

CONNECTION

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Boyd Harrison of Chubby Squirrel Brewing with the can used to brew this beer in Ukraine. Local residents will get to enjoy a special beer, and its proceeds will help the Ukrainians.

Collaborating with Ukrainian Brewers

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Bringing Services Together

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Pajardo To Retire

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Living Kidney Donor Has Something to Prove

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION STUFF THE BUS, PAGE 2 ♦ OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGES 13

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Post Struc. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
HENRICO	9657	0	LAKESIDE AVENUE	NORTH RUN	2/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7825	606	PRILLIMANSWICH/ROUTE 606	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	2/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18840	11	LEE HIGHWAY	GREENWAY CREEK	2/15/2022
CARROLL	4791	922	HIDDENVALLEY RD/ROUTE 922	SNAKE CREEK #1	2/15/2022
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/ROUTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	2/11/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/ROUTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	2/8/2022
LOUDOUN	11375	792	THOMAS AVENUE	SUGARLAND RUN	2/7/2022
NOTTOWAY	12852	610	SPAINVILLE RD	SWEATHOUSE CREEK	2/5/2022
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	2/4/2022
BLAND	3072	608	SKYDUSKY RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #1	2/3/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	2/3/2022
ROCKBRIDGE	15653	712	WADES RD/ROUTE 712	CEDAR GROVE BRANCH	2/2/2022
DICKENSON	5887	885	BRIDGE STREET	RUSSELL FORK RV @ HAYSI	2/1/2022
GRAYSON	8915	741	HOMESTEAD RD	BIG FOX CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	11003	880	RED FLETCHER RD	DRY CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	10908	672	ROUTE 672	MARTIN CREEK	2/1/2022
RUSSELL	16341	71	NORTH 71	COPPER CREEK	2/1/2022

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

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

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

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

Stuff the Bus Food Drives Are Set for March 19

Residents can help restock the Food for Others pantry.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In wealthy Fairfax County, many people struggle to put food on their table. Their bills for rent, water, gasoline and electricity often leave them with little money left to feed their hungry children.

That's where the Food for Others food pantry comes in, providing a crucial necessity of life to local families in need. But it can't do it without the generous donations of the community which help keep its shelves stocked.

And that's why the two, upcoming, Stuff the Bus food drives in the City of Fairfax are so important. They give local residents an opportunity to donate to nonprofit Food for Others to help their own neighbors in need.

Now in its 10th year, Stuff the Bus is working to meet the increased demand for food due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And the next food drives are slated for Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The ones in Fairfax City will use CUE buses and will be held at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Hwy., and at Providence Elementary, 3616 Jermantown Road.

Stuff the Bus is a collaborative program established in 2011 between Fairfax County Government and local nonprofits to support local food pantries. It's held at various sites throughout the county; and since its inception, this initiative has helped collect more than 220 tons of food.

Below is a list of the most-requested items. Because the average size of a family seeking food assistance is four people, the sizes indicated are preferred to reduce food spoilage. And donations of items that are high fiber, low sugar and low sodium contributes to the recipients' overall health and wellness.

WHAT'S NEEDED

Cooking oil; corn flour (Maseca); 16-ounce bags of dried beans, peas or lentils; brown or white rice (5 lbs. or smaller); canned fruit in light syrup or juice (20 oz. or smaller); healthy hot and cold cereal (42 oz. or smaller); canned tuna, salmon or chicken (15 oz. or smaller); canned tomatoes - low sodium, no salt added (29 oz. or smaller); and soup - lower sodium (19 oz. or smaller).

Also needed are healthy snacks (e.g. raisins, granola bars); instant potatoes (16 oz. or smaller);



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Adam Taylor stands inside a CUE bus filled with food that residents brought to Fairfax City's Van Dyck Park to contribute to Food for Others during a previous Stuff the Bus event.

canned pasta (16 oz. or smaller); macaroni and cheese; peanut butter (40 oz. or smaller); fruit jam (32 oz. or smaller); pancake mix (32 oz. or smaller) and syrup; canned vegetables - low sodium, no salt added (29 oz. or smaller); and canned beans or peas (29 oz. or smaller).

For those unable to donate in person, monetary donations may be made online by contributing directly to Food for Others at <https://foodforothers.salsalabs.org/JanuaryGiving/index.html>.

Monetary donations are beneficial for several reasons. For example, nonprofits can turn a donated dollar into more meals by purchasing food in bulk or through special discounts from retailers.

Money also allows pantries to purchase culturally appropriate foods, which better meet the needs of the diverse communities they serve. And while canned and dry foods are a vital part of food pantries, a healthy diet also requires fresh fruit and vegetables, low fat dairy products and lean proteins - items that can't be collected through food drives.

In addition, nonprofits often rely on volunteers to sort and shelve donations, but the pandemic has greatly impacted volunteers' ability to serve. Also important is the fact that hunger never takes a day off - so having cash on hand enables food pantries to keep their shelves stocked during times of the year when donations decline.

And monetary donations of any size make a positive difference in people's daily lives. For example, \$25 buys a gallon of milk for 15 families, \$50 provides a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs for 20 families, \$250 buys five days of meals for five families, and \$500 supplies weekend food packs to 125 schoolchildren.

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NEWS

'The Combination of Programs Will Be Great for Everybody'

Fairfax City, County, creating campus for health, community, senior needs.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

An exciting, new project is taking shape in Fairfax City. Working together, the City and Fairfax County are redeveloping the county's Joseph Willard Health Center and the City's Sherwood Community Center into a single destination for health, wellness, fitness, children's programs and arts.

Located at the corner of Layton Hall Drive and Old Lee Highway, it entails a revamped and redesigned campus to integrate key services, enhance existing programs and upgrade facilities to better serve the needs of both City and county residents, now and in the future.

"This location is desirable for both the City and county," said Brooke Hardin, Fairfax City's director of Community Development and Planning. "It improves access and circulation, as well as the ability to unite several uses on one campus."

The project includes demolition of the current Health Center and construction of a new, nearly 95,000-square-foot facility in its place, connecting to and expanding the existing Sherwood Center. This new health building will offer the same health services it does today but will also include some programs from the City's Green Acres Center for senior citizens.

The health facility will seek LEED gold certification by using less water and energy and employing all-electric building systems and equipment. More parking and outdoor features will be added overall, and there'll be a safer, smoother traffic flow into, out of and around the campus.

The joint redevelopment project is the result of years-long evaluations conducted by the City and county. It establishes a partnership among the county Health Department and Office for Children and the City's Parks and Rec Department. Funding is included within both jurisdictions' Capital Improvement plans.

The health center provides licensed medical, nursing, dental, pharmacy, speech and hearing care, plus X-rays, and contains vital records and administrative spaces. It also offers programs and services aimed at promoting the health and wellbeing of infants, children and adults.

Originally built in 1954 as an elementary school, it was converted to a health center in the 1970s. But a 2018 feasibility determined that the building's physical layout and clinic-room configurations impede work functions and efficiency and aren't sufficient to accommodate future needs. Furthermore, its systems and infrastructure had reached the end of their useful life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT KAISER

This aerial photo shows the existing Fairfax City Police Department, Sherwood Community Center and Joseph Willard Health Center.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Brooke Hardin, Fairfax City's director of Community Development and Planning, discusses the project with resident Faiza Alam.



Elkridge Library + 55+ Active Center, Grimm + Parker Architects



Artist's renditions of possible areas shared by the community and senior centers.

Similarly, the Green Acres Center on Sideburn Road was built as an elementary school in 1961 and houses the City's senior center. But it needs significant renovations for accessibility, operation and the additional amenities residents want.

The Sherwood Community Center is currently a venue for recreational classes, preschool, afterschool care, meetings, parties, receptions and special events. Next to Van Dyck Park, it contains multipurpose classrooms, plus performance and banquet spaces.

According to the plan, the existing lab,

City Police Headquarters and Sherwood Center all on the campus site will remain. However, the Sherwood Center may take on some recreational programs now at Green Acres.

The City and county held two virtual meetings in late January, followed by an in-person meeting Feb. 23 at the Sherwood Center. Vrushali Oak, with the county's Department of Public Works, told attendees, "We're coming to you for your input and feedback so we can incorporate them into the concept development."

She said work on the final design, zoning,



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

At the in-person meeting, residents told planners what they want the senior center to contain.

permits and bids for construction should take two years, from summer 2022 to summer 2024, with construction lasting from summer 2024 to fall 2026.

Grimm + Parker Architects are helping design the project, and the firm's Rick Morrison discussed the property's topography. He said the sun's positions in the morning and afternoon are a factor in the health-center building's design and site orientation. "It's a tight site with limited access points and many utilities," he said. "So it might be a multi-story building with structured parking."

Added co-worker David Whale, "We want the health center to be welcoming and inviting."

Maria Lashinger, with the project's traffic consultant, said a traffic study would be done. "Site access today [via Old Lee Highway and Layton Hall Drive] only serves the police station and the Sherwood Center," she said. "And there's no current, vehicular connection between the site's northern and southern portions."

However, the City's Old Lee Highway Multimodal Plan will add sidewalks and paths. And there are already pedestrian and bicycle connections to Van Dyck Park, plus sidewalks along both Old Lee and Layton Hall.

SEE COMBINATION OF PROGRAMS.

PAGE 4

Pajardo Is Leaving Fairfax City Schools

Superintendent announces retirement during Monday's board meeting.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo will be retiring at the end of this school year. She made a formal announcement during Monday night's regular School Board meeting. Her last day as superintendent will be June 30.

"In my past seven years in the City of Fairfax, I have been fortunate enough to work with a wonderful staff, a conscientious and supportive school board and talented educators," said Pajardo. "I look forward to taking some time to travel, spend time with my family and continue to support current and future educational leaders as an author and consultant."

And although she'll definitely be missed, she's definitely earned her retirement. Before coming to the City, Pajardo was a teacher, leader and assistant superintendent in Fairfax County Public Schools for more than 35 years. She's worked in the City of Fairfax, the past seven years – her last five, as superintendent.

"Dr. Pajardo has been a compassionate, talented and strong leader, as well as an advocate for the students and staff in the City of Fairfax Schools," said City School Board Chair Carolyn Pitches. "While we are sad to see her go, we are grateful for her leadership, and she will leave with our respect, admiration and best wishes into retirement."

Pajardo joined the City's school system in August 2015, initially as assistant superintendent of schools. In that position, she coordinated student and staff recognition programs, the release of instructional grants to the four City schools, and a panel enabling middle and high school students to talk to School Board members about their schools.

Pajardo enjoyed working with her colleagues here, as well as "the small-town feel of the City, where people know each other." And she was delighted when, in August 2017, she was named superintendent.



Phyllis Pajardo chats with a student in 2021 at Daniels Run Elementary.

During her tenure, she oversaw the name change to Katherine Johnson Middle School, plus the expansion of the advanced academic programs at both Providence and



Phyllis Pajardo.

Daniels Run elementary schools and at the middle school. Pajardo also shepherded the establishment of partnerships with the four schools (including Fairfax High) and George Mason University, as well as the founding of the Superintendent Advisory Team. Furthermore, she helped with the hiring of four principals. In 2017, Pajardo was named Educator of the Year by Leadership Fairfax. She's also the author of "The Principal Influence: A Framework for Developing Leadership Capacity in Principals."

Going forward, the City of Fairfax School Board has hired former City Schools Superintendent Ann Monday to help with the search for a new superintendent. Since retiring from the City, she had extensive experience coordinating multiple superintendent searches throughout Virginia. As of Tuesday, the search for Pajardo's successor began.

For more information about the superintendent selection process, the hiring timeline and to provide feedback, go to www.CityofFairfaxSchools.org.

— CARRIE DORSEY
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

'The Combination of Programs Will Be Great for Everybody'

FROM PAGE 3

Regarding the community center, under consideration are the additions of a full-sized gym, running track, fitness room, concessions and locker rooms, as well as more classrooms and a catering/demonstration area with teaching kitchen. Also proposed is an early childhood program with associated spaces and amenities, such as an infant and toddler area and places for child assessment and early intervention.

The Sherwood Center would also share some of its classrooms, common areas and outdoor space for senior-center pro-

grams. Other shared areas could include the lobby, multipurpose room and the catering/demonstration/teaching kitchen. And outdoors, the senior space could be used for bocce ball, horseshoes, gardening, barbecuing and fitness.

At the Feb. 23 meeting, City resident Jim Wyckoff said, "This is a wonderful idea – it'll serve residents of the City and county, and the combination of programs will be great for everybody. I'm particularly interested in the new gym – and I hope it'll be for people of all abilities."

"And I'm pleased there'll be a childcare center and that we'll have a world-class

health center. The possibility of a dental clinic is also interesting. The Willard Center offers services not everybody is aware of, and it'll continue to do so in an expanded manner. It's good to see the City and county working so well together."

Another City resident, Faiza Alam, is also looking forward to this project coming to fruition. "It's exciting that this corner is going to get a new look, be upgraded and bring all these correlated facilities together," she said. "It enhances the community and provides a nice space for people to engage in and enjoy."

Besides that, said Alam, "The Willard Cen-

ter is getting old, so it's nice that it's being redone. And they're taking the space upward and adding more facilities without adding more impervious surface. Plus, it'll be one destination for many things – health, senior activities, recreation, etc."

She said her one apprehension is the traffic because "Old Lee Highway is already congested, with three schools and a church. So I don't want it to become even more congested and a safety issue." But, she added, "It'll have some green, outdoor space, which is exciting – and they should also have some green roofs where they can grow things."

Fairfax City Brewery Helping Aid Ukraine

Chubby Squirrel is raising money to donate via special beer.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Boyd Harrison, owner of Chubby Squirrel Brewing is doing what he can to aid the people in Ukraine. Local residents will get to enjoy a special beer, and its proceeds will help the Ukrainian citizens as they fight for their lives against the invading Russians.

"I've got us brewing a collab beer with Pravda Brewery out of Lviv, Ukraine," said Harrison. "It's called 'PUTIN HUYLO [Putin's an expletive],' and it's a strong, golden ale."

Chubby Squirrel, 10382 Willard Way, in the Courthouse Plaza Shopping Center in Fairfax City, started brewing the special beer Tuesday, March 8, and promoting its brewing, as well. "I figured publicity could help us send along

more proceeds quicker to aid in relief," said Harrison.

"We expect the beer to be on draft in about two weeks – roughly, the week of

March 20," he continued. "We will be brewing two batches of this beer, due to the overwhelming demand already expressed."

The proceeds will go to aid relief coordinated directly by Pravda Brewery. "I initially found out about the possibility of this collaboration last Saturday, March 5, when it was announced they were seeking partner breweries," said Harrison. "We'll begin the contributions with an initial donation of \$500 this week for emergency needs."

An emotional message is also posted on Pravda Brewery's Website. It says, "Brewing in Lviv now sounds like a non-priority. The city is bracing for a fight. Alcohol is forbidden, and we once in a lifetime support it. But brewing now – like giving birth or a marriage – is hope. Beer takes several weeks



The official logo of the beer-brewing fundraiser.

to be ready. We hope we win by then."

Furthermore, it states, "We invite prominent craft breweries to join us for online brewing

sessions. We will stream the process. Join in with support and donations as we brew in Lviv, the city that prepares for the battle.

"As peaceful craft brewers, we want to return to the normal life ASAP and enjoy brewing and drinking. But first, we must kick the cockroaches out of our land. No more Gulags, Holodomors and oppression. It's a decisive moment for Ukraine, Europe and democracies of the world. Soon we will win this war and have a good beer. The Beer of Victory."

People may also donate directly via Pravda Brewery's Website. Go to https://www.pravda.beer/en/victory-beer-series-from-lviv-ukraine/?fbclid=IwAR3kUfNxeK1sPo2fuCZyPoLkTsikhf_RjF5jbFy_3eAZDJ1Fz-12iK3AJjU.



BONNIE HOBBS

Boyd Harrison of Chubby Squirrel Brewing with the can used to brew this beer in Ukraine. Local residents will get to enjoy a special beer, and its proceeds will help the Ukrainians.

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Last Week of Session?

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

This week marks the 9th and final week of the 60-day 2022 General Assembly session. Or so we hope. During this home stretch, the days on the House Floor get longer and longer as my colleagues and I vote and move bills across the finish line and onto the Governor's desk for consideration.

Along with completing the budget, the main focus this week is on conference committees. When similar but not exact bills are passed out of each body, a conference committee is called to iron out the differences between these bills to create a final product that will be voted on by the General Assembly and sent to the Governor.

Each body will appoint three members to serve on each conference committee, consisting of the bill patrons, two members of the majority party in each body, and one member of the minority party. Once an agreement is reached between the conferees, each conferee must sign the conference report, and both the House and Senate must accept the report for the bill to be sent to the Governor.

This year, I am serving on three conference committees: HB 763, HB 764, and SB 402, all bills included as part of my larger bipartisan charitable gaming reform package that I have worked on this session with Senators Reeves and



Krizek

Bell. After completing conference reports, the final budget must be decided upon. It's not unprecedented for the budget process to take longer and for a final vote on the budget to occur later on in the spring. However, that does not mean that

deliberations can carry on in perpetuity. Under the Virginia Constitution, we must pass a balanced budget, and that budget must be in place for the start of the biennium, which begins on July 1, 2022.

In recent memory, when Medicaid Expansion was passed in Virginia in 2018, the final budget compromise was not signed by Governor Northam until June

of that year, just a few weeks shy of the July 1 beginning of the fiscal year. In that year, session adjourned "sine die" on March 10, and the General Assembly was then called back to Richmond for a special session April 11, 2018, to May 30, 2018, to address the state budget. Should more time for careful deliberations be needed, convening a special session is just one method that can be employed to gain extra time.

While it's unclear as of this writing whether we will have a completed budget by the scheduled sine die date on this upcoming Saturday, March 12, I am confident that my colleagues on the budget conference committee will present the General Assembly with a budget compromise we can all agree on.

Inherently Divisive Concepts

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Governor Glenn Youngkin started "day one" of his term by issuing Executive Order Number One within minutes of his inauguration, "Ending the use of inherently divisive concepts, including Critical Race Theory, and restoring excellence in K-12 public education in the Commonwealth." With my graduate degree in education and 30 years of experience as

of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that codified the principles of equal protection and nondiscrimination found in the 14th Amendment. There is a convoluted logic in the State Superintendent's report that suggests that laws that were passed to eliminate discrimination can be used to justify discrimination. Providing early intervention and remediation for children with special needs would be considered unlawful discrimination under the report's definition.

For example the report recommends rescinding the Department of Education's Culturally Responsive Website with an explanation that it "generally promotes academic equity of outcomes versus equity of opportunities for all learners." The report sounds like the responsibility of government as viewed by the writer is to offer opportunity, but without a responsibility to ensure that all can achieve.

In the recommendation to rescind the Navigating EdEquityVA website, the explanation is that it contains "Resources that permit and advance policies, programs, and activities that promote equitable outcomes for students versus opportunities." Once again, the



Plum

report seems to suggest that the obligation of government is to offer opportunities without a responsibility to see that all students can achieve under it. The elimination of these two websites that provide resources for teachers is the electronic equivalent of book burning.

A shocker for me is the recommendation that the Virginia Mathematics Pathways Initiative be rescinded. The program was designed to give more students access to higher math, and it is unclear why it is being rescinded. It looks like anything that deviates from schooling of the 1950s is likely to be sacked in the new administration.

I encourage anyone concerned

"It looks like anything that deviates from schooling of the 1950s is likely to be sacked in the new administration."

that I might be too harsh in my criticism of the report to review it for yourself at https://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/interim-30-day-report-on-inherently-divisive-concepts.pdf and let me know your reaction at kenplum@aol.com. You can also let the Governor know your reaction to the report at his tip line helpeducation@governor.virginia.gov.

a teacher and administrator, I have been anxiously waiting to learn more about "inherently divisive concepts" and "Critical Race Theory" and how it would affect education policy in the new administration. Last week my questions were answered in part when the Governor released the "Superintendent of Public Instruction's Interim Report on Inherently Divisive Policies, Programs, Training and Curricula." I do not find the answer to be satisfactory for public schools that must educate all children.

The State Superintendent defines "inherently divisive concepts" as advancing any ideas in violation

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Published by

Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Sheriff Ends Pre-Release Notice to ICE

Incremental steps matter.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid is faced with an administrative “detainer,” she is discontinuing a policy that allowed for a pre-release notification to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of Fairfax jail inmates who ICE suspects are undocumented immigrants. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses detainer requests when it wants state or local law enforcement agencies to hold someone longer than they normally would because ICE suspects the inmate is undocumented. The new policy is effective as of March 2 and is detailed in the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 526 on Booking Desk Procedures.

Diane Burkley Alejandro, lead advocate for ACLU People Power Fairfax says that when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted its countywide Trust Policy in 2021, the Board concluded that it could not apply the Trust policy to the Sheriff as an elected constitutional officer.

“We applaud Sheriff Kincaid’s decision to stop providing advance notice to ICE of imminent releases of immigrants,” said Alejandro. ACLU People Power Fairfax is the grassroots organization in Fairfax with over 4,000 members. Volunteers and supporters advocate for equal justice for all and the end of voluntary cooperation with ICE and information sharing.

Alejandro said that if ICE has a criminal warrant from a judge for an inmate, the Sheriff will then provide notice.

According to Alejandro, therein lies a critical distinction between criminal and civil. Whereas ICE’s Enforcement and Removal Operations target convicted criminal noncitizens and gang members, it also targets individuals who have violated civil immigration laws.

“[These are] real people whose lives have just ended. It’s not an arrest for being drunk in public. It’s deportation,” Alejandro said. “We’re talking about families and family separation. As in the rest of the country, the majority of Fairfax [immigrant] families, perhaps 70 to 80 percent, are mixed-status. That means everybody has someone who’s undocumented or knows someone who is undocumented, and they’re affected.” Deporting family members for civil violations rips families apart.

Alejandro said that ACLU People Power Fairfax wants to see the Sheriff embrace further provisions in Fairfax County’s enacted Trust Policy. One practice that is at the very top of their list, even though the Sheriff has said she is not honoring ICE’s detainer practices, is that she will allow ICE to enter the jail and interview an immigrant to obtain information. “That is basically to support deportation,” Alejandro said. She explained that ICE can walk into the county jail because ICE is classified by the Sheriff and most law enforcement as “fellow law enforcement officers.”

“The problem is that, in most cases, they are not acting as criminal law enforcement,” Alejandro said. A criminal judicial warrant provides independent verification that someone has committed a crime, and a civil detainer does not have the same force and effect as a criminal judicial warrant.



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
ICE, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer in the Town of Herndon.

Alejandro noted that ACLU People Power Fairfax does not have a problem with someone being interviewed by ICE who has a pending criminal judicial warrant. “ICE must provide them with their Miranda rights. ICE has to tell them that they have a right to remain silent. That they have a right to an attorney,” said Alejandro.

But if ICE is targeting immigrants for civil violations, that is a different matter.

According to Alejandro, ICE can enter the jail and say they want to interview a particular inmate. “They do not have to say if it is a civil case,” she said. “They do not have to say one word about what that person’s rights are.” It can be as simple as verifying the name, and that can lead to deportation.

Alejandro commended the Sheriff for agreeing to notify the immigrant if they are the subject of an ICE detainer. It informs them that they are not required to speak with ICE if they visit the jail.

Alejandro compared Fairfax County’s policies to California’s Trust Policy. “In California, they will have a specific form that explains these rights on interviews. It requires the immigrant to check, I agree to talk with ICE; I agree to talk to ICE if I can have a lawyer; or I don’t agree to talk to ICE, and they sign it. So, it’s all memorialized,” said Alejandro.

“There is a general need to ensure that personal information about immigrants is not unduly shared,” said Alejandro. “We want an express prohibition that employees cannot call on their own initiative using information that they gain through their work, call up ICE to help facilitate it. Anything they learn on their job has to be considered the Sheriff’s Office Information, period. It’s not shared outside.”

The Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) is a service facility managed by the Virginia Department of State Police. It provides operational support to the entire criminal justice community, which is hooked into the national criminal information network. ICE has access to VCIN, according to Alejandro. That is a battle being fought at the state level by ACLU People Power Fairfax. Virginia is supposed to restrict ICE’s access to criminal cases only.

“The only time they should be able to get the data is when ICE is putting on their criminal hat, not their civil hat,” said Alejandro. “We’re talking about real people with families who no longer have a breadwinner because they’ve been deported. We’re talking about the fear that immigrants face in dealing with police because they know that if they get arrested and sent to jail, they likely will be deported.”

The Fairfax County Government site, Immigrants in Fairfax County | Topics, reports: The Sheriff’s Office does not book anyone into the Adult Detention Center nor hold inmates past their court ordered release date without a judicial warrant. Deputies do not participate in nor provide assistance to ICE activities out in the community.

The Sheriff’s Office worked with the ACLU People Power to create a written notice informing undocumented immigrants about the availability of free legal advice from the Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition. Deputies distribute the printed notice to all inmates that have an ICE detainer.

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Arlington Man Who Donated Kidney Will Climb 7 Summits

Casual Adventure and Dave “Dash” Ashley team up for historic Mount Everest attempt; 5 done; 2 to go.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Dave Ashley, of Arlington, was visiting his West Point class Facebook page when he learned one of his classmates needed a kidney, badly. The classmate who needed the kidney was too shy to ask his classmates if they could help, so the group did it for him. That's how Dave Ashley decided to get tested to see if he'd be a match. It was unlikely.

But a few weeks later, Ashley found out he might indeed be a match and needed further tests to confirm. As he waited for the results of those tests, he researched what impact donating a kidney would have on his active lifestyle. It was a real concern for him and his family.

“One of the hardest things was that I couldn't find information on athletic ability afterwards.” And he tells the story of how he found the answer to that question.

“In 2016, I worked at the Pentagon, and when my classmate needed a kidney, I answered the call. But I like to do extreme (sports) stuff. REALLY. Most people I asked about being a living donor believed there would be limitations on my extreme ambitions. Unable to find counter examples of other living donor athletes, I forged ahead despite the unknown risk.”

The surgery took place in Boston in 2017. Ashley said, “Five years later, the recipient of the kidney and I are healthy and well. REALLY healthy and well. Making that donation has changed the direction of my life: I am now retired and pursuing my passion for extreme outdoor adventures and volunteer work full-time.”

Ashley said his fitness was far from impaired by his kidney donation. He won a National Championship in a race where participants paddle, mountain bike, and trek with a coed team; bike-packed 2,500 miles on the Great Divide trail; and now climbs mountains around the world. Just in case that was not enough evidence that one kidney can do it all, Ashley decided he would succeed in a set of extreme physical challenges, recognized around the world as elite. “Thus was born the vision of becoming the first living kidney donor to climb the Seven Summits.”

The “Seven Summits” are the highest peaks in each of the seven continents. They are Denali (North



Dave Ashley, who donated a kidney to a former classmate in 2017, is striving to be the first living kidney donor to climb the Seven Summits. He has completed five; two to go. See www.adventurekidney.com

America), Elbrus (Europe), Kilimanjaro (Africa), Vinson (Antarctica), Aconcagua (South America), Carstensz Pyramid (Oceania), and Everest (Asia.)

How did he train? “I just trained by doing,” he said. “I’ve done five of the seven.” Ashley has just learned he will have to change to a different summit, Mount Kozciuszko, in Australia, because of pandemic quarantine rules in Indonesia.

When not climbing, he works with organizations that are involved in kidney donation and has received some support from the National Kidney Registry which hopes more living donors will come forward to help when they see how successful Ashley has been in leading an active life. “There are so many positives that came out of this,” he says. “Saving the life of a classmate was just the beginning.”

Living Donors

Living-donor transplantation offers an alternative to waiting for a deceased-donor organ to become available, a wait that can last for 3-5 years. Hospitals around the country are seeing that living-donor organ transplants are associated with fewer complications

than deceased-donor transplants. Organs from living donors experience fewer episodes of rejection and organs from living donors typically last longer than organs from deceased donors.

More than one Virginian has promoted being a living donor. Kat Velkoff of Chantilly is an ambassador for the American Kidney Fund and a living donor. She supports legislation currently being discussed in the Virginia General Assembly that would prohibit life, disability, and long-term insurance companies from denying others insurance or charging higher rates solely based on their organ donor status. Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria, introduced Senate Bill 271, and Del. Karrie K. Delaney, D-Centreville, introduced House Bill 421. SB 271 is the more generous of the bills because it includes provisions for unpaid leave and reinstatement of the employee into their old job. It “prohibits any person from refusing to insure, refusing to continue to insure, or limiting the amount or extent of life insurance, disability insurance, or long-term care insurance coverage available to an individual or to charge an individual a different rate for the same cover-

age based solely and without any additional actuarial risks upon the status of such individual as a living organ donor.”

To learn more about Ashley's adventure, see: www.adventurekidney.com

To learn more about becoming a living donor, see: <https://www.kidney.org/transplantation/beadonor>

Casual Adventure Supports Ashley's Quest

When Casual Adventure Outfitters in Arlington says, “We Can Outfit YOU From Great Falls to Nepal,” it's not just an advertising slogan. Casual Adventure and internationally recognized manufacturer Mountain Hardwear have teamed up yet again for another historic expedition attempt. This outdoor adventure partnership has combined efforts to sponsor local endurance athlete Dave “Dash” Ashley (aka Adventure Kidney) the world's first living kidney donor to attempt to climb the Seven Summits, including Mount Everest, within one year.

Over 20 years ago, Casual Adventure Outfitters and Mountain Hardwear came together to support the Everest dream of another local

climber, Saeed Toosi, who became the world's first Iranian-American to solo ascend Everest.

More recently, Casual Adventure Outfitters supported Andrew Towne in his completion of the Seven Summits, including the unsuccessful attempt in 2015 due to the Gorkha Earthquake, and his subsequent summit in 2017.

Eric Stern, owner of Casual Adventure, said this week, “We are so proud to be part of another amazing adventure to Mount Everest along with Mountain Hardwear. “Dash” climbs for all the right reasons: a sense of responsibility and respect for Mother Nature and his fellow man. Especially considering everything that has happened in the world over the past few years, Dave's story is one of hope, compassion, and inspiration.”

Casual Adventure is located in the Virginia Square neighborhood of Arlington, family owned and operated since 1955. Originally founded as a small grocery store by Oscar Stern in 1945, Casual Adventure has grown into one of the leading sporting goods shops in the Washington Metro area. From 1955 until 1985 Casual Adventure was known as The Surplus Center

with its shelves stocked with military fatigues, field jackets, canteens, and other GI merchandise. As the marketplace changed the company reinvented itself, changing its name from Surplus Center to Casual Adventure in 1985. Now in the hands of the fourth generation, Casual Adventure continues to build on its strong retail tradition of customer service, premier outdoor brands and a unique merchandise mix few stores its size can duplicate. It also has a tradition of community involvement and sponsorship, from athletic events to charity fundraisers.

Casual Adventure, 3451 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201; 703-527-0600; <https://casualadventure.com/>

ON THE WEB

Mentions of Ashley on line: <https://www.livingdonorgames.org/donor-athlete-profile-dave-ashley/> <https://www.runwashington.com/2020/10/05/ashley-kidney/> <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1365494/organ-donation-bolsters-bond-between-classmates/> <https://kidneydonorathlete.org/2019/10/16/dave/>



Dave Ashley on top of one of his 7 summits, the second highest challenge: Mount Aconcagua. Ashley lives in Arlington, his “basecamp” for both his donation recovery in 2017 and now his 7 Summit campaign.



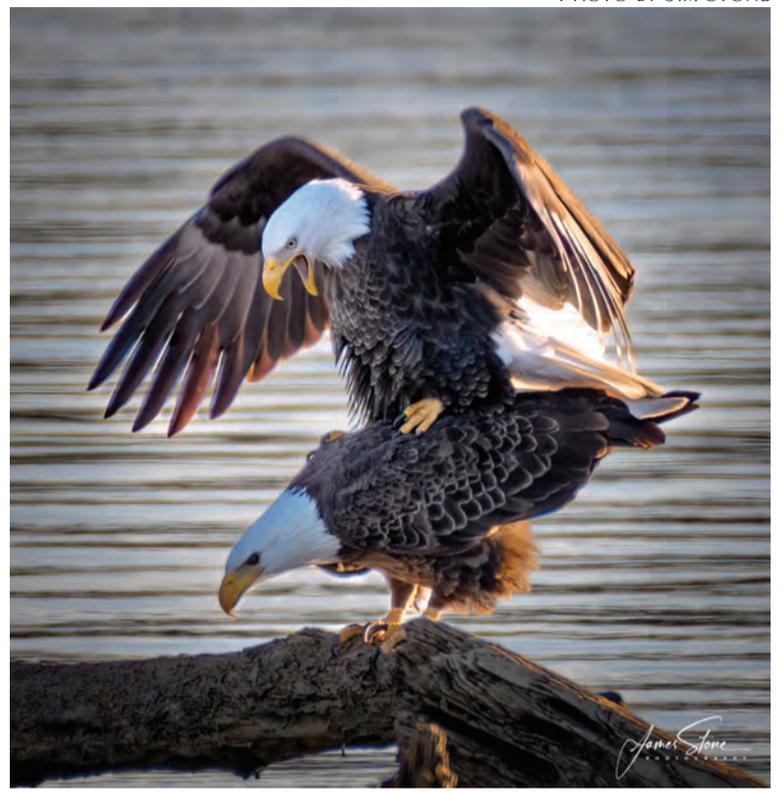
Dave Ashley and Eric Stern with his climbing suit in front of Casual Adventure. “This is the go-to place for folks in this area when you are ready to go on a big expedition. Thanks to Eric and the folks at Casual Adventure and Mountain Hardwear for hooking me up with this down suit. Anything you need for these kinds of expeditions, or hiking, camping, scouts, military, you can find it at Casual Adventure,” said Ashley.



Dave Ashley on top of Mount Vinson, Antarctica.



Bald eagle nest in Dyke Marsh.



Bald eagles mating.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Bald Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

“Virginia’s tidal rivers are just loaded with bald eagles,” Jeff Cooper told 210 people attending the March 2 meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh. These large raptors with an 80-inch wingspan regularly breed, nest, forage and migrate on and near rivers like the Potomac. People see bald eagles frequently at Dyke Marsh, Mason Neck and Fort Belvoir. Cooper is wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and has worked with birds for over 30 years and co-authored 17 papers.

In and around Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck, there are nests every half mile or so because there’s so much food available, he said. In recent years, Dyke Marsh has had three active bald eagle nests.

Bald eagles feed mainly on fish which they catch with their sharp yellow talons. “They make their living with their feet. Virginia is rich in aquatic resources,” Cooper said. When an eagle pair raises their young, they forage near their nest, so eaglets’ success is highly contingent on habitat quality, Cooper said. Bald eagles are highly territorial and mate for life.

The Potomac and James Rivers consistently see high use by migrant and “local” eagles, breeding pairs, offspring and all age classes. From Dyke Marsh south to where route 301 crosses the Rappahannock River is what wildlife biologists call a “bald eagle concentration area.” The area also

has non-paired, adult bald eagles called “floaters,” birds constantly roaming the landscape trying to find mates. Floater numbers are increasing because the area is so saturated with breeding pairs.

The Chesapeake Bay is the epicenter of eagle conservation, having the densest breeding population in the lower 48 states and a critical stop on the Atlantic flyway, and northern and southern populations rely on the Bay for winter or summer habitat.

“What happens in the Bay has an impact,” Cooper said.

Belle View resident Carolyn Gamble commented, “Jeff Cooper’s talk opened my eyes to how much bald eagles depend on our stretch of the Potomac River as well as the entire Bay area. I enjoyed learning from someone with many years of ‘hands-on’ experience and have a greater appreciation for the DWR’s research.”

Tagging and Tracking Eagles

Cooper and his colleagues tag bald eagles in Virginia’s coastal plain, generally east of Interstate 95. In 2007, they started tagging with cellular transmitters to trace the birds’ movements. He has tagged over 130 bald eagles and over 40 golden eagles. Golden eagles are found in mountainous regions. Adults are dark brown all over with a golden sheen on their neck and head visible from some angles. Like bald eagles, they have a powerful beak and talons.

To capture an eagle, Cooper puts out road-kill deer and he hides; when the eagle feeds on the bait, Cooper shoots a 40-by-



Jeff Cooper holding a bald eagle at Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.



Jeff Cooper measures eagles’ beaks. Here, Sandy Spencer holds the eagle, caught at Virginia’s Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.

60-foot, rocket-powered net over the birds. He also uses a bow net with a leather trigger and at times to snare an eagle, puts foam in a gizzard shad to make the fish float. For most eagles, he takes measurements and blood samples, bands them and attaches a transmitter on the eagle’s back.

The process takes from 35 minutes to one hour.

To count nestlings and check their health, he climbs trees like an arborist. “I was put in the emergency room a few times because of eagle claws,” he snickered.

Challenges

Lead levels in both eagle species are a serious threat today. Cooper cited a February paper by Vince Slabe and others with Conservation Science Global which found that nearly half of bald and golden eagles tested between 2010 and 2018 in the U. S. show signs of chronic lead poisoning. This was the first study to sample eagles across the entire country. Eagles scavenge and ingest spent lead ammunition from carcasses and gut piles left by hunters. “Chronic poisoning suggests repeated expo-

sure to lead over the long term,” the authors wrote. Lead poisoning can make birds weak, emaciated and uncoordinated, thus less able to evade predators and dangers. The study, published in Science, is at <https://www.science.org/stoken/author-tokens/ST-344/full>.

Collisions with both civilian and military aircraft are another threat. Cooper called Virginia and Florida “hotspots” for eagle-aircraft strikes. Most airports are located in prime eagle habitats because they are near water. Eagles are “big birds,”

SEE BALD EAGLES, PAGE 12

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HISTORY



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Ground-level view of antenna array at Hybla Valley Field Station, 1958. Today, this is the central wetland at Huntley Meadows Park.”



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Aerial view of Naval Research Laboratory antenna array. The road leading to the antenna is the hike and bike trail located at the South Kings Highway entrance to Huntley Meadows Park.”



Brady, "Mrs. Morris" Washington.

EDWARD PORTER ALEXANDER PAPERS #7,
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CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
The mysterious Ada Hewitt; AKA Mrs.
Morris; AKA Mrs. Mason.

Spies, Sputnik and Other Secrets In Huntley Meadows Park

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

At Huntley Meadows Park, the raccoons, snakes and skinks hide undercover to avoid detection. The park has a hidden human side too, Cheryl Repetti told a group on a Feb. 28 walk on the park’s west side. Repetti is the Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator for Historic Huntley.

Northern Virginia’s proximity to the nation’s capital has attracted foreign and domestic spies over the years, starting with George Washington’s Revolutionary War espionage network. In a Mount Vernon Museum video, an actor portraying a post-war Brit says that the Americans did not “outfight us, they outspied us,” Repetti recalled.

During the Civil War, Augusta Heath, also known as Ada Hewitt,

SEE HUNTLEY MEADOWS, PAGE 12



Wires bundled in rubber tubes protrude from the forest floor today, left by the communications work and research.



The trail on the west side of the park. Cheryl Repetti said that the forest is “young,” that most of the trees were not present when the communications, satellite and road work were done in the park.



Cheryl Repetti shows a photo of the paved oval, the site of asphalt testing.



Huntley Meadows Park’s Cheryl Repetti described women spies of the Civil War, including the mysterious “Mrs. Morris.”



Huntley Meadows Park’s Cheryl Repetti led a walk exploring the park’s “hidden history.” A small piece of masking tape on the park sign is one way spies signaled they had made a drop.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Huntley Meadows Park

FROM PAGE II

a woman who called herself “Mrs. Morris,” mentioned “Huntly” in her letters from prison after she was arrested for alleged espionage against the United States. This was a reference to today’s Historic Huntley, the 15-room country house, acquired in 1820 by Alexandria’s mayor, Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of Gunston Hall’s George Mason IV. The Masons likely retreated to their villa to decompress from city life and enjoy the hilltop breezes and view of their 800-plus acres.

The Surreptitious “Mrs. Morris”

Mrs. Morris claimed she had married Thomson and Betsey Mason’s son, John Francis “Frank” Mason, and had a child with him in Paris. In prison, Mrs. Morris confessed to being a Confederate spy and in her letters to Frank, hinted that her mother-in-law was a Union sympathizer. Alexandria and that part of Fairfax County were then under Union occupation. She wrote, “Huntly has not been touched. All this goes to prove your mother’s position is very well understood here by the Lincoln Government.”

While no one has documented that the ever-resourceful Mrs. Morris visited Huntley, records show she met Confederate President Jefferson Davis. An 1872 letter by “X” to the Alexandria Gazette lauded her mastery in covert operations. “Of her powers of fascination there can be no question, statesmen and warriors having surrendered at discretion to her charms of form and intellect,” X penned. With her duplicitous wiles, she obtained Union General Irvin McDowell’s plans for the 1861 march on Manassas Junction, wrote the plans in code, wrapped the document in black silk and hid it in her hair bun, said Repetti. Her accomplice slipped the plans to Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard.

In 1872, Mrs. Morris testified in the U.S. Senate when some alleged that an unauthorized sale of U.S. arms to France violated U.S. neutrality in the Franco-Prussian War. She was also connected to an insurrection in Cuba.

Anti-Aircraft Defense

During World War II, three damaged U.S. B29 bombers were forced to land in Soviet territory. Stalin ordered his underlings to dismantle and copy them. This generated anxiety among high-level U.S. officials, so to strengthen U.S. defenses, the Army built anti-aircraft sites armed with guns near major cities. The Virginia National Guard Battery D had 134 men who staffed a site at today’s Huntley Meadows and operated four 90- and 120-millimeter, anti-aircraft guns. Today, the facility’s sidewalks and other concrete remnants peek out from the forest floor.

In the 1950s, as Cold War tensions mounted between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, new surface-to-air missile defense systems made anti-aircraft guns obsolete and the Navy decommissioned the Huntley site. The Pentagon then circled Washington, D.C., with 13 Nike anti-aircraft missile complexes. Fairfax County had three, one near Lorton today which has a historic marker declaring, “This was the only Nike complex in Fairfax County containing missiles armed with nuclear warheads.”

Tracking Enemy Submarines and Sputnik

Birds chirp in the park today. For 20 years, hush-hush technology chirped. Wires poking out of the ground today were left by the Naval Research Laboratory’s (NRL) Hybla Valley Research Station, which from 1958 to 1971 conducted classified radio communication research and built top-secret antenna arrays organized in two circular fields to track signals from

Soviet submarines off the Atlantic coast.

The site of a former circular antenna array is today’s central wetland, created in 1978 when beavers built a dam. Severe droughts in the wetland can expose metal pieces and parch marks showing ground disturbance.

In 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik I, a beach-ball-size, artificial satellite that orbited the Earth in about 98 minutes, beating the U.S. in that era’s “space race” and sending shock waves across America. Hybla Valley NRL radio employees tracked Sputnik’s orbits. Many say that Sputnik led to the U.S. space program.

In the early 1960s, today’s park was also the site for a Naval Research Laboratory command and control station for the U.S. government’s GRAB (Galactic Radiation and Background) satellite, a signals intelligence satellite first launched in 1961, shortly after the loss of the U-2 spy plane flown by Gary Powers in 1960. Powers was performing photographic aerial reconnaissance in Soviet territory. According to the National Security Agency’s website, GRAB’s unclassified mission was to collect solar radiation data. Its secret mission was to gather “radar pulses within a specific bandwidth from Soviet equipment,” data ultimately sent to the Strategic Air Command and NSA.

The Naval Research Laboratory’s work on GRAB eventually led to the Global Positioning System (GPS) today found in most cell phones.

From 1943 to 1953, the then federal Bureau of Public Roads tested asphalt to determine its capacity to support heavy vehicles. This work may have been security related, for example, to develop pavement to support tanks. Parts of the oval track, still there, are now in the park’s maintenance area and closed to the public.

Green Spring Park

Today’s Green Spring Park and mansion near Anandale were the former farm of Michael Straight who while working for the Franklin Roosevelt administration spied for the Soviets’ security agency, until 1991, the KGB. He had joined the Communist Party as a student at England’s Cambridge University. The Straight family donated Green Spring Farm to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Straight’s second memoir, *On Green Spring Farm: The Life and Times of One Family in Fairfax County, Va., 1942 to 1966* was published posthumously.

Almost Perfect for Covert Operations

Parks have been favorite drop-off sites for clandestine operations. The county’s sign for Foxstone Park is in Washington, D.C.’s, International Spy Museum.

Robert Hanssen worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1976 to 2001 and for most of that time, also worked for the Russians as “Ramon Garcia.” He left papers and cash at dead drop sites in Fairfax and Arlington parks, including Eakin, Idylwood, Canterbury Woods, Lewinsville, Wolftrap and Foxstone.

Hanssen gave each park a code name and signaled drops with inconspicuous materials like adhesive tape, thumbtacks and colored chalk. He made his last drop at Foxstone near his Vienna home in 2001 as FBI agents watched him tape classified material packaged in black garbage bag to the underside of a footbridge over Wolftrap Creek. Reportedly, he said, “What took you so long?”

Most of the Huntley Meadows Park sites are accessible today from the trail at 6901 South Kings Highway. Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, is near the park’s Lockheed Boulevard entrance.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Jeff Cooper releasing the bald eagle.

Bald Eagles Are Thriving But Face Challenges

FROM PAGE 10

Cooper said, and have crashed through cockpits. In the Chesapeake Bay region, there were seven airstrikes between 1990 to 2009, 18 from 2010 to 2015, and some are not reported. Cooper is working with Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, where between 2013 to 2020, he tagged over 130 eagles with cellular transmitters for an aircraft strike study.

Back from the Brink

Haliaeetus leucocephalus, the bald eagle, was once headed for extinction in the lower 48 states. In 1963, only 417 nesting pairs were documented. Scientists attribute their decline to DDT and other compounds in pesticides that moved up the food chain and made eggshells so thin that chicks failed to hatch. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) put the bald eagle on the endangered species list. In 1972, Congress banned DDT and bald eagle population numbers started to rise.

In 2007, FWS removed bald eagles from the endangered species list. Since 1977, Virginia’s breeding population has increased ten-fold, says William and Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology website.

Mount Vernonite Greg Cridler promoted the talk among his friends and neighbors and found it “very informative and interesting. Apparently, the characteristics of our area are the most attractive on the east coast which is why we are seeing more bald eagles,” he said.

You can view the presentation at www.fodm.org. Cosponsors of the meeting were the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Northern Virginia Bird Club, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Mason Neck State Park.

Several live cameras monitor bald eagle nests, including nests at the National Arboretum, <https://naeaglecam.org>, and the Dulles Greenway, <http://www.dullesgreenway.com/eagle-cam/>.

CALENDAR

MARCH 7-14

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. Participating Fairfax City restaurants are offering three-course prix fixe menus of \$20 for lunch/brunch and \$35 for dinner per person with couple and family meal options available. New this year, specialty restaurants will offer a Two for \$10 Deal providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore the global kitchens found across neighborhoods in Fairfax City. Participating restaurants include: Coyote Grille & Cantina, Ornerly Beer Company, Marumen, The Wine House, The Auld Shebeen, Dolce Vita Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar, Capital Ale House, Earp's Ordinary, Foundation Coffee Roasters, Patriots Pub & Grill, High Side, Bellissimo Restaurant, Anita's New Mexico Style Mexican Food, Epicure Café, Hamrock's Restaurant, Ruffino's Spaghetti House, and Bollywood Bistro. Visit fairfaxcityrestaurant-week.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Alma Wind Ensemble. 8-10 p.m. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. This concert highlights the contributions of women composers throughout history. Exclusively highlighting women's work, composers include Mel Bonis, Katy Abbott, Florence Price, Sally Whitwell, among others. Flute, Clarinet & Piano.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Second Saturday Art Walk. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. All six gallery buildings will be open and artists will be on hand to share their work and processes with you. Come enjoy an evening out with our visual artists. <https://www.workhousearts.org/monthly-featured-artists-1>

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: An Evening with Brahms and Tchaikovsky. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. Featuring Sofya Gulyak, piano. Tickets: \$15 Students, Adult prices starting at \$40. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

History in Kitchen. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Virtual. At Gunston Hall in Lorton. This free and virtual three-part series will illuminate what kinds of



The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will perform on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

food were eaten by different people in Colonial Virginia. Discover each week how to prepare a simple recipe. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/history-in-the-kitchen-2/>

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

"Cat Daddies" Screening. 4:15-6:15 p.m. At University Mall Theaters, 10659 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Happy three-year anniversary to Patriot Pawsabilities. Help celebrate in purr-son for "Cat Daddies" presented by Gray Hat Films and Visual Communications, benefiting Patriot Pawsabilities Cat Lounge. "Cat Daddies" is a tender portrait of eight men whose love for cats has changed their lives, from internet celebrity to occupational therapy, and in the case of one disabled homeless man, a reason to hope. Visit the website: tinyurl.com/catdaddiesfairfax

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

ArtScreen Movie Night. 7:30 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enter the world of a legendary art forger! "Art and Craft", 2014, not rated. FREE Admission includes popcorn, candy, and refreshments! Doors open at 7 p.m. Part of ArtScreen Film Series. Free.

MARCH 18 TO APRIL 16

"The Art of Murder." Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theater, 9518 Workhouse

Way, Lorton. In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished painters of his generation, awaits the imminent arrival of his art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one, for Jack feels wronged, and he is intending to kill the man. As Jack lays out his intentions for the evening, his wife, Annie, calmly paints. She is reluctant to go along with the plan, until Jack's threat of violence convinces her otherwise. Harried and annoyed, Vincent, Jack's flamboyant art dealer, arrives. Will Jack carry out his plan? Will Annie help him? Or is something else going on? Visit www.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

Martha Spencer Duo. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 McGuire Woods Gallery, Lorton. A singer-songwriter, mountain musician and dancer, from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia shares, with her audiences, the strong musical connection between families and music in Appalachia.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Bill Heid Trip. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 McGuire Woods Gallery, Lorton. Playing all styles of blues piano including boogie woogie, be-bop, funk, and neo-soul styles which have been influenced from greats Pete Johnson, Albert Ammons, and Meade Lux Lewis.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Josanne Francis. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 McGuire Woods Gallery, Lorton. Born and raised in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, she is an internationally known steelpan performer and music educator. Her music catapults audiences in a unique and exceptional way.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

N Gauge (NTRAK) Model Trains on Display. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, special events, \$6; seniors and military both active and retired, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

MARCH 25-26

Mason Dance Gala Concerts. 8 p.m. At the GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$28 General Public; \$15 students, staff, and seniors; \$10 groups of 10 or more. For up-to-date information, video, and choreographer bios, visit the website: <https://dance.gmu.edu/dance-gala-concert>.

MARCH 26-27

Springpex Stamp Show 2022. At John R. Lewis High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Springpex is the area's largest stamp show. All local stamp

collectors and interested public are invited to attend. The show features competitive and non-competitive philatelic exhibits, and some 25 stamp and cover dealers from throughout the Eastern U.S. In addition to the exhibits and sales bourse, special commemorative cachet envelopes and postal cancellations will mark the 50th Anniversary of the last Lunar Landing by Apollo 17, the 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial, and the 50th Springpex show. Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 26, and 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 27. Visit the website at www.springfieldstampclub.org.

MAY 21-22

Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

Catholic Conference on Environment in Burke

On Saturday, March 12, the Catholic Diocese of Arlington's Peace and Justice Commission is hosting "Why Should I Care for Our Common Home?" The conference is intended to highlight Pope Francis' call for humanity to care for all creation and ways in which participants can carry out this call. The evening begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Diocese of Arlington, and dinner. Dan Misleh, founder of Catholic Climate Covenant, will present on the responsibility of Catholics to care for creation followed by a panel discussion. Registration is required, below.

"We all share a common vocation to be good stewards of God's creation. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we give

thanks to God for the gift of creation and, in its beauty, see a sign of God's creativity and presence in our midst. Through this awareness, we are reminded, yet again, of Our Lord's infinite love for us," said Bishop Burbidge. "There are many good efforts taking place throughout our diocese that help care for and protect God's creation. We are pursuing many opportunities to lower energy consumption, reduce emissions, and improve the quality of air and light in our buildings. As stewards of the natural world, may we join with renewed intention in ensuring all people have the resources necessary to fulfill their God-given purpose."

What: "Why Should I Care for Our Common Home," Conference on Environmental Protection

When: 5 p.m. Mass, Celebrated by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge; 6 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. Keynote with Dan Misleh. Panel to follow.

Where: Nativity Catholic Church; 6400 Nativity Ln. Burke, VA 22015

(The Mass will be available for viewing via live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NativityParishBurke>. The Conference will be available via live stream on the diocesan YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvVW22dci_D4Z-1b5RiKtdw)

Registration is Still Open: Register at <https://carefourcommonhome.eventbrite.com>.

The panel will discuss steps the Diocese is taking to increase sustainable practices in its parishes and teach care for all creation in

its schools, and practical ways individuals can protect the environment. Panelists include Andrew Shulman, Director of the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Planning, Construction and Facilities, Lonnell Battle, Assistant Principal for Academics, Bishop Ireton High School, and Meghan Goodwin, Associate Director of Government Relations, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This conference is in response to Pope Francis' call to care for the whole human family and all of creation as laid out in his encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. The evening will launch a seven-year effort to teach and implement this encyclical throughout the diocese.

For additional information on the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, visit arlingtondiocese.org.

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BULLETIN

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

2022 TEEN JOB FAIRS
Two Teen Job Fairs will be held in Springfield and Chantilly on March 12 and March 19, 2022. The events are hosted by Supervisor Pat Herrity's office, Connection Newspapers and Fairfax County Public Schools. They include two teen job fairs and career-building workshops. They focus on students and young job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions.

Dates:
Saturday, March 12 from 1-3 p.m. At West Springfield High School.
Saturday, March 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Chantilly High School.

NOW THRU 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 started at <http://www.lordoflifeva.org/esl>. Cost is \$20.

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 or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

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/healthy-mindsfairfax or 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. 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.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Inova Announces \$1 Million For Nonprofits to Address Health Equity

Inova Health System is calling for applicants for its 2022 Health Equity Grant program. This year, the Health Equity Grants program will award \$1 million in funding – the largest level of funding to date for the program – to nonprofit organizations that provide services to address health needs for the under-resourced and promote equity for all.

In 2021, Inova awarded \$240,000 to 14 nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia through the (then named) Community Health Fund. With the healthcare inequities experienced by many in our community exacerbated by the global pandemic, Inova nearly quadrupled its grant funds to \$1 million and refocused the program to specifically address health equity locally.

“Meeting the healthcare needs of the Northern Virginia community is a priority for Inova, and our community partners are

instrumental in helping us identify effective ways to support under-resourced groups,” said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO of Inova Health System. “Improving the health of our community is about more than direct healthcare, and we are proud to offer these grants to the wonderful organizations who provide the resources our residents need to thrive.”

Inova seeks to harness the collective power of community partners, agencies, and organizations to create positive social impact. Special considerations will be given to those eligible organizations owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Applications are due April 6, 2022. Past awardees include: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, The Campagna Center, Loudoun Literacy Council and La Cocina VA.

Free St. Patrick’s Day Lyft Rides Offered

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly two-thirds (63%) of nighttime U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization says free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month’s St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day) and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app’s “Payment” tab (under the “Add Lyft Pass” option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP’s 2022 St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

During the 2019 St. Patrick’s Day campaign (COVID-19 eliminated the 2020 campaign and limited last year’s offering), nearly 700 (697) people in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP’s SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired — the second highest level of ridership for St. Patrick’s Day in SoberRide’s 31-year history. The charity also of-

fers its SoberRide® program on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year’s Eve.

“Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we’re proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving,” said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. “Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season.”

Sponsors of WRAP’s 2022 St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP’s 2022 Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP’s SoberRide® program has provided 81,645 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area

during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS’ counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Stryjewski at 703-658-9054.

Thermal Camera Loan Program. Learn where the energy is leaking out of the home with a special attachment for the iPhone or Android. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy or call 703-324-5955 for more.

FROM PAGE 14

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, or visit 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,

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Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which in this column’s context implies news of consequence, and semi unexpectedly at that? Although in the cancer-patient world it’s all consequential, until it’s not. Still, I didn’t anticipate, given what little I know about medical diagnostic procedures/tests, that the upper endoscopy I had on Thursday might involve a post-procedure ‘wait.’ I figured the little scope they slithered down my throat would determine definitively why I’ve had difficulty swallowing food these last few months. And it sort of did, however ...

As I learned from the gastroenterologist while lying on a gurney in recovery, she took two tissue samples to be biopsied. Though she had good news in that there were no blockages, tumors, or problems with my esophagus – opening or closing, nevertheless; she did feel the need to retrieve some tissue for a pathologist to exam more scientifically. I was told those results would be back in five to seven days. Ergo, the title of this column.

Let me be clear, in and of itself, waiting is not the problem. As a cancer patient, I’m always waiting – for something. And unless one integrates/assimilates that into their method of operation/process of elimination, the anxiety and stress of it will make Kenny a very dull boy – for which I need no provocation, according to my wife, Dina. No, the problem here is that I’m waiting when I didn’t think I’d be waiting. I figured, incorrectly, that after the scoping was complete, the analysis/diagnosis would be complete. As Linda Ronstadt sang: “Poor, Poor Pitiful Me.” It appears, considering the lack of evidence from the procedure to explain away my swallowing difficulties, there are now two more diagnostic procedures scheduled, neither of which sound very pleasant, to find an answer.

Here I thought as Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) thought in “Godfather: Part 3:” “Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in,” that every malady/medical situation afflicting me might not have a cancer risk, I was a bit surprised to learn that as a cancer patient, it all matters, it all could be related, and I’ll never be out of the woods, even if I can see the forest save for the trees. I’m sort of disappointed in myself thinking that any medical procedure that I have is somehow (A) not complicated by the fact that I have cancer, and (B) very possibly, directly/indirectly related to my pre-existing cancer diagnosis. Either it’s a cause or an effect. On the face of it, this is no way to live. On the other hand, it’s a miracle I’m still alive and I’m thankful and grateful every day that I am.

So, what’s a little waiting? It’s all I’ve ever done since Jan. 1st, 2009 when I first went to the Emergency Room with symptoms. I should have remembered the mantra bedeviling all cancer patients since time immemorial: it’s always something.

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



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