

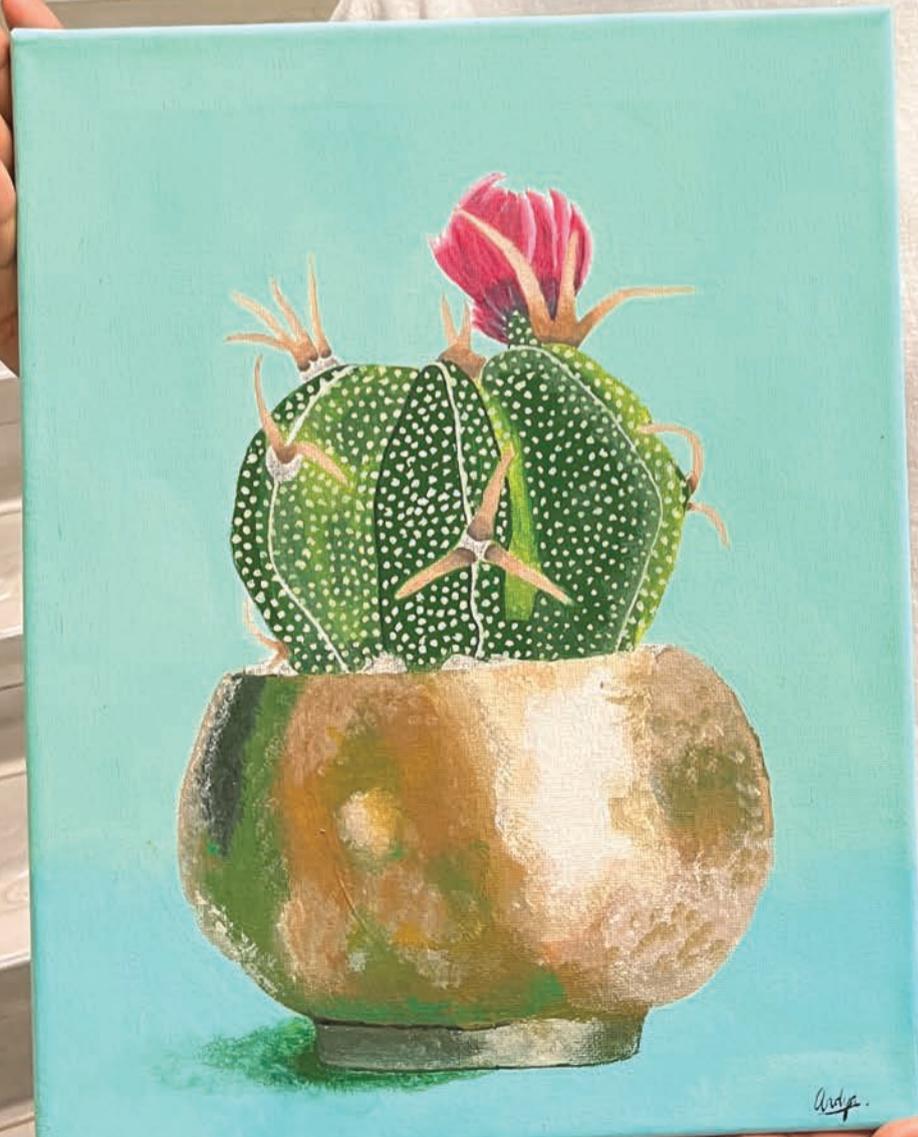
CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

South Lakes Students Run a Business

PAGE 8

SLHS artist, Aadya Nair, a senior, is one of the IRIS artists featured on the environmental first edition IRIS stickers.



Don't Miss Your Exit

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Reston Comp Plan: It's Complicated

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Stuff the Bus For Hungry Families

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New in Sully Woodlands

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

MARCH 9-15, 2022

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
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.

NEWS

Ramp from I-66 West to Route 28 North and Braddock Road/Walney Road moving about one-half mile east on/about March 11



MAP COURTESY OF VDOT

This new exit from I-66 west to Route 28 North and Braddock Road/Walney Road will be permanent.

New, Permanent Exit from I-66 West to Braddock/Walney

Heads up, Centreville and Chantilly residents! As of this Friday morning, March 11, there'll be a new exit from I-66 west to Route 28 North and Braddock Road/Walney Road. And unlike many of the temporary, road-construction detours local motorists have become used to, this one will be permanent.

The work is part of the Transform 66 Outside of the Beltway Project, which includes a new Route 28 and I-66 Interchange in Centreville. According to VDOT, the heavily used Braddock/Walney roads exit – which leads drivers to homes, businesses, schools, parks, churches, etc. in both Centreville and Chantilly – will be relocated approximately one-half mile prior to (east of) the current exit.

The new exit will be immediately after the I-66 bridge over Stringfellow Road, so drivers

will have to be alert to leave I-66 sooner than they're used to doing. However, if they miss the new exit location, they can continue west and take the exit to Route 28 south instead.

From there, they may exit to Route 29 north, stay to the right and follow the signs to Route 28 north. Drivers traveling to Braddock Road/Walney Road should stay left on Route 28 north and follow the signs to the Braddock/Walney roads exit.

All work is weather dependent and will be rescheduled to the following night if inclement conditions occur. The new Route 28/I-66 Interchange is being constructed to improve traffic flow on both I-66 and Route 28 and provide access to and from the future I-66 Express Lanes. These lanes are expected to open in December.

— BONNIE HOBBS

BULLETIN BOARD

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 Herry'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.

HERNDON SEEKS APPLICANTS

The Herndon Town Council has adopted a resolution to form an advisory committee focused on diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the community, and is seeking members.

The Herndon Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (HDEIC)'s purpose is to elevate community concerns about diversity, equity and inclusion in the town, through recommendations to the Town Council as well as enhanced service delivery to minority residents

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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An interior view of the education building planned for Chantilly's E.C. Lawrence Park



The energy-efficient building will be constructed of reclaimed wood to reduce its carbon footprint.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Sully Woodlands Education Center Breaks Ground

People will learn about nature and wildlife preservation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center in Chantilly is one step closer to becoming a reality. That's because ground was recently broken on this cutting-edge, innovative new building in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

Envisioned as a state-of-the-art interpretive center, the facility will host educational programs, offer a place for special events and serve as a gateway to the greater Sully Woodlands. It will also educate the public about how to preserve wildlife and nature and let people know what the Sully Woodlands contains.

A special project several years in the making, it's being developed by the Fairfax County Park Authority with support from the county Board of Supervisors, the county Park Foundation, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Friends, community members, private and corporate donors, and money from a voter-approved park bond.

This structure will be built according to the rigorous, sustainable-design standards of the Living Building Challenge. It's an international certification to create carbon-negative buildings that generate more energy and usable water than they consume.

Maggie Godbold, Sully District Park Authority representative and the Park Authority Board's vice-chairman, is excited about it.



Local dignitaries and stakeholders break ground on the Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center. Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) is in the plaid coat.

"It will be the first building like this in Fairfax County – and one of only three or four on the whole, East Coast – and 50 in the entire world," she said. "And we'll educate people about it, as well."

The center will be 7,000 square feet, with two multipurpose spaces – one enclosed and one open – plus an education kiosk and kitchen. There'll be learning pods for STEAM education and nature play, an animal enclosure, a solar picnic table and a future amphitheater.

Sully Woodlands is a collection of parks – including E.C. Lawrence – in western Fairfax County. So the building's floor will feature a map of Sully Woodlands illustrating to visitors how all these parks connect.

Solar panels will power the facility and produce 105 percent of its energy needs. Other green elements include a rainwater-reuse system, radiant heating, passive cooling (large doors, fans and transom vents), and a wastewater-

ter-treatment system. Any extra water will be treated on site and returned to the natural water cycle.

Furthermore, the building, itself, will be constructed of reclaimed wood, cast concrete and corrugated metal to reduce its carbon footprint. And it will rely solely on renewable energy and will operate pollution-free.

"We're working with the Fairfax County DEQ [Department of Environmental Quality], and the boiler

room will be open so people can see what's going on, [to save energy]," said Godbold. "We'll also have charging stations there for electronic bikes."

The structure will have a shaded porch and will be nestled in the woods, where children can go for walks on the trails. The facility will be available to school groups to visit, and everything will be free. In the evenings, however, the building may be rented for events.

The contractor, Cooper Building Services, plans to employ best practices during construction to protect the natural surroundings and reduce impact on the environment. Although residents living near the 5235 Walney Road project site should expect occasional construction traffic entering and exiting the park's Cabell's Mill entrance.

This center for natural and cultural stewardship is anticipated to take a year to complete and be ready to open its doors in early 2023. A formal ribbon-cutting and opening celebration is planned upon the project's completion in early 2023.

"Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is a 650-acre park that offers a rich environment for residents," said Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully). "What makes it outstanding are the trails, woodlands, streams and Walney Pond. I'm excited about the newest addition, the Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center, which will enhance visitors' and students' experience to the park."

OPINION

Don't Rename Sully District

To the Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee:

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations at its 26 January 2020 meeting voted to recommend the Redistricting Advisory Committee Meeting not change the name of Sully District.

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations was established by the citizens of Sully District when Sully District was established after the 1990 census. The Council would like to express our strong opposition to the recommendation of the 2022 Redistricting Advisory Committee for the renaming of the Sully District. Based upon our review of the Advisory Committee's draft report to the Board of Supervisors, we do not believe that the primary reasons cited in the report as justifying the name change for the Sully District are valid.

We will agree with the finding that District Evaluation Criteria #4 (page 6 of the report) is applicable in that the Sully District was named after the Sully Plantation, and that the workers at this location were enslaved. However, we do not believe that either Criteria #1 or #3 can be applied to the Sully District.

In particular, we fail to see how Criteria #3 - Is the name related to the Confederate past? - is applicable. A quick search of the Wikipedia website determined that the owner of Sully - Richard Bland Lee - was the younger brother of Maj. Gen. Henry ("Light Horse Harry") Lee, who was the father of Robert E. Lee. So, at best, the "Confederate relationship" is that of

being the uncle of Robert E. Lee. We would also note that Richard Bland Lee died on March 12, 1827, some 34 years prior to the beginning of the Civil War. We do not believe that a family relationship of this nature validates Criteria #3.

In addition, we did not see any valid reason cited in the report of why Evaluation Criteria #1 - Does the name violate the spirit or explicit meaning of the One Fairfax policy - apply only to the Sully District. If the use of any former plantation name is unacceptable in Fairfax County as a violation of the "One Fairfax" how can Mount Vernon be retained? Has there been any discussion of changing Mount Vernon to the "Washington District"? That would seem to maintain the historical relationship with George Washington, would do nothing to change the name of the estate, but would remove the linkage to slavery. We could envision a concern relative to Criteria #1 being deemed appropriate to some degree to any and all of the current supervisor district names.

We also noted the expansive public interaction which took place when the potential renaming of the Springfield District was being considered. Apparently, in the absence of any citizen requests for this action to be further investigated, the question was dropped. With that being the case, I would offer the suggestion for the group's consideration that the name of the Sully District be changed only upon the conduct of a ballot referendum to that effect across all of the election precincts which define the Sully

Supervisory District. We do not personally believe that a change of this nature should be left just to a simple majority vote by the current Board of Supervisors members.

As an example of the historical import of the Sully name, Sully District's association with Chantilly was instrumental in the invitation of Sully Supervisor Michael Frey to the World War One commemoration activities in Chantilly, France, in 2014 http://www.sullydistrict.org/SDCPhotoGallery/Sully_District_Photo_Gallery/Pages/Armistice_Day_11_Nov_2014.html

We believe that we need more interpretive signage (for example at Sully Plantation), better Virginia history education not an erasure of history. If we acknowledge the truth of our history, we can teach all ages that people are people, regardless of our differences. That slavery was wrong. In today's world, we use terms like kidnapping, human trafficking, etc. Might the truth extend past historical wrongs to today?

We could offer further comments in regard to this matter, but believe the committee can understand our key points. Please feel free to further circulate these thoughts as you think appropriate.

We ask that the Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee not include the Sully District as a candidate for renaming.

Jeffrey M. Parnes
President

Sully District Council of Citizens Associations

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 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 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 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 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.

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COMMUNITY



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

At a previous Stuff the Bus event outside Centreville Regional Library, (from left) Yusef Alrajhi with Volunteer Fairfax, bus driver Saeid Khalighi and WFCM's Sarah Barton with some of donated food.

Stuff the Bus Food Drives Are Set for March 19

Residents can help restock WFCM's 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 Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) 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 Chantilly and Centreville are so important. They give local residents an opportunity to donate food to WFCM 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.

One is outside the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, and the other is in the Centreville Regional Library's parking lot at 14200 Saint Germain Drive in Centreville. Just look for the Fastran bus at each location.

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.

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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); 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 WFCM at <https://www.wfcmva.org/donate>. 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 shelf 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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Interim Recommendations for the Reston Comprehensive Plan Revealed



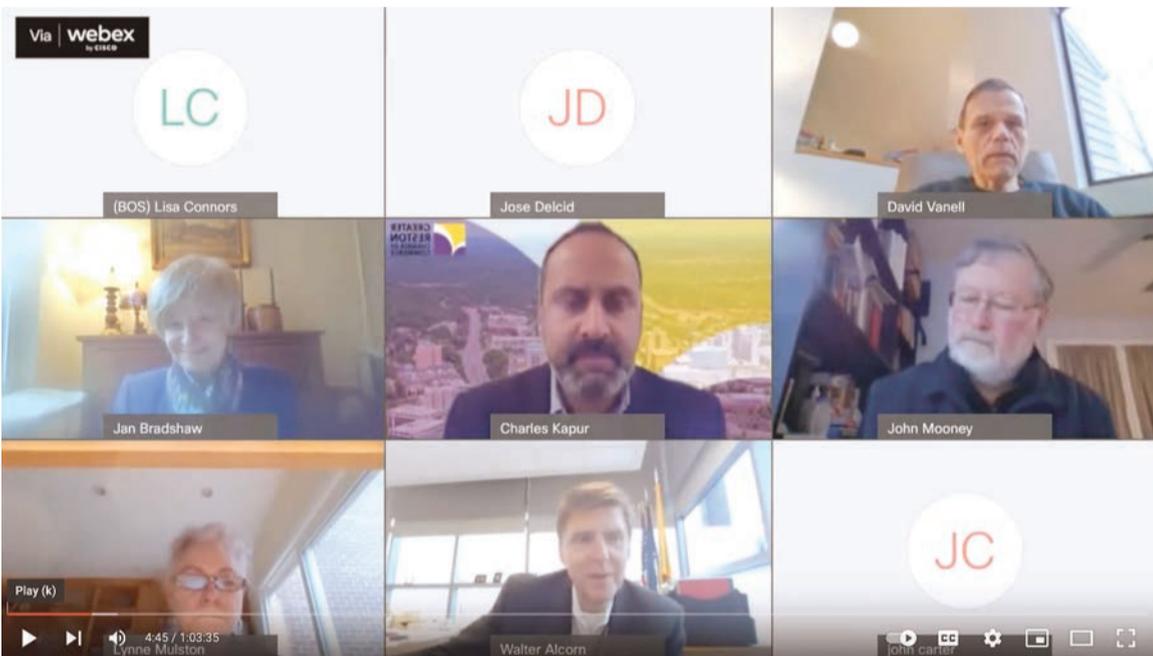
PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Density concerns divide the Reston community during the Jan. 23, 2019 Planning Commission public hearing on the controversial proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Article 6, Density Provisions for the Reston PRC District. File Photo Jan. 23, 2019



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Reston's environment is a matter that the Task Force considered.



SCREENSHOT

Charles Kapur, President & CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, hosts the Reston Comprehensive Plan Initial Outreach streamed on Feb. 24, 2022, featuring the Office of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D) (lower row center). Members of the Task Force charged to consider Interim Recommendations for the Reston Comprehensive Plan Study also attend.



Two new sections added: Equity and Community Health.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are tentatively scheduled to hold public hearings early this fall on what could be the proposed Reston Comprehensive Plan that would address density and other issues, according to the Reston Task Force PowerPoint Presentation available on the county's website. Long gone are the early days

in 1919 when the Fairfax County Planning Commission deferred the decision on a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment that would address density provisions for the Reston PRC District.

Those opposed to the Plan flooded the Fairfax County Government Center dressed in identifiable yellow t-shirts at the Jan. 23, 2019 hearing before the planning commission. Density is being addressed again now.

The office of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D) and

Task Force members delivered for the second time, on March 2, the Task Force's interim recommendations for the 14 areas of the Reston Comprehensive Plan Study to a key stakeholder, Reston Association. It followed the initial meeting on Feb. 24 to present to the Reston Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting with Reston Association was the second of eight scheduled presentations during what will be a near 30-day whirlwind tour of the document, nearly two years in the making by the

31-member Task Force. The unabridged Plan Study, 173-pages in length, has been summarized into the Reston Task Force PowerPoint Presentation. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/reston-area-study>

The morning after the presentation to RA, Alcorn hosted a virtual coffee media briefing. It allowed untangling some of the complicated issues reflected in the presentation.

Density, both where and how much, has historically been one of the most contentious issues in

Reston. For years, it pitted neighbors, organizations, stakeholders, and developers against one another, most recently a year before the pandemic, as the Connection reported in "Decision on Reston Density Deferred in 2019." <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2019/013019/Reston.pdf>

Alcorn explained his intentions when he initiated a process for additional study and community input on the Comprehensive Plan for Reston: "To bring people together."

"To have these real conversations about these real issues," Al-

SEE TWO NEW, PAGE 7

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Two New Sections Added: Equity and Community Health

FROM PAGE 6

corn said. “To hear everyone’s concerns. Frankly, with the Task Force, (it was) to give them the pen.”

On Jan. 14, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved a Board Matter by Alcorn to form a committee to draft the Reston Comprehensive Plan Study’s Interim Recommendations. Since May 2020, the Task Force Committee has worked closely under Alcorn’s chairmanship with Fairfax County staff to create a roadmap for Reston’s next stage in its community timeline. The recommendations, according to Alcorn, strike a balance between existing and projected growth, infrastructure, and the environment to create One Reston.

According to Alcorn, the first part of One Reston is suburban, the Planned Residential Communities (PRC). They are Reston’s most established and internationally renowned communities, many formed under the “seven guiding principles” of Reston’s founder, Robert E. Simon.

“I wouldn’t say there’s no down planning in the Interim Task Force’s recommendations, but it is very specific,” Alcorn said. “The older village centers, specifically North Point, Hunters Woods, and South Lakes ... still have some density that was a holdover from literally the 1960s. ... I would even call these a cleanup of a few areas in the Comprehensive Plan where there was density that was not addressed five or six years ago. St John’s Woods is one of those places.”

Reston Town Center Transit Station, is the second sector of One Reston. In addition to density not being addressed in the Planned Residential Communities, Alcorn said that another area he was sure would end up “with a lot of controversy, or at least discussion,” was Reston Town Center North in the RTC.

“The current Comprehensive Plan talks about a minimum of 1000 units. The Task Force uses a more traditional formulation of the maximum number of units in Reston Town Center. I guess you could call that ‘down planning,’” said Alcorn.

The proposed Plan demands that Reston’s ethos continue to be, as stated in its unabridged version, “committed to promoting racial and social equity and removing barriers that perpetuate injustice in our society.”

“When Robert E. Simon founded Reston; he established seven founding principles. So, this goes back to those founding principles and expands them and updates them at least. That’s what the Task Force worked on,” Alcorn said.



The Reston Town Center Transit Station leads to Reston Town Center North. The current Comprehensive Plan talks about a minimum of 1000 units. The Task Force proposes use of a more traditional formulation of the maximum number of units in Reston Town Center.

Equity is named as one of the 14 areas in the Feb. 4, 2022 version of the plan. “The recommendations in the 2022 Reston Comprehensive Plan are meant to recognize, protect, and guide this harmony-in-the-making as One Reston moves toward full build-out,” the document says.

The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development has received the recommendations and is conducting a comprehensive review. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is likewise reviewing the Transportation chapter.

Two areas, population, and earned density, that are not in the Interim Recommendations, are still important background pieces, Alcorn said. Earned density, he said, is the idea that developers should be expected to earn their density to the maximum amount allowed in the Comprehensive Plan. According to Alcorn, how that would be done, and the criteria are being discussed.

As for population, county staff and Reston Association came up with a range of what Reston’s population would look like if all the density allowed for in the current Comprehensive Plan were built out. “Theoretically 127,000 to 157,000 people,” said Alcorn. According to the U.S. Census, in 2020, Reston’s population was just over 63,000.

According to the Reston Areas Study Timeline, from Sept. to Oct. 2022, the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors



Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D)

are scheduled to hold public hearings and more than likely will hold votes on the matter. Yellow t-shirts, worn by those in 2019, may be tucked away in drawers. The question is, will they be seen again?

The timeline predicts: January 2022 for the Board Initiates Review of Reston Plan; May 2020-February 2022, Community Task Force Meetings; February-April 2022-Task Force Community Engagement, Staff Feedback, and Staff Report Drafted; May-July 2022- Community Engagement, Prepare Final Staff Report and Task Force Concludes; and August 2022-Publish Final Staff report.

Access to the 173-page Reston Task Force Interim Recommendations, past and current task force meetings numbering 45 to date, presentations, materials, and task force members can be found online by searching Reston Comprehensive Plan Study | Planning Development (fairfaxcounty.gov) <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/reston-area-study> Videos of several meetings are available to watch on Supervisor Alcorn’s YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbX8r-CIEBPIkdF-7QGKmdw>

Questions? email restonplan-taskforce@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Alcorn Comments on the Task Force’s Interim Recommendations of the Reston Comprehensive Plan Study as viewed in the Reston Task Force PowerPoint Presentation. (Lightly edited)

Planning Principles: When Robert E. Simon founded Reston; he established seven founding principles. This goes back to those founding principles and then expands on them and updates them.

Heritage Resources: The task force is calling (for the inventory done by the county’s) Planning and Development to be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan. This is another important mechanism for flagging before there are development proposals coming through the process of at least possible historic interest in value.

Transportation: The Task Force talked about a new emphasis on multimodal transportation.

Public Facilities: The idea is to make sure that transportation infrastructure and public facilities are planned to support and be adequate as new development comes online.

Land Use: If you are a landowner who is looking to develop your property, this is a part of the Comp Plan you would be looking at very closely.

Affordable Housing: Focus is on trying to ensure that housing is affordable, and there’s a strategy for providing housing for people at all income levels. One area that has been a major area of discussion is the Workforce Development Unit policy.

Parks: The focus there is both maintaining existing high-quality parks in Reston and making sure that new facilities (such as new) parks and recreation facilities and open space are brought online as new development occurs.

Environmental Stewardship: Reston is a biophilic community. Certainly, green building is a ma-

major area of interest and different elements of our climate strategy overall. This is what we call a local application of environmental principles through the Comprehensive Plan.

Public Art: goes back to the founding of Reston. Bob Simon intentionally incorporated public art into early Reston development. This continues that tradition and looks to integrate public art into all future development.

Economic Development: That was recommended by the Task Force with an emphasis on making sure that the economy in Reston stays healthy and is supported at all different levels and types of businesses, including and especially small and medium-sized businesses in Reston.

The Two New Areas

Community Health: The Task Force looked at community health issues as informed by recent events, but also looked at the overall community health, not just physical health but also mental health issues in the community, and how those might be addressed through the Comprehensive Plan going forward.

Equity: (Fairfax County’s Comprehensive Plan doesn’t include this part.) If we’re going to put equity in the Comprehensive Plan, of course, it should be Reston ... I would point out that the Department of Planning and Development and the county’s chief equity officer have talked about having a county-wide equity policy plan in the Comprehensive Plan at some point in the near future. This is sort of stepping into that arena.

PHOTOS BY MERCEIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

SLHS Program Launches Student-Led Company

Sells student artist merchandise, net proceeds to charities reflected in art.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Sixteen teens from South Lakes High School have built a company called “JACP Company F: Iris,” or IRIS for short. The company is entirely student-run, operating at the school’s address, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. IRIS sells merchandise such as t-shirts and first-edition stickers printed with juried artwork submitted by local high school and college students. The artists are the backbone of the IRIS community. Net proceeds, the amount received by the seller after all expenses, fees, and taxes, go to each artist’s chosen charity, the cause their art reflects.

IRIS is under the umbrella of Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Washington and the JA Company Program. <https://iris-collective.square.site/>

The after-school program fills a need. It imparts to the student company members practical skills required to conceptualize, capitalize, and manage a business venture from the start, to launch, to operation. When the time comes, the students will liquidate their company’s assets and complete the closeout process before the school year’s conclusion.

“The students who have become part of and built up this program experienced a real-world connection hard to replicate in a typical classroom. This year’s seniors have been part of the program since the start and built a culture of standards and success that will last after they graduate this June,” said Jonathan McNamara, SLHS teacher and program mentor.

IRIS’s CEO is senior Mariam Seshan. According to Seshan, before the company’s idea for its business model existed, the IRIS team built the corporate structure, its leadership and organization, including sales, marketing, supply chain, and finance. After that, the entrepreneurs collectively discussed and contemplated business ideas, researched what was trending, pitched ideas to others, and figured out who the target demographic was for the business.

But, as Seshan put it, the big question was, “What are we trying to accomplish?”

The service goal evolved into empowering student artists by giving them a platform to promote, sell, and build their brand. In return, the artists are able to help a cause that was important to them while also getting their name out there in the art world.

IRIS is already establishing itself as a top Junior Achievement company. They are the winners of the “Best Overall” distinction, “Audience Choice: Best Commercial,” and “Audience Choice: Best Logo” at the 2022 Junior Achievement Tradeshow.

According to SLHS teacher and mentor Aanand Vasudevan, building a company from the ground up teaches students to



Part of the SLHS IRIS Company Team, an entirely student-run company that sells merchandise – t-shirts and first-edition stickers printed with juried artwork by local high school and college students. IRIS is under the umbrella of Junior Achievement (JA) of Greater Washington and the JA Company Program.

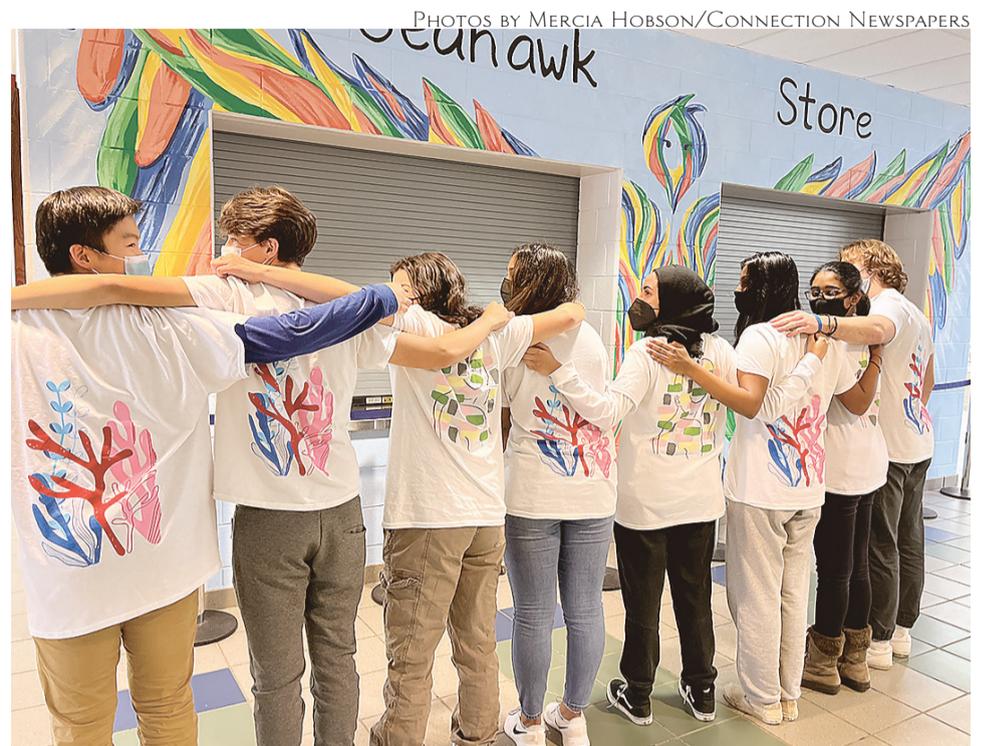
think critically and apply what they learn day-to-day in their classes in an interdisciplinary approach. They also find their own passions and areas of development as part of their own journey. “As educators, it is imperative to make education more relevant and engaging for our kids and solving problems in their own community is a great way to do that,” he said.

Mina Garcia, a sophomore at SLHS and a member of the IRIS marketing team, works in different smaller teams within IRIS, each led by a VP. According to Garcia, the marketing team focuses on social media, email campaigns, and reaching out to media. She is also involved with website building. “We work on website updates—the new artists, their products, the prices, and monitoring how different items sell,” she said.

The team created a company logo, a graphic design that captures the brand vibe. According to Seshan, it is an ink depiction of the eye with its iris, or colored portion of the eye, an iris flower. The corporation picked an iris as its logo because of its literal and symbolic meanings. “The iris is the part of your eye that helps you see. It flexes light. That’s why our logo is shaped like an eye. Additionally, it is symbolic of the flower iris, representing wisdom,” Seshan said.

Vex Razi, 17, one of the IRIS artists, whose pen and ink work, “It’s All in Your Head,” illustrates mental health struggles. The design appears on the first edition 3-inch IRIS stickers, available for \$1.75 apiece and local delivery.

Senior Aadya Nair, 18, said her artwork



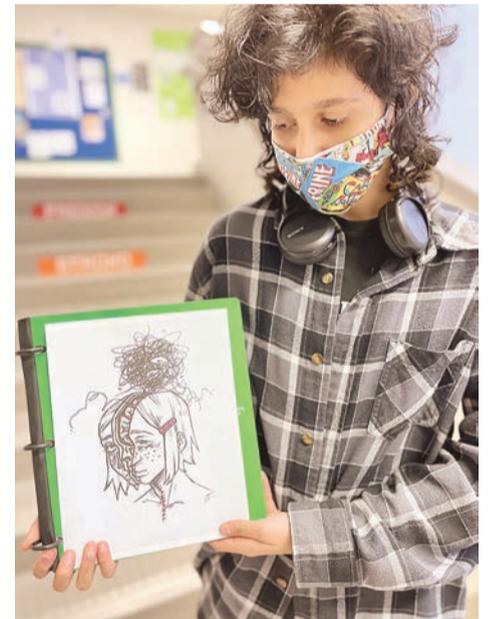
IRIS company members model their t-shirts, available for purchase by SLHS sophomore Sofia Pakhomkina. <https://iris-collective.square.site/> Artwork, screen-printed on a t-shirt, focuses on the environmental problem of global warming and coral reef bleaching. Net proceeds from this product are going to the Coral Reef Alliance.



SLHS artist, Aadya Nair, a senior, is one of the IRIS artists featured on the environmental first edition IRIS stickers.

is available as a standalone sticker and part of a bundle that includes a t-shirt and other stickers. It’s called “Not All Days Have Thorns,” she said. “I created this piece to subtly hint at the importance of nature,” she said in her online statement. “There are so many nuances of nature that go unexplored but are critical in terms of the beauty and functionality of the environment in the big picture.”

According to Jonathan McNamara, SLHS teacher and program mentor, the ongoing process of developing skills in communication, teamwork, goal-setting, and resilience fits perfectly within the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate that helps students succeed beyond the classroom. The Junior Achievement company program will help prepare students to be productive members of a



SLHS artist Vex Razi, 17, is one of the IRIS artists. Her pen and ink work, titled “It’s All in Your Head,” illustrates mental health struggles. This design is featured on the first edition IRIS stickers at \$1.75.

global community and thrive in the future workforce.

COVID- dependent, IRIS may compete against other Junior Achievement of Greater Washington, JA Company Programs in March and hope to advance onto the national competition. IRIS shows merit. At the 2022 Junior Achievement Tradeshow, IRIS won #1 Best Overall, Audience Choice: Best Commercial, and “Audience Choice: Best Logo,” according to the company website. Visit <https://iris-collective.square.site/> to learn more about the program, artists, and visit the store to Shop Now. IRIS accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay, credit cards, and three local delivery options, pickup, and shipping.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"The Phlebotomist." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1st-stage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"Every Brilliant Thing." At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Guided by an unnamed narrator, the audience is drawn into the story of a young boy who tries to cure his mother's depression by creating a list of all the most wonderful things in the world. At times humorous and at others gut-wrenching, this extraordinary, interactive play brings the actor and audience along together on a unique journey of shared discovery and catharsis. Visit www.NextStopTheatre.org.

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Fiber Optics. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Textile Gallery, 6819 Elm Street, McLean. Philadelphia printmaker Fay Stanford will show her fabulist banners. Stanford creates wry fairy tales about suburban family life – especially death, disease and aging. Visit the website: mcleantextilegallery.org.

MARCH 1 TO APRIL 30

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park invite the public to participate in its 2022 photo contest. Help celebrate all that is special about the farm with the second "Focus on the Farm" fundraiser. Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, capture the beauty and farm life at Frying Pan Farm Park. The categories include nature, landscape and scenery, and farm animals. Photos must be taken, and entries submitted between March 1 and April 30, 2022. You can enter up to 10 photos. The fee is \$7 per entry for adults, and \$5 per entry for children up to age 16. The fees will directly support the park and care and feeding of the animals at the farm. Go to the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park website for detailed instructions and submission information; or email the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park at friends@fryingpanpark.org. Frying Pan Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-9101.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party. 7-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Old Firehouse 5th and 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Free catered food and beverages will be distributed to participants. Parties feature a DJ, an open dance floor and a variety of activities. Preregistration is recommended. Parents who wish to volunteer for parties must submit an email request to Aaron Greene at oldfirehouse@mcleancenter.org. Website: <https://mcleancenter.org/calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2022/03/11/12985/-/st-patty-s-party>

MARCH 11-13

"Fiddler on the Roof." Fridays at 8
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



IONA will be featured at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Director Bartlett Sher brings his fresh take on a beloved masterpiece to life as "Fiddler on the Roof" begins a North American tour direct from Broadway. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family. Visit the website: capitalonehall.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Model Train Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Irish Dance Performance. 3-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy a performance by the renowned young dancers of Foley Academy of Irish Dance in celebration of the St. Patrick's Day season. No registration necessary.

MARCH 12, 13, AND 19, 20

Dionysian Play Festival. At Traveling Players Studio, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, in Tysons Corner. Ariadne's Thread – 11 a.m.; The Odyssey – 3 p.m. and Hecuba – 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available for Traveling Players' Dionysian Play Festival, which runs weekends March 12-20 at their Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Performed by Traveling Players' students, the festival will travel back in time to the beginning of Western Theatre, in ancient

Greece, with three modern twists on classic myths.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Family Orchestra Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colt's Neck Road, Reston. The spring program during which the RCO traditionally spotlights talented youth from our area, is loosely modeled after a popular radio game show. The soloist, 18-year-old violinist George Pekarsky, and the orchestra will perform the music without divulging titles, so you can say, "Wait! Don't Tell Me!" Cost: \$25 adults, \$18 seniors (60+), Free, youth, military, first responders. Visit the website: www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA: pan Celtic peregrinations from Asturias to Appalachia, with fiddle, vocals in all the Celtic tongues, flute, bouzouki, bass. Visit www.IonaMusic.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

Pi Day. 3:14 to 5 p.m. At Historic Sully Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, in Chantilly. Real pie may not go on forever, but it does have a very long history as a classic food made at Sully in the 1800s. Visit the 1794 kitchen and see an interpreter bake a traditional recipe over an open-hearth fire and sample a piece as you learn about this historically delicious food. The program cost is \$3.14. Call 703-437-1794; or visit Sully Historic Site.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show. 7 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. The area's hottest professional teen im-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study - Chantilly Fairfax County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 7 p.m.

<https://www.virginiadot.org/Route50ChantillyStudy>

Find out about a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study that in its first phase assessed potential safety and operational improvements for nearly two miles of Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) between Route 28 (Sully Road) and Stringfellow Road (Route 645). Based on public feedback from the first phase, the second phase is further assessing potential innovative intersection improvements, including partial median u-turns, at Lees Corner Road and Stringfellow Road. The second phase is also assessing potential safety improvements for side street intersections along the Route 50 service road.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/Route50ChantillyStudy>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1999 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **April 11, 2022** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 50 STARS Safety and Operational Improvements Study - Chantilly" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, April 11, 2022 at the same time.

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FROM PAGE 9

prov troupe brings you a hilarious night of comedy. Come help spread some joy while being wildly entertained by these young performers.

MARCH 18-20

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Friday, March 18 - 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 19 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, March 20 - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$15; Children aged 4-12; \$10, age 3 and under, free tickets: www.superpetexpo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Behind Herndon Police Station, 397 Herndon Parkway at the Sugarland Run Trail Stream, Herndon. Join this annual tradition at Sugarland Run Trail behind the Herndon Police Station, where the stream will be stocked with Rainbow Trout just for this event. Limited fishing poles and bait will be available for use. Trout Unlimited will be on site to help clean and store your catch. Teens and adults, age 16 & up, must have a valid Virginia State Fishing License to fish if they wish to fish after the event (12:00 p.m.). Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

and businesses. The committee will also recommend policies and activities to help foster diversity and inclusion in Herndon. The HDEIC will be comprised of 11 members from diverse backgrounds and professions. The Town Council resolution outlines membership as follows: seven town residents, two town business owners, one non-resident, and one councilmember, who will serve as chair. Members will serve two-year terms to coincide with election terms, with the first term extended to end with the next Town Council's term in December 2024. The meeting schedule will be determined by the Chair, with committee input. Applications to serve on the HDEIC are available on the town's website at www.Herndon-va.gov/boardapplication

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS IS HIRING

There are numerous opportunities to join the team at one of Virginia's 41 state parks. Whether you enjoy working outdoors, sharing your educational or historical expertise, or planning events and programs, there are plenty of choices for fun jobs this year. The experience, knowledge and skills that you will gain are unique and valuable. Utilize your technical, historical, educational, organizational, communication or customer service skills while connecting to nature. Daily duties will vary for each job and there are different needs at each park location. For example, you may have the opportunity to present nature, culture, and history programs for all ages; provide friendly customer service at a park contact station, camp store or visitor center; perform the routine grounds care, maintenance, light construction, and cleaning tasks necessary to operate State Park facilities. Visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/jobs>

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$100,000 GIFT

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Community Investment Funds (CIF) announced the receipt of a \$100,000 donation made by Reston-based company Verisign, Inc. to help respond to critical needs of the residents in Northern Virginia. The CIF is the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community in the areas of aging, child and youth development, education, intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health, military personnel and their families, and safety net support.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT COLIN POWELL

Now Thru May 31, 2022. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville has begun kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year. Children must be 5 years of age by September 30, 2022, to qualify for enrollment. Parents may call or email the registrar at 571-522-6008 / rljohnson2@fcps.edu for more information and to schedule an appointment. Forms and other information are available online at: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration>.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT UNION MILL

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2022-23 school year. If your child will reach his or her 5th birthday on or before September 30, 2022, he or she is eligible to attend kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public School that serves your address. Follow the following steps to register your child:

1. Find your neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>
2. Complete a packet of registration forms on the Union Mill Elementary School website or by calling Union Mill's registrar at 703 322 8500.
3. Gather your supporting documents—proof of residence in the Union Mill boundary, a certified copy of your child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school.
4. Save the date for our virtual Kindergarten Orientation on Tuesday evening, March 1st. We will also have an open house, by invitation only, on March 3rd. Reach out to the school for more information on both. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

SEEKING SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.golden-girls.org or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

RESTON ARTS CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

Community outreach meetings are being organized and conducted to understand community needs for a proposed arts venue in the Reston Town Center. The proposed arts center would be a result of a proffer from Boston Properties at Reston Next (Block J). The proffer would provide the site for a facility to house a stage suitable for large-scale music and dance performances, as well as other arts-related amenities, within up to 60,000 square feet. Architectural firm Grimm + Parker will facilitate a series of meetings from February to April 2022. Community members, arts organizations and educators – please plan to attend a session and give your input regarding community needs and expectations.

The pre-design framework established under this feasibility study will provide the foundation for future Reston Arts Center design and construction tasks if the Block J proffer is accepted. Grimm + Parker will provide rough-order-of-magnitude cost estimates and a preliminary program plan in late-spring 2022 based on community input.

Meeting schedule:

Monday, March 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Focus Group: Visual Arts. RCC Hunters Woods.
Monday, March 28, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Focus Group: Arts Education, Schools, Equity/Opportunity Neighborhoods. Zoom platform.
Monday, April 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m. General Wrap-up. Zoom platform.

To RSVP for a meeting, email RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov. Include your name, home address, email and the organization you're representing or affiliated with (if applicable), along with the date(s) of the meeting(s) desired; links to online meetings will be sent to those requesting them.

For additional information, contact Leila Gordon at Leila.Gordon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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 or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

ONGOING

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, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

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, or visit www.alnv.org.

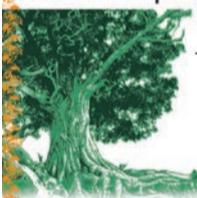
Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

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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.

New Trail Signs Installed At Runnymede Park

Eagle Scout candidate's project extends beyond local.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Eagle Scout service project is often based on a particular experience in which the Eagle Scout candidate is deeply invested. For Ryan Lindley of BSA Troop 2970 in Loudoun County, cross-country running is a passion. "I love to go trail running," Ryan said. When asked why he picked the Town of Herndon's Runnymede Park and trail sign replacement as his project, Ryan said, "Knowing where you're going when you're running is important." Ryan had been aware of the damaged signage.

According to Section 9.0.2.5 of the BSA Guide to Advancement, Eagle projects must be "beneficial to any religious institution, any school, or your community." The guide emphasizes that "your community" is not limited geographically solely to local residence-based.

By mid-morning March 5, the park's deteriorated trail markers lay in a pile. Ryan's service construction team was dismantling the existing signs and replacing them with new ones. Ryan was in charge of the work assignments for 18 people, and their service was expected to last three or more hours. Ryan estimated that this part of his Eagle Scout project would take about "100 service hours."

Carol Hadlock, president of Friends of Runnymede Park, watched. "We've been waiting for new signs for a long time. We're just thrilled that it's finally happening," she said.

Ryan's father, Eric Lindley, was nearby, working under the supervision of his son. "I'm very proud of Ryan. He invested a lot of time and energy into planning this out, working with different people to line up the materials and funding," Lindley said. Ryan has a lot of friends that are here helping him, and it's great to see it come together."

Ryan approached a park map prominently detailing the many trails. According to Ryan, before people went out on the trails, they could photograph the map with their mobile phones or go to the Herndon Parks website and download the Runnymede Park Map PDF. The newly installed markers would tell them where they were on the sometimes circuitous trails.

Hadlock looked at the new signs. "We're very happy to be contributing to the cost of this project," she said on behalf of the Friends of Runnymede Park. "The Scout is supposed to do fundraising, but we thought we'd help. We voted to go halves on the cost," she said.

Ryan fulfilled the Scout oath "to help other people" and did so more expansively than in his backyard of Loudoun County. Local organizations and businesses in the Reston-Herndon area responded in kind and supported Ryan and his Eagle Scout project.

Ryan acknowledged and thanked the many generous local donors who helped make his project a success, which included in Herndon, Friends of Runnymede Park, Duck Donuts, Great Harvest Bread Company, Anita's New Mexico Style Mexican Food; and in Reston, Starbucks Coffee Company North



Carol Hadlock, president of Friends of Runnymede Park, and Eagle Scout candidate Ryan Lindley of BSA Troop 2970, as he and his service crew complete sign replacement work at the park.



Eagle Scout candidate Ryan Lindley of BSA Troop 2970 stands beside a Town of Herndon Runnymede Park map noting its trails. In his hand is a new trail sign, part of his Eagle Scout project.

Point, Chick-fil-A North Point, Giant Food North Point, Silver Diner, and Harris Teeter Neighborhood Food & Pharmacy Spectrum at Town Center.

Runnymede Park is located at 195 Herndon Parkway, near the Fairfax County Parkway. It is adjacent to Reston. Hiking, birding, nature study, and picnics are all permitted in the 58-acre park, accessible from dawn to dusk. Sugarland Run Trail and other paths run through the area, with the park's primary trails being asphalt, gravel, or a natural surface. The paths are made of natural materials such as gravel and mulch.



The GreenFare crew at the last Veg Fest. GreenFare Health and Wellness is the sponsoring organization for this event.

4th Fairfax Veg Fest Coming to Herndon

April 24, 2022, see the benefits of a plant-based lifestyle for people, animals, and the planet.

The fourth annual Fairfax Veg Fest will again take place in Herndon, Va. on April 24, 2022, with more than 80 exhibitors focused on healthy food, wellness programs, green products, and animal welfare.

Attendees at this free event will hear a lineup of world-famous speakers including:

T. Colin Campbell, PhD – best-selling author of *The China Study*, *Whole*, and *The Low Carb Fraud*; and star of the documentary *Forks Over Knives*

Neal Barnard, MD -- President of the Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), author of 18 books detailing the benefits of the plant-based diet

Gene Baur -- expert on the abuses of industrialized factory farming, called "the conscience of the food movement" by Time magazine

Jim Loomis, MD -- Director of the Barnard Medical Center and former team internist for the St. Louis Rams football team and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team

Gwyn Whittaker – CEO of the educational GreenFare Organic Café, and GreenFare Health and Wellness

Baxter Montgomery, MD – Houston Cardiologist, Montgomery Heart and Wellness Director

James Wilks – Director of the most widely viewed documentary in the world *The Game Changers*, and Mixed Martial artist

Courtland Milloy – Columnist at the Washington Post since 1975

Brian Clement, PhD – Co-Director Hippocrates Institute and author

In addition, plant-based cooking demonstrations will be held by a variety of chefs including Pericles Silva of the GreenFare Organic Café in Herndon.

The purpose of this event is to give people an opportunity to learn from and ask questions of those who have already seen life-changing results from plant-based eating. Properly administered whole-food plant-based diets have been proven to improve health, and prevent, stop, and reverse many chronic diseases and even some forms of cancer.

At every level from amateur weekend warriors to Olympians and world-record holders, plant-based athletes have experienced profound performance gains in strength, endurance, and mental clarity. The list is constantly growing, including NFL and NBA all-stars, professional boxers, weightlifters, bodybuilders, MMA fighters, runners of every distance, cyclists, auto racers, wrestlers, skiers, baseball, hockey, soccer, tennis, rugby players and many more.

Those attending the Fairfax Veg Fest will also find information that will help them and their friends and families make simple, easy changes to adopt a more heroic lifestyle that saves commoditized animals who cannot fight back when their lives are being taken.

For those interested in environmental issues, there will be information showing that reducing demand for animal-based products could have immensely positive benefits for our planet.

The Fairfax Veg Fest will take place on Sunday, April 24 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the large parking lot of the Northwest Federal Credit Union at 200 Spring St., Herndon, VA 20170. Parking will be free. Thousands of people are expected to attend from all around the D.C. Metro area.

For more information about the event, and to apply to be a vendor or sponsor, go to <http://fairfaxvegfest.org/> or contact Gwyn Whittaker at gwyn@greenfare.org

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS