease-impacted people. We all share a mostly unspoken bond and I'd like to think, there is strength in our numbers. Whenever I meet/have met a cancer patient, there is, as you might imagine, an immediate connection of shared experiences. Whether the cancer is the curable variety - as generally speaking, papillary thyroid cancer is supposed to be, or the terminal type - like my original stage IV non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis was "prognosed," ("13 months to two years" I was given), once cancer is added to your everyday vocabulary, life takes on a whole new meaning, dare I say, urgency.

As an example: both my parents lived into their mid-80s, and were mostly healthy, no cancer. Given that we're related by birth, I figured I'd have a similar life expectancy. Then a month or so after my widowed mother died in early Dec. '08 at age 86, I experienced a pain in my left rib cage. A few days later the pain had migrated to my right rib cage. By the weekend, I could barely bend over at the waist and had difficulty inhaling. Even I had to admit there was "something rotten in Denmark." Later that New Year's Day, I went to the Emergency Room and the rest as you regular readers know, is cancer. I was age 54 and not quite six months and about to be diagnosed with a "terminal" form of lung cancer. Age 86? I'd be lucky to reach age 56. Based on the prognosis I received from my oncologist in late February, '09, I just lost 30 years of my life.

Yet here I am, almost 13 years later, and still droning on about being an active cancer patient. Too bad for you. Perfect for me, however. Who would have thought? In talking with my oncologist over the years and living and learning - and processing all the information I've been given; I've managed somehow to survive. I know Lou Gehrig was "the luckiest man on the face of the earth," but given my original diagnosis and subsequent prognosis, to still be alive and reasonably well in 2022 is nothing short of a miracle. I've been pretty lucky, too.

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



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LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$269**  
/MO



MODEL# 1223. MSRP \$26,730. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$2999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**NEW 2022 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER**

LEASES STARTING FROM...

**\$359**  
/MO



MODEL# 6948. MSRP \$40,220. LEASE OFFER FOR QUALIFIED LESSEES. BASED ON 39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YR & \$3999 DUE AT SIGNING. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$789 PROCESSING FEE. FACTORY PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**SERVICE & PARTS HOURS: MON-FRI 6A-7P & SAT 7A-5P**

<p><b>BATTERY SPECIAL</b> <b>FREE</b> BATTERY CHECK-UP INCLUDES: CHECK COLD CRANKING AMPS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF BATTERY CONDITION. INCLUDES BATTERY CONDITION PRINT OUT. <small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>	<p><b>LUBE, OIL &amp; FILTER SPECIAL</b> <b>\$39.95</b> \$44.95 FOR SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE INCLUDES: CHANGE OIL (UP TO 5 QTS.), INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA OIL FILTER, INSPECT &amp; ADJUST ALL FLUID LEVELS AND COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION WITH PRINT OUT. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>	<p><b>ALIGNMENT SPECIAL</b> <b>\$89.95</b> 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT INCLUDES: 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT, INSPECT SUSPENSION, BALL JOINTS, STRUTS &amp; SHOCKS, TIRE CONDITION AND SET TIRE PRESSURE. <small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>	<p><b>BRAKE PAD SPECIAL</b> <b>\$99.95</b> BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS, INSPECT FRONT &amp; REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE CONDITION AND INSPECT ALL HARDWARE. TCM PADS ONLY. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95 <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>	<p><b>TOYOTACARE PLUS</b> <b>\$329.00</b> SPECIAL MAINTAIN PEACE OF MIND BY EXTENDING YOUR TOYOTACARE COMPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN TO 4 YEARS/45,000 MILES! <small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>	<p><b>SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT</b> THE MORE YOU SPEND, THE MORE YOU SAVE! \$10 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$50-\$99 \$15 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$100-\$199 \$20 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$200-\$499 \$50 OFF... WHEN YOU SPEND \$500+ <small>TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER ENDS 01/31/22.</small></p>
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