

# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

## Showing Love For Ukraine

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With help from Harrison, 6, and Jackson, 4, the Wise family shops regularly for items that will be transported weekly to the Polish border to help Ukrainian refugees. They also stock church aid stations visited by hundreds of refugees daily.

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MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 2022

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# Dr. Whyte's New Book

Released March 8, 2022

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OF YOUR  
DIABETES  
RISK

JOHN WHYTE, MD

Chief Medical Officer of WebMD



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## NEWS

### Lamb Center Spring Festival & Fundraiser



Sunday, April 10th

1-3 pm

Van Dyck Park

3720 Old Lee Hwy

Easter egg hunt, games, crafts, and visit with our special guests...real baby lambs!



The event will be The Lamb Center's first spring festival.

## The Lamb Center Will Hold Spring Festival

The Lamb Center in Fairfax City is hosting its first-ever Spring Festival & Fundraiser. It's slated for April 10, from 1-3 p.m., at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax.

The family-friendly event is open to the public and will celebrate the arrival of spring with a live baby lamb petting area, Easter-egg decorating, face and mural painting, and a 1:30 p.m. Easter egg hunt.

The festival will also include a 50/50 raffle in which participants will vie for a cash prize and an "egg-stravagant" Easter basket. All proceeds will go directly to supporting the programs that provide hope and resources for Lamb Center guests. These resources include connecting them to housing, health

care, transportation and even jobs.

Festivities will take place under the large, picnic pavilion and in the adjacent field. The event is free, but attendees are asked to register on The Lamb Center's website: <https://www.thelambcenter.org/>.

\*\*\*

The Lamb Center is a daytime, drop in shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Fairfax. It offers breakfast, lunch, showers, laundry service, Bible studies, employment opportunities, housing and job counseling, AA meetings, a nurse-practitioner clinic and a dental clinic. The emphasis is on providing a community of fellowship, support, empowerment and learning together.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## Environmental Expo Returns

Saturday, April 23, 2022,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Fort Hunt Park

Come to the 4th Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: Get Outdoors! Learn and Do! on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road.

The Mount Vernon District office will hold the Expo in partnership with the National Park Service George Washington Memorial Parkway. Attendees will learn about the environmental and climate challenges we face on a daily basis and actions you can take to help.

Free, family friendly event including: Exhibitors, Workshops, Live Music, Live Reptile & Owl Programs, Electric Vehicles, Nature Walks, Junior Ranger Program, Recycle Right, Touch-a-Truck, CCTV Robot Demos, Purple Glass Monster (bring your glass), give-aways and more.

Live Music by Billy B the Natural Science Song and Dance Guy. Since 1977 Bill Brennan (a.k.a. "Billy B.") has electrified children, parents, and teachers alike with his exciting style of combining environmental education and entertainment. Billy B., a trained educator turned performer, uses songs and dances which he writes and choreographs himself to teach children of all ages about natural science, ecology and the environment.

Featured workshops include: Reptile Wonders, the Secret Garden, Birds & Bees, NPS Junior Ranger Program, bird and nature walks and more.

Check out solar cooking and CTV Robot Demonstrations.

Join us next year to LEARN, ENGAGE and ACT to save our environment!

Website: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/mountvernon/4th-annual-environment-expo-get-outdoors-learn-and-do>

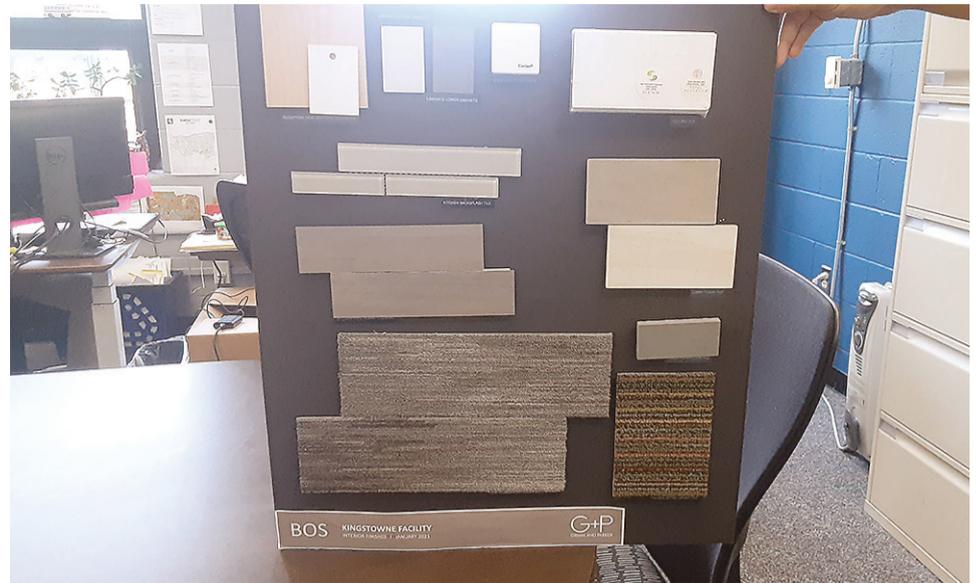
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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

From the exterior, the Franconia Government Center looks a bit dated.



In Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office, they've already picked out some of the preferred colors for the new office.

## Changes Coming for Franconia Government Center

### Request for Proposals put out to add affordable housing.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

The wheels are in motion for changes at the Franconia Government Center that include a request for proposals recently issued to build 120 units of affordable housing on the site.

If all goes as planned for the county, the Franconia Government Center would be razed and the Lee District Supervisor's office and the Fairfax County Police Department's Franconia Station would be relocated to Beulah Street and Manchester Lakes Boulevard where a new facility will be built to hold a new library and senior center as well. Then the existing 3.26-acre site on Franconia Road would provide a home for 120 affordable housing units.

Last March, ownership of that property

was turned over to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority with little fanfare.

This new entity would be an improvement for the police and Lee District Supervisor because the current 28,000 square-foot Franconia Governmental Center building is old and obsolete, the county said. It was built in 1992 with limited parking and an interior lay-out ill-suited for modern police operations. These operations are scheduled to be relocated to a new governmental complex in the Kingstowne area, about two miles down Beulah Street.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) thinks it's a good fit with all the transportation, schools and businesses in proximity. "This is a tremendous opportunity for the County, and Lee District in particular, to reinforce our priority for affordable homes as a cornerstone in future development in our communities," he said.

The redevelopment of the site may require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and rezoning to allow for



MAP BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

The property faces busy Franconia Road.

a multifamily residential community on the property, the county said. This land use and zoning consideration will include many opportunities for public review and input in evaluating and shaping the vision for the future use of the property.

There have been four "widely attended" public meetings focusing on the new office location on Beulah Street, Lusk's office said.

Public engagement is expected to begin once a developer for the affordable housing project has been selected through a competitive Request for Proposal process in accordance with the Public-Private Educational Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002. The target completion date for this move is 2024, Lusk's office said.

In the event that the FCRHA does not pursue an affordable housing project on the site, ownership of the location will be transferred back to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for further considerations, the county said.

The deadline for submissions pertaining to the RFP is April 14.

### Reward Offered For Information On Murder Suspect

A \$40,000 reward is now being offered through Crime Solvers for information that leads to the arrest of Joel Mosso Merino, 27, of Alexandria. The reward comes from Hannah Choi's family and community donations. Detectives from Fairfax County Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit continue to investigate to determine Merino's whereabouts. Detectives learned that prior to the murder, Merino planned to fly to Los Angeles on March 8. Detectives were waiting for him to arrive at the airport, but he never arrived. Detectives learned Merino traveled to Georgia instead.

Anyone with information about Merino's whereabouts is asked to contact detectives at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymous-

ly through Crime Solvers - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Thursday morning, detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau were notified by the Charles County Sheriff's Office that a body was found in a wooded area in Piscataway Park. Officers had previously searched more than 800 acres of this wooded area. The Medical Examiner positively identified the body as Hannah Choi.

Choi, 35, was reported missing on Sunday, March 6. She was last seen on Saturday, March 5 at her home in the 5300 block of Jesmond Street in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. Friends arrived at Choi's home on Sunday, but she did not answer the door. She missed several appointments and could not be reached. Her friends contacted police; officers searched the home, and

the house appeared to be in order except for bedding which appeared to be missing from a bedroom. Based on her sudden disappearance, detectives from our Major Crimes Bureau assumed the investigation.

Through interviews with friends and family, detectives discovered Choi spent significant time on Saturday, March 5 with her live-in ex-boyfriend, Joel Mosso Merino, 27, of Alexandria. Detectives said that during that time together Choi may have sustained a significant injury. Detectives believe Merino then removed Choi from the home and transported her to another location.

Detectives identified a vehicle they believed Merino was operating the night of Choi's disappearance. The vehicle was located the following day, March 7, in Washington, D.C. A search warrant was executed on

the vehicle, and although Choi was not found, detectives discovered evidence to suggest she was harmed prior to her disappearance.

Based on the evidence recovered from the vehicle and additional interviews, detectives obtained a warrant for Merino for second degree murder and the disposal of a body.

Detectives from our Fugitive Track and Apprehension Unit assumed the investigation and began tracking Merino's whereabouts. They determined Merino fled the state and notified the United States Marshals Service to aid in apprehending Merino.

This is the sixth homicide of the year in Fairfax County. Year to date, there were three homicides at this point in 2021.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINSEY WISE



The Wise family, Linsey, Jackson -4, Colby, and Harrison -6, formerly of Falls Church, now reside near Ramstein Air Base in Germany.



With help from Harrison, 6, and Jackson, 4, the Wise family shops regularly for items that will be transported weekly to the Polish border. They also stock church aid stations visited by hundreds of refugees daily.

# Americans Show Love For Ukraine

Northern Virginia family in Germany assists in aid to refugees.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

In the weeks since Russia began its invasion of Ukraine, friends see, share, and respond to social media posts and other appeals for humanitarian support of Ukraine. Responding to the crisis conditions in Ukraine and in Ukrainian refugee areas, major charity organizations are delivering support, including UNICEF, Save the Children, the United Nations World Food Program (UNWFP), the Ukraine Red Cross, International Medical Corp and CARE.

Other groups whose mission is animal welfare are also at work, including the International Fund of Animal Welfare (IFAW), and the International Humane Society.

Feeling the call to add to the international efforts, many individuals are displaying the blue and yellow Ukrainian colors, or sharing personal efforts, inviting others to join them. There are many stories of local people giving, including the yogi who once lived in Kyiv pledging class proceeds, and candle makers, cheese sellers, and restaurateurs, with ties to Ukraine, holding special events, sending proceeds.

One Northern Virginia family now working at Ramstein Air Base in Germany also feels the call to help the refugees. Colby and Linsey Wise and their two young sons have called on their state-side friends and family, and joined their German neighbors, to donate supplies for Ukrainian refugees fleeing to nearby Poland or Germany. The Wises honed their aid activities supporting



One group of seven Ukrainian women returns to the aid station day after day — not to shop, but to help organize, sort and assist as a way of giving back for the help they are receiving.

Afghan refugees who were transported to the air base when the United States military ended operations in Kabul in August 2021 (See Connection, Springfield, Nov, 25, 2021, page 4-5 or [www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/nov/24/northern-virginians-aid-afghan-evacuee-family/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/nov/24/northern-virginians-aid-afghan-evacuee-family/))

This month, raising well over \$15,000 at the time of this writing, the Wises are shopping for those donors who are not geograph-

ically close to those with need; purchasing sleeping bags, fresh fruit and vegetables, diapers, first aid kits, pet food and other essentials.

Contributions from the Wise effort are adding to the efforts and donations of others collected by a nearby church in Germany, Agape, which makes twice weekly bus runs to the Polish border to deliver aid.

“The Agape Church store is 100% fund-



Hearing one aid center had only disposable blankets instigated a shopping run to buy more blankets.

ed by donations, and I can tell you that the refugees that have come through are so gracious and humbled by our efforts,” says Linsey Wise. “There is a group of about seven Ukrainian women refugees that keep coming back to the store day after day – not to shop, but to help organize donations, restock the shelves, and do anything they can to repay the kindness our community has extended to them. How incredible is that?”

The list of needed items changes as groups seek to meet the needs of those still in Ukraine and those who have made it out. Those at the border or still in Ukraine need sleeping bags, food, medicine, and pain relievers. The most requested items by Ukrainians there: canned meats, hard salami, and protein bars. Those who make it to Germany, but with few possessions, look for fresh food and clothing; also backpacks for children starting into German schools.

German village grocery stores have drop boxes for food staple donations. German churches near the Wise’s village have 80 to 200 refugees per day come for food, clothes, and even crayons and coloring books to occupy the youngest refugees. Germans are

SEE UKRAINE, PAGE 11  
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# Fairfax High Alum Dillard Wins College TV Award

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**he did it! Fairfax High grad Emily Dillard won a College Television Award, last Saturday night for the immigration-themed film, "Our Side." She shares this honor with her partner, Nico Rinciari, with whom she created the film while they attended the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

The 41st annual Television Academy Foundation's College Television Awards recognize and reward excellence in student-produced programs from colleges and universities throughout the United States. Dillard and Rinciari were winners in the Scripted Series category; they wrote "Our Side" together, Rinciari directed the film and Dillard produced it.

"Wow, what a night! It really feels amazing," said Dillard, 23, after the award announcement. "I'm so proud of the team that made 'Our Side' and truly grateful for everyone who trusted us with their own immigration and integration stories. This award is really for them."

"Our Side" tells the story of Adillah, a

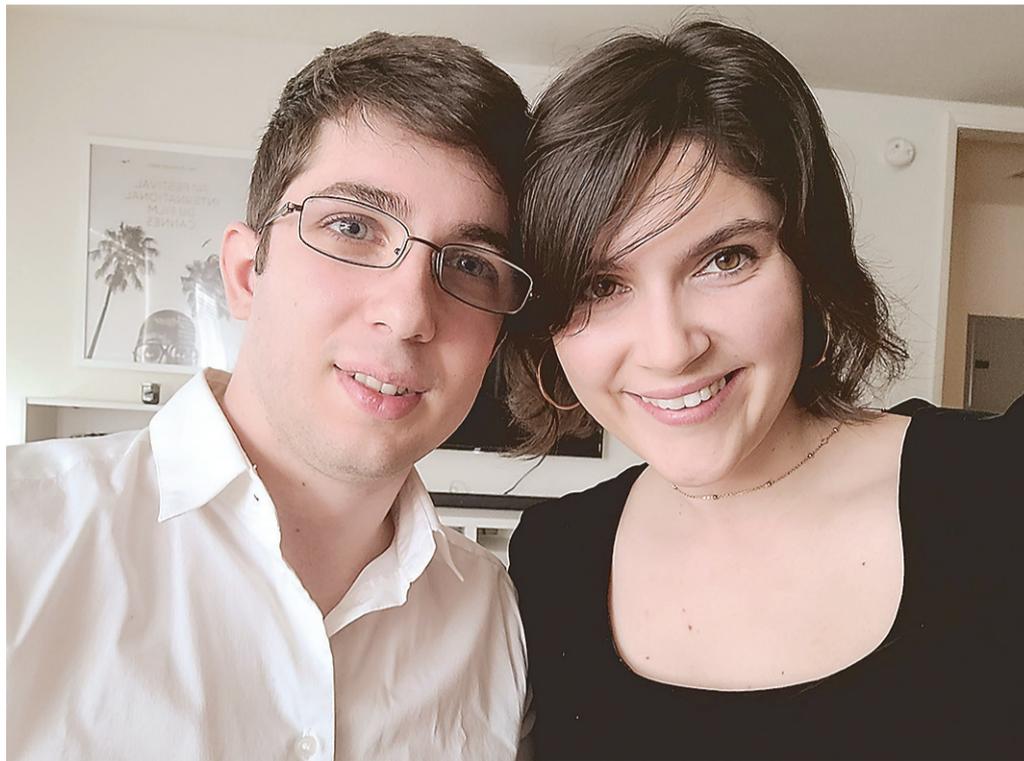


PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY DILLARD

Nico Rinciari and Emily Dillard shortly before the awards ceremony.

woman in her mid-20s who immigrates to Italy from Ghana in search of a better life. She gets a job caring for an elder-

ly, Italian man named Mimmo; but a new immigration law in Italy then nullifies her visa and driver's license. And when Mim-

mo has a heart attack, Adillah risks being discovered by the authorities when she takes him to the hospital for treatment.

"The story is loosely based on a friend of ours with a similar journey," said Dillard. "We wanted to tell it in a way that wouldn't expose him but could bring attention to asylum seekers' struggles." And that real-life connection makes the award even more meaningful for her and Rinciari.

"I could not be happier that Nico and I got the chance to represent this story for the College TV Awards," said Dillard. "I'm excited to see what comes next in our journey as storytellers and filmmakers."

The March 26 ceremony was virtual, but Dillard and Rinciari will receive a trophy and \$3,000 as their prize. They'll also become members of the Television Academy Foundation's alumni family, giving them access to networking opportunities, events and professional-development resources.

The pair lives in Los Angeles, where Rinciari works in layout for Disney Animation and Dillard is an assistant production manager for Warner Brothers Animation.

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# OPINION

## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

This Friday, April 1st, begins National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect. This year's theme is "Words Matter". Parents and caregivers are challenged to be intentional every day to speak encouraging words that build up children's sense of worth. Please join me in wearing blue on April 1st to support survivors and bring attention to this critical issue.

Sadly, child abuse cuts across all boundaries of race, education levels, and income brackets.

In 2021, there were more than 37,000 reports of child abuse in Northern Virginia alone (2,600 children in Fairfax County). There are 3.5 million reports annually in the United States. According to the Children's Bureau's 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, approximately 2 million children across the country received prevention services in 2020. 1.2 million children received post-response services (such as family preservation, family support, or foster care) because of needs discovered during an investigation or alternative response. During the Federal fiscal year 2020, fewer than one-quarter (21.8 percent) of confirmed maltreatment victims were removed from their homes because of an investigation or alternative response. As we learn more about how exposure to traumatic events affects a developing child's brain, it has become clear that childhood trauma is one of the most critical public health concerns that we face today.

To combat these problems, organizations like SCAN of Northern Virginia and FACT (Family and Children's Trust Fund) provide no-cost parenting support groups in English and Spanish, access to education and assistance resources, and provide grants to support trauma-informed practices throughout Virginia. FACT is the only organization in Virginia, and one of few nationally, that addresses trauma across the lifespan.

Protective factors and adverse childhood experiences are frameworks utilized in prevention efforts to reduce the risk of maltreatment and prevent the recurrence of abuse or neglect by drawing upon the strengths of families and acknowledging traumatic events.

Protective factors are conditions or attributes in individuals, families, and communities that promote the health and well-being of children and families. By using a protective



ABUSE	NEGLECT	HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION	
Physical	Physical	Mental Illness	Incarcerated Relative
Emotional	Emotional	Mother treated violently	Substance Abuse
Sexual		Divorce	

CREDIT: ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

### Categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences.

factors approach, child welfare professionals and others can help parents find resources and supports that emphasize their strengths while also identifying areas where they need assistance, thereby reducing the chances of child abuse and neglect.

Protective Factor 1: Nurturing and attachment

Protective Factor 2: Knowledge of parenting for child and youth development

Protective Factor 3: Parental Resilience

Protective Factor 4: Social connections

Protective Factor 5: Concrete supports for parents

SEE CHILD ABUSE, PAGE 15

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, VASSAR Secretary Tim Dioquino presents the award to David Meyer.



From left, are Ken Bonner, Tim Dioquino, David Meyer, Dave Cook and William Forrest Crain.

# ‘Positive. Lasting Impact on Northern Virginia’

## SAR honors Fairfax Mayor as its Good Citizen of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer has been honored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) as its 2021 Good Citizen of the Year. All 30 SAR chapters across the state nominate one person for this award and, after a review process, one individual is selected.

Meyer’s nomination came from the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, which has some 180 members throughout Fairfax County. His award was presented March 16 at a chapter meeting at the Fairfax City Regional Library.

“I’m humbled by the recognition and consider it a great privilege to serve with these members,” said Meyer after receiving a crystal trophy from them. “This group is one of the best-organized and active chapters in Virginia. What impresses me is the professionalism and mature, civic approach you all exhibit. It’s a great tribute to our patriot ancestors, and it’s an honor to be with you.”

In his nomination letter, Fairfax Resolves Chapter President David Cook said Meyer has served his community in leadership roles for many organizations, including:

- ❖ Church - At Fairfax United Methodist Church, he’s supported and participated in mission teams for the Appalachia Service Project to eradicate substandard housing in Appalachia. He also traveled to refugee camps in Lebanon with Helping Hand for Relief and Development.

- ❖ Scouting - Meyer is an assistant Scoutmaster and Eagle Advisor for Troop 187.

- ❖ School - He was on the Daniels Run Elementary design committee and served as

President of Fairfax High’s PTA.

- ❖ Historical - Meyer created the William Watters Foundation, which raises funds to preserve the historic William Watters Cemetery in McLean. Watters was the first, American-born, itinerant Methodist minister in the American Colonies.

Meyer also served on the Board of Directors of Historic Fairfax City Inc. and co-authored the book, “Fairfax, Virginia: A City Traveling through Time.”

- ❖ Veterans - Meyer strongly supports veteran and patriotic organizations. In June 2017, he commemorated the 73rd anniversary of D-Day by traveling to Omaha Beach Memorial Cemetery in France. While there, he paid tribute to two fallen soldiers from Fairfax who died during the Normandy invasion.

For the past three years, on Nov. 11, Meyer joined other state and local dignitaries by speaking at various Veterans Day commemorations. He signed a proclamation decreeing Fairfax Resolves Day in July and participated in many other veteran and patriotic-organization celebrations. Wrote Cook: “These actions show his character and love for history and patriotism.”

- ❖ Government - He’s served five terms on the Fairfax City Council and is currently in his third term as mayor. He’s worked for improvement in residential and business zoned property as a method of attracting new businesses and their families to the City of Fairfax.

Meyer has been on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors since 2014 and is also a member of its Transportation Planning Board. In addition, Meyer represents the City on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and serves on the Executive Committee of the Washington Area Transit Authority. Before retiring in 2016, he was a Senior Executive Service member of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In Fairfax City, wrote Cook, “Meyer has led the City to embrace a new vision for our future and to position Fairfax as the best-in-class jurisdiction in our region. He understands the importance of retaining the best of our traditions while leading Fairfax to be a superior city, both regionally and globally.”

Cook also said Meyer “strengthened Fairfax’s tax base with over \$650 million in new, private-capital investment. In 2019 alone, the City’s total assessment grew 3.94 percent – the largest increase in a decade. He’s intentionally focused on redevelopment of our commercial centers that will create new sources of income for the City and region for the long term.

“In addition, David is passionately committed to support funding to keep our school facilities and programs distinctly superior. Education is the single, largest expenditure of the City, and David believes that investing in children is the best assurance that our community and nation will continue to thrive in the years ahead.”

Saying Meyer’s had a “positive, lasting impact on Northern Virginia and the City of Fairfax,” Cook concluded his letter by writing, “It is my honor on behalf of the Fairfax Resolves Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, to nominate Mayor David L. Meyer for the VASSAR 2021 Citizen of the Year Award.”

After the ceremony, Meyer – a two-year member of the Fairfax Resolves – said he’s wanted to join this organization for 30 years, but life always got in the way. Now that he’s retired, though, he’s happy to be part of it. His father’s fourth-generation grandfather, Spencer Records, fought in the American Revolution.

Pleased to receive the statewide honor, Meyer said the Fairfax Resolves members “take seriously their responsibilities to preserve history and historic sites – especially the graves of patriot ancestors. The SAR also has a long tradition of providing scholarships to young people to further their education and become productive citizens in our democracy.”

## Help Feed Hungry Families in Fairfax County

Take action to help others.

Help support local food banks through Virtual Stuff the Bus. <https://www.volunteerfairfax.org/home/stuff-the-bus-virtual-food-drive/> Monetary donations allow organizations to distribute more food, feed diverse communities, provide fresh food, and keep shelves stocked when donations are low. Here are five reasons to donate virtually:

- ❖ More Meals - Nonprofits can turn a donated dollar into more meals by purchasing food in bulk or through special discounts from retailers.

- ❖ Feeding Diverse Communities -

Monetary donations allow pantries to purchase culturally appropriate foods, which

better meet the needs of the diverse communities they serve.

- ❖ Fresh Food - Canned and dry food are a vital part of food pantries, but 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.

- ❖ Less Labor - Nonprofits often rely on the work of volunteers to sort and shelve donations.

- ❖ Hunger Never Takes a Break - Having cash on hand helps food pantries keep their shelves stocked during times of the year when donations drop off.

# 2022 Shape of the Region Conference

**‘Finding our way back to mental health.’**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo years after the pandemic started, a survey from the fall of 2021 estimates a “skyrocketing rate of need in Northern Virginia,” with over half a million Northern Virginia adults, 545,000 with active symptoms of a mental health disorder, suffering from clinical anxiety or depression. The number is four times pre-pandemic.

“That is 28 percent of the adults right here in our community,” said Drew Wilder, emcee for the 2022 Shape of the Region Conference and a reporter with NBC4 Northern Virginia. There were 300 attendees at the March 15 conference put on by The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia with 17 regional partners.

Complex barriers hinder access to basic mental health care such as early intervention, counseling and medication, Wilder said. The conference’s two presenters and panels of state and national experts expanded on the issues.



SCREENSHOT

**Regina S. James, M.D.- Keynote**



SCREENSHOT

**Elizabeth Hughes**

**“Bottom line, we are all suffering.”**

— Regina S. James, M.D.,  
American Psychiatric Association

Keynote speaker Regina S. James, M.D., deputy medical director and chief, Division of Diversity and Health Equity for the American Psychiatric Association, said what worries her the most is that some of the over 500,000 individuals in Northern Virginia who are now suffering from depression and anxiety do not have access to the treatment they need. Mental illness and substance use disorders should be identified sooner than later. Early detection, diagnosis, and treatment, according to James, can improve productivity and attention at work and school. “It gives you the motivation to get up and do things... It allows you to overcome that,” James said.

The most important considerations in obtaining mental health care are cost and insurance coverage, James said. Shortage of practitioners who can recognize, diagnose, and treat the disease also results in lengthy waits for appointments. Difficulties navigating the system, lack of transportation, and stigma, are also issues.

Some people also do not recognize they need help. “It is not easy to identify markers to say that there is

something wrong, so people find it difficult to grasp the concept that there is actually something wrong,” James said. Mental illness and substance use disorders are costly to society and individuals who do not get assistance. Mental and physical health are inextricably linked.

“For every dollar invested in scaled-up treatment for depression and anxiety, there’s a \$4 return and better health and productivity,” James said. Personal repercussions of untreated mental illness include interference with daily activities, loss of productivity, and the capacity to build relationships and perform at work or school. Overdose and suicide are also risks.

When it comes to unmet mental health needs, certain communities or groups face a disproportionate share of the burden. “Those who are marginalized and disenfranchised,” James said. These groups include racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, people who are incarcerated, immigrants, and people with serious mental illnesses and drug addictions. Treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues varies widely among young people, especially those of color, in terms of availability and quality.

James went on to warn that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting mental health and that the effects would last for years. Since the pandemic began, students have been four months behind in reading and five months behind in math. Among teenage girls, ER visits for attempted sui-



**Sandy L. Chung, MD, FAAP, FACHE**  
AAP President 2022, CEO, Trusted Doctors



**Darcy E. Gruttadaro, JD**  
Director, Center for Workplace Mental Health, American Psychiatric Association Foundation



**Germaine Buck Louis, PhD, MS**  
Dean, College of Health and Human Services, George Mason University



**Deborah D. Oswalt**  
Executive Director, Virginia Health Care Foundation



**Navid Rashid, MD, FAPA**  
Medical Director, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute

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**Chaplain Tahara Akmal**  
Clinical Pastoral Education Manager, MedStar Washington Hospital Center



**Dr. Alfiie M. Breland-Noble**  
Founder, The AAKOMA Project, Inc.



**Claudia Campos Galván**  
Chief Programs Officer, Nueva Vida, Inc.



**Keith D. Renshaw, PhD**  
Department Chair and Professor of Psychology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, George Mason University

SCREENSHOT

cide rose 51 percent.

According to James, college-age people and those early in their careers have the highest unmet mental healthcare needs, with women having a substantially higher rate. The trend continues among individuals through mid-career and those beyond age 65.

“Bottom line, we are all suffering,” James said. However, navigating mental health services and receiving treatment may be challenging since it is difficult to know where to begin and how to seek out someone with whom the individual can relate.

James discussed methods and government policies for addressing unmet health needs. The collaborative care paradigm is the most cost-effective. It is holistic, encompassing both physical and mental components. “Once you tell your primary physician that you are having these mental health issues, there is a warm hand-off, so to speak, so that the psychiatrist can then take on the issues,” she said.

President Joe Biden’s Fiscal Year 23 budget proposes doubling funding for primary and behavioral health integration programs and authorizing Medicaid reimbursement of inter-professional consultations so that primary care providers can consult with a specialist. The Fiscal Year 23 Budget recommends improving rate parity. All health plans must require behavioral health treatments with a sufficient provider network and three behavioral health appointments each year at no cost to the individual receiving them.

Regarding the treatment of substance abuse disorders, James notes that the latest 2022 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act Report to Congress indicates that companies continue to violate some of the act’s provisions for mental health and addiction. “The good news is that agencies are continuing to try and place more rigorous

enforcement of this act,” James said. Treatments should be covered like other medical illnesses.

James said that addressing social needs like food insecurity, transportation, and housing can improve mental health. The Accountable Health Communities Innovation model aims to address a critical gap between clinical care and the health-related social needs of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Finally, James explained that as of July 1, 2022, new federal legislation mandates all states have a call number for individuals to seek quick and appropriate treatment for mental health or drug use emergencies. Similarly, to dial 911 for a local emergency, 988 will be a dedicated call-in line for dispatching trained personnel. They will respond to mental health and substance use emergencies, now handled chiefly by law enforcement.

Elizabeth Hughes, senior director, Insight Region for Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, presented a companion report to the day’s event. Before the pandemic, around 8 percent, 150,000 of the adult population in Northern Virginia experienced active symptoms of a mental health disorder. The rate rose to 39 percent, or approximately 600,000 adults, a year into the pandemic before leveling off at 545,000.

Around 1 million persons in Northern Virginia, or more than half of the local adult population, reported feeling tension in the recent two weeks, with 14 percent feeling that way daily. Worry is slightly less, 870,000 adults, which is 45 percent of our population, felt worried, and 11 percent felt this way daily. All told, those symptoms together, 24 percent are experiencing clinical anxiety levels, Hughes reported.

Loss of interest or pleasure, coupled with

# Beloved Cancel Culture

Toni Morrison novel prompts legislation that has critics worried about book bans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-prize winning book "Beloved" prompted such outrage in one Fairfax County parent in 2013 that she tried to have the book banned from her son's AP English class. Laura Murphy said the book gave her teenage son nightmares, and she urged school officials to do something about it. She took the fight all the way to the Fairfax County School Board, which voted six to two to keep the book in the AP English curriculum.

Inspired by the criticism over "Beloved," former Del. Steve Landes (R-25) introduced a bill in 2016 that would have required schools to notify parents if they expected to provide instructional material that had "sexually explicit instructional material." The bill passed a Republican-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate, although it received a veto from Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

**"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill."**

— School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz

That veto ended up being perhaps the most significant issue of the campaign for governor last year. Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin said he would have signed the bill if he were governor, and he used the issue as a wedge against the former governor who was attempting to return to the Executive Mansion. During a heated debate between McAuliffe and Youngkin at the Schlesinger Center in Alexandria, Youngkin repeatedly needled the former governor until McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth.

"I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach," said McAuliffe in a moment that was endlessly repeated in Republican campaign commercials.

**FLASH FORWARD to 2022.** Youngkin is now governor, and he's poised to sign Senate Bill 656, which was introduced by Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-12) as a sort of sequel to the Beloved Bill. Like the previous incarnation, it

requires schools to notify parents when they plan on teaching "sexually explicit content." This time, two Senate Democrats crossed party lines to vote with the Republicans and send the bill to the governor's desk: Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-6) and Sen. Monty Mason (D-1).

"This bill is something we can all embrace," said Dunnivant. "It's about actually making sure tough conversations happen and parents interact with their children on those things."

The legislation was communicated to the governor on March 9, which means that Youngkin has until April 11 to make a final determination. That means the governor is poised to deliver on his campaign promise of signing the bill that McAuliffe vetoed. That



During the General Assembly debate over the Beloved Bill, Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) put together a Little Banned Book Library outside his office in the Pocahontas Building.

has raised alarm bells for people who worry that notifying parents of "sexually explicit content" would have a chilling effect among teachers who might avoid teaching "Beloved" in favor of something more anodyne.

**"We have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."**

— School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton

"I think there are some racist undertones to the conversations about her novel, and that concerns me," said Alexandria School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton. "We have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I

can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."

**ACROSS THE COUNTRY,** efforts to ban books from school libraries have intensified in recent years. A Texas lawmaker identified 850 books last year he fears "might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex." Here in Virginia, a Chesterfield parent worked with Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11) to advocate against books celebrating LGBT relationships or examining drug use, specifically "Eleanor and Park" by Rainbow Rowell, "Dope Sick" by Walter Dean Myers and "Tyrell" by Coe Booth.

"Most parents, if they actually read excerpts, would have grave concerns," Chase told the Chesterfield Observer. "As a parent, that's not something that I want my kids reading."

In several cases, school boards across Virginia have taken quick action only to reverse course later. The Spotsylvania County School Board was forced to reverse its decision to remove a list of sexually explicit books from its schools after intense pushback from the community. And the Fairfax County School Board removed two books from its library shelves then put them back after hearing concerns about censorship and suppression. The Alexandria School Board has not yet had a similar controversy erupt, but some are concerned the Beloved Bill has similarities to a bill in Florida outlawing discussions about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary schools.

"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill," said School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz. "I'm concerned about that for the respect for each of our children who live in Alexandria, and I want them to feel valued regardless of their race or their gender identity or anything else."

**EFFORTS TO BAN BOOKS** are almost as old as books themselves, and Northern Virginia school boards have wrestled with this issue for decades. In 2003, a group of concerned parents formed a group known as Parents Against Bad Books in Schools and started challenging titles like "The Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett and "Daughters of Eve" by Lois Duncan. The group identified 55 books

its members said were "extreme" and compiled a list of 700 books that had been challenged across the country.

"In recent years, our schools are becoming a minefield of vulgar, sexually explicit

SEE BELOVED CANCEL, PAGE 15

# 2022 Shape of the Region Conference

FROM PAGE 8

sadness and feeling down, represents a positive screen for depression. “In Northern Virginia, 770,000 adults reported feeling one or both of these feelings, and around 18 percent met the clinical threshold for depression, Hughes said. “Together, anxiety plus depression is what we are talking about when we say a mental health disorder.”

According to Hughes, one in every two NOVA residents between the ages of 18 and 30 shows clinical levels of anxiety and depression. The same goes for LGBTQ+ people. About one in two is experiencing clinical levels of anxiety and depression. By race and ethnicity, the rates are closer to one-third of Hispanics.

There is a positive visual relationship between income and mental health. Those with resources that are not having trouble paying their monthly bills are still not fine, but they are better off than the population experiencing acute financial need.

Hughes said, “Among those who reported it was very difficult to pay their monthly expenses, two-thirds are experiencing a mental health disorder. It is very, very high.”

Hughes qualified that not everyone with anxiety or depression needs or wants to seek mental healthcare. However, in NOVA, 40 percent of the people who want mental healthcare cannot get it. “My analysis re-

vealed that half of the therapists do not accept any kind of insurance in Northern Virginia, with a going rate for self-pay at around \$215 for a 45-minute session,” Hughes said.

Panelists’ Discussion Highlights (Text lightly edited.)

Q: If you could change something about the current system to make it more responsive to our needs, what would it be?

A: We would increase the number of licensed behavioral health professionals. The good news is that, as terrible as the situation is now, there are ways that we can dramatically improve it. Some of those are underway as we speak. We need more psychiatric residencies in Virginia. The General Assembly is considering that now. Senator Favola is here. Yea, the Senate included funding for that in their budget. We are hoping the house will eventually see the light. - Deborah Oswald, executive director, Virginia Health Care Foundation

Q: Why is collaborative care so important?

A: Seventy percent of antidepressant prescriptions are written in primary care. Primary care is a low-stigma setting, and people are there. - Darcy E. Gruttadaro, J.D., director, Center for Workplace Mental Health, American Psychiatric Association Foundation

Q: Shouldn’t teachers and school counselors be better trained for serving and referring actions? They are the ones on the front edge of this.

A: As a pediatrician, we need to think about how to help children where they are. They may be in the pediatrician’s office for 15 minutes an hour, but they are in school eight to 10 hours a day. - Sandy L. Chung, M.D., FAAP, FACHE, AAP President 2022, CEO, Trusted Doctors

A: I can tell you that for certain of our patients that we have had admitted to the Institute, having some partnership with their priest, pastor, or community leader has been effective in certain cases. We will have them come to the hospital, meet with the treatment team, meet with the family. It can decrease stigma, like taking medications or receiving mental health care in a socially acceptable or spiritually acceptable context to the patient and their family. - Navid Raschid, M.D., FAPA, medical director, Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute

Q: What do we mean by mental health equity, and why is engaging in a discussion around mental health equity important?

A: When we think about equitable access to care and mental health equity at

The AAKOMA Project, one of the things that we say is that every child, inclusive of all aspects of identity, race, culture, immigration status, if they are LGBTQ, if they have a disability, deserves the opportunity to live authentically and unapologetically as the best version of themselves. Equitable health care and equity in mental health are about understanding all those nuances, all the intersectionality, and ensuring that the care we provide allows for all that intersectionality, authenticity, and realness to show up in care. -Dr. Alfiee M. Breland-Noble, founder, AAKOMA

Q: If we increase the raw number of licensed mental health professionals, do you think it will address this issue of cultural fit meaningfully?

A: Let us think about whom to train. We will not solve the mental health crisis in the country with M.D.s, Ph.Ds, or even, quite frankly, more masters. It is not scalable... You do not have to train for six, seven years... People who do some entry-level stuff with folks who are also trained to identify when people need more. Then they kick them up to a slightly higher level of care... maybe your master’s level trained person. - Keith D. Renshaw, Ph.D. Department Chair and Professor of Psychology, College of Humanities and Social Studies, George Mason University

## Ides of Bark Brings Out the Dogs

Mount Vernon pets ruled at this fourth annual event.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Although there haven’t been any bomb incidents in the southern part of Fairfax County recently, the police do have Paisley, a trained bomb sniffing dog who was busy sniffing everything at the fourth annual Ides of Bark event in Mount Vernon.

Paisley hangs out with Detective Brian Storm who was happy with the lack of calls. “I have yet to use her on an active call,” Storm said, but notes that bombs are just one of the things she can sniff out. “They can help look for shell casings,” he added.

The Ides event at Grist Mill park brought out all sorts of dogs to enjoy the sunshine and the brisk March weather. This is an event Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) organized and he had to cancel it the last two years because of the pandemic, but he liked the look of all the smiling dog owners this year. “Please make your rounds and break out of the covid funk,” he said.

Storck estimated there were a couple of hundred dogs each year. “People love it,” added his Chief of Staff Christine Morin.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck with Reasa Currier, the new Director of the Fairfax County Animal Shelters, and her daughter Evelyn.

A newcomer to the scene was Reasa Currier who recently took over as Director of Fairfax County Animal Shelters. She noted the animal projects in the county including the new shelter that’s being built in Lorton that’s scheduled to open in the summer of 2023. “It’s exciting,” Currier said.

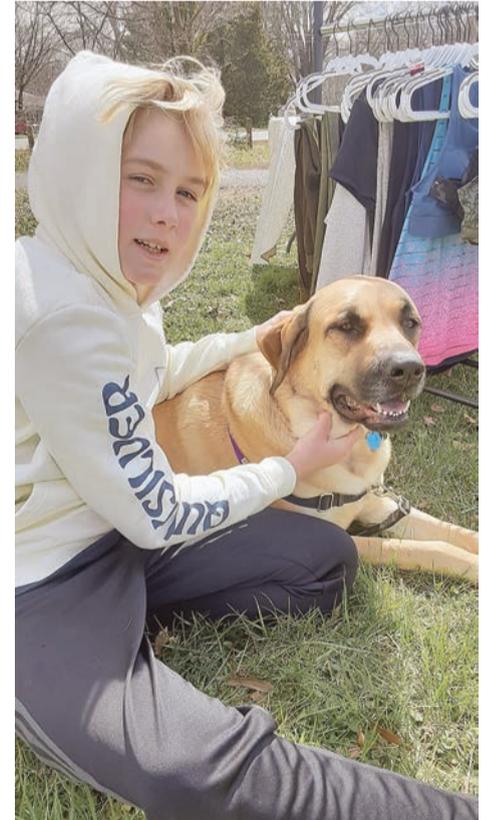
Ides of Bark was set up at the Grist Mill Park where there’s also a dog park. The Fairfax County Police Department had about eight officers on duty, directing traffic and parking. The Humane Society was there along with a Doberman Pinscher Rescue

Group, McGruff the Crime Dog and others handing out dog treats to all the participants.

One nearby resident had a Greyhound rescue dog from one of the few dog race tracks left in the country. “Blue,” was the dog’s name and his fur had a blue brindle pattern. “He retired from West Virginia,” his owner said.

Dog racing has been on the decline due to concerns about the treatment of the racing dogs. According to the Humane Society, racing greyhounds endure lives of confine-

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Jackson Dumais with his dog Milo.

ment, are subject to standard practices that are cruel and suffer injuries and even death. Greyhounds used for racing are kept in cages, barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around, for up to 23 hours per day, the Humane Society of the United States said on their website.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINSEY WISE



A colorful array of basic clothing items await needy Ukrainians who were forced to leave their homes with only a few possessions.

Hallway sorting and storage for relief items at Agape Church in Germany soon became too small an area to accommodate donated items

# Americans Show Love For Ukraine

FROM PAGE 4

offering housing in their homes, registering refugees for temporary residence in Germany to work and for school.

While Germany and Poland are doing much in the way of humanitarian support, Americans love Ukraine and the Ukrainian people too. According to the United States Department of State, "Historically, the United States

is the largest humanitarian donor to Ukraine." The US has provided nearly \$405 million in humanitarian assistance over eight years; and \$2 billion for security assistance since 2021, including \$1 billion in March 2022.

The Wise family effort with Agape Church may not be at the level of the \$35 million contribution by celebrity couple Mila Kunis (born in Ukraine) and Aston Kutcher, which prompted a thank you call from Ukraine

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

However every contribution, regardless of the size, matters to the Ukrainian families they touch when their homes, possessions, and livelihoods, even the very certainty of their futures, have been taken from so many. Wise tells donors, "Donations keep on growing and we are beyond excited to be doing good things on your behalf. Thank you all for your generosity and your trust to help

support the people of Ukraine."

Wise explained she's helping because of the enormity of the need right now. "Major charities are meeting immediate needs and helping right now, and their missions will also serve to help during the years and years of getting the country back to some semblance of order." She worries that too many will forget how very very long it takes to recover from losses as large as these.

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**BRIEFS**

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Workhouse Arts Center Second Saturday Art Walk April 2022, 6 - 9 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way Lorton, VA 22079

Come out and visit the Workhouse Monthly Featured Artists. The Workhouse Arts Center has over 60 resident visual artists throughout its artist buildings as well as the Arches Gallery. Each month, the Workhouse Arts Center features individual artists or a group of artists from each building to exhibit a current body of work. During our Second Saturday Art Walk, they are onsite to speak about their work. All campus studio buildings will be open from 6pm - 9pm and the artists there will be available to chat about their works and processes. Galleries, gift shop and Lucy Burns Museum are open extended hours. <https://www.workhousearts.org/>

**No More Glass in Curbside Recycling**

Beginning this Friday, April 1, residents receiving Fairfax City recycling services may no longer place glass in their curbside recycling. Residents should reuse glass containers or bring them to one of the Purple Can Club glass-only, drop-off containers.

One is the purple dumpster on Judicial Drive, across from the Fairfax City Post Office, and others are at the Fairfax County Government Center and the I-66 Transfer Station on West Ox Road. Otherwise, residents may dispose of glass in their trash.

**Donate Coats, Blankets, Hats for Ukrainian Refugees**

Elected leaders from Northern Virginia have launched an aid program to collect coats, blankets, heavy socks and gloves for the more than 3 million refugees who've had to flee from their homes in Ukraine. Residents and businesses may drop off donations until April 15 at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.

# Inmate Dies at Fairfax County Adult Detention Center

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Major Crimes Bureau are investigating the in-custody death of 65-year-old inmate George Redmond. The Sheriff's Office reported on March 28, 2022 at approximately 9:20 a.m., a Sheriff's deputy found Redmond unresponsive in his single cell in the Adult Detention Center (ADC). The deputy rendered aid until relieved by ADC medical personnel, according to the Sheriff's Office. Rescue arrived, continued lifesaving measures and transported Redmond to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy, but preliminarily, there are no signs of foul play, according to police.

Redmond had been in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and incarcerated at the ADC since March 25. On that date, he was originally arrested by Alexandria City Police, FCPD said. Custody was transferred to FCPD officers, and Redmond was taken to the Fairfax County ADC.

He was arrested for a failure to appear warrant related to an original charge of trespassing and destruction of property. Our detectives are coordinating with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to gather the facts and circumstances surrounding this death.

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office policy dictates that an in-custody death must be investigated by the Fairfax County Police Department. The investigation is underway.

# 2nd In-Custody Death Being Investigated

Detectives from Major Crimes Bureau are also investigating a second in-custody death of 55-year-old Kyung Pil Chang. Officers responded at 4:39 p.m. yesterday to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) for an inmate found unresponsive in his single cell. Fire and Rescue personnel responded and pronounced Chang deceased. This morning, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy. Preliminarily, there are no signs of foul play.

On March 29, 2022, at approximately 4:25 p.m., a Sheriff's deputy found the inmate unresponsive in his quarantine housing cell in the Detention Center. Medical staff and other deputies responded to the scene and rendered aid. Rescue was summoned as life-saving efforts continued in the cell. City of Fairfax Fire and Rescue pronounced the inmate deceased at 4:49 p.m.

Chang was charged on March 25 with three counts of aggravated sexual battery, object sexual penetration, and practicing as an unlicensed masseuse. He had been in custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and incarcerated at the ADC since his arrest. Detectives are coordinating with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office to gather the facts and circumstances surrounding this death.

By policy, FCPD investigates all Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in-custody deaths.

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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the potential environmental and cultural effects associated with the implementation of an approved Area Development Plan (ADP) for installation-wide improvements. JBM-HH's ADP includes the construction and addition of new buildings, building complexes, building expansions and additions, utility upgrades, road improvements, and an increase in the overall workforce.

The ADP updates two previous ADPs into a consolidated JBM-HH ADP. This ADP will support the Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) by providing a cohesive comprehensive plan of connected system networks. These networks include transportation networks, streetscapes, the built environment, shared open space, utilities, and other systems. The proposed improvements are required for JBM-HH to retain its historic character while modernizing its infrastructure to establish a safe, secure, sustainable, and compact community that is both responsive to the mission and adaptive to the evolving needs of the Military District of Washington (MDW) and the National Capital Region (NCR). The installation-wide improvements would also preserve the historic legacy of iconic buildings and landscapes while embracing modernization, improving pedestrian circulation, and integrating with the surrounding community in a safe and secure environment. In 2017, ADPs were prepared for the individual campuses of Fort Myer-Henderson Hall (M-HH) and Fort McNair (McNair). In 2021, the individual ADPs were updated and consolidated into a single ADP for both campuses. This PEA has been prepared to identify, evaluate, and consider the environmental consequences of the implementation of the consolidated ADP in accordance with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

JBM-HH is located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and composed of Fort Myer, Henderson Hall, and Fort McNair. JBM-HH was created from the administrative reorganization of the Fort Myer Military Community (Fort Myer and Fort McNair) and the Marine Corps installation at Henderson Hall as part of the Congressionally mandated DoD Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005. Fort Myer and Henderson Hall are contiguous and located in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Fort McNair is located in southwest Washington, D.C., on the peninsula of Greenleaf Point (in the neighborhood known as Buzzard Point), at the confluence of the Washington Channel of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River. JBM-HH encompasses approximately 380 acres (152 hectares) including Fort Myer at 243 acres (97 hectares), Henderson Hall at 29 acres (12 hectares), and Fort McNair at 107 acres (43 hectares). Installation management responsibilities for all three sites is the responsibility of U.S. Army Garrison JBM-HH headquartered in Building 59 on Fort Myer, and integration of functions and services between all three sites has occurred to provide more efficient support of the on-installation and regional populations.

The PEA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The PEA is available to view in printed form at the Arlington Central Public Library, the D.C. Southwest Neighborhood Library, and the JBM-HH Environmental Division-Directorate of Public Works Building 321, located at 111 Stewart Road or to view/download electronically at the <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/index.php/teamJBMHH/about/Base/environmental-management-division-website>.

Comments or questions on the PEA and Draft FNSI may be directed in writing to: Ms. Kelly Whitton, Environmental Management Division, Directorate of Public Works, 111 Stewart Road, Building 321, Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199 or by email to: JBMHH\_NEPA@usace.army.mil, Subject: Draft PEA. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

Past issues of **THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS** back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Legals

Legals

## City of Fairfax, Virginia Public Notice

Disposal of Private Property Taken Into Possession of City of Fairfax Police Department Pursuant to Section 50-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact Property Officer Steve Balog of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday. Deadline for claims will be on April 23, 2022. Auction Service: Colonial Auction Services, 13200 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 Business Phone #301-627-7575 Auctions held on the first and third Saturday of the month in October.

CASE #	ITEM	SERIAL #
2013-9198	Fugi Bike	*****6600
2019-2487	Roadmaster Bike	*****15AP
2018-1013	Huffy Bike	*****3016
2018-4620	Genesis Bike	Unknown
2018-5514	Huffy Bike	*****332K
2018-6563	BCA Bike	*****4WMA
2018-7405	Ambush Bike	Unknown
2018-8048	Avalon Bike	*****0625
2018-8383	Magha Bike	Unknown
2018-8554	Hard Rock Bike	*****3529
2018-9333	Roadmaster Bike	*****5950
2018-10222	Kent Bike	*****6531
2018-13116	Roadmaster Bike	Unknown
2018-15233	Mongoose Bike	*****2002
2018-15870	Roadmaster Bike	*****6446
2018-16055	Next Bike	*****1145
2018-17887	Pacific Bike	Unknown
2018-17984	Next Bike	Unknown
2019-345	Diamondback Bike	Unknown
2019-851	Genesis Bike	*****2WNA
2019-1923	Skip Scooter	*****3334
2019-4026	Ambush Bike	*****0183
2019-5520	Novara Bike	*****4410
2019-6768	Avieo Bike	*****5986
2019-6768	Diamondback Bike	*****5677
2019-8451	Genesis Bike	*****4WMA
2019-11703	Kent Bike	*****6261
2019-12579	Giant Bike	Unknown
2016-11251	California Bike	*****7983
2017-11661	Kent Bike	*****816R
2017-14851	Magna Bike	*****7857
2017-15622	Mongoose Bike	Unknown
2017-16016	Power Climber Bike	Unknown
2017-18020	Red Bike	*****1001
2017-19421	Trek Bike	*****8163
2019-7947	BCA Bike	*****2954
2019-11387	Grand Prix Bike	*****4475
2019-11387	Hard Rock Bike	*****4909
2019-12968	Girl Trek	*****4844
2019-18038	Huffy Bike	*****2185
2019-18264	Purple Bike	*****2211
2019-18297	Fugi Bike	Unknown
2020-2011	Purple Scooter	*****5367
2020-2011	Green Scooter	*****1986
2019-19744	Mongoose Bike	*****7767
2020-4047	Trek Bike	*****668M
2020-8551	Next Bike	*****0946
2020-10616	Schwinn Bike	Unknown
2020-13352	Mongoose Bike	*****1062
2020-13726	Roadmaster Bike	*****8289
2020-14472	Trek Bike	Unknown
2021-379	Roadmaster Bike	*****1928
2021-434	Hyper Bike	*****9382
2021-434	Hyper Bike	*****0890
2021-5551	Magna Bike	*****2020
2021-8386	Quantlet Bike	Unknown
2021-8584	Ambush Bike	*****6470
2021-11746	Power Climber Bike	*****9036
2021-14071	Diamondback Bike	Unknown
2009-8898	Silver Necklace	N/A
2009-8898	Men's Invicta Watch	N/A
2009-8898	Diamond Earrings	N/A
2009-8898	Men's Diamond Ring	N/A
2009-8898	Watch (Unknown Brand)	N/A
2009-8898	Diamond Bracelet	N/A
2009-8898	Silver Ring	N/A
2009-8898	Earrings	N/A

# CALENDAR

## COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Community members are invited to participate in the King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool Community Yard Sale, Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in the church parking lot (4025 Kings Way). For just a \$25 fee, each seller will receive two reserved parking spaces in the lot to set up. Tables can be rented from the church for an additional \$10/table. You need to stay with your items during the sale. Proceeds will benefit our youth to assist them with upcoming mission trips. Any unsold items must go home with the seller. To reserve your spot, find the signup here: <https://tinyurl.com/yp6fksuh>. Sign up by April 12. Contact the church office at 703-378-7272 or [churchoffice@kofk.org](mailto:churchoffice@kofk.org).

## NOW THRU 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](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## MARCH 31-APRIL 10

Everybody. At GMU Center for the Arts, Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Thursday, March 31 and April 7 at 8 p.m.; Friday, April 1 and 8 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 2 and 9 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. This modern riff on the 15th-century

morality play *Everyman* follows *Everybody* (chosen from among the cast by lottery at each performance) as they journey through life's greatest mystery—the meaning of living. Visit: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/everybody/>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 1

"Strictly Ballroom" Movie. 7:30 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "A modern dance classic with all the right moves." (Rotten Tomatoes). Free admission includes popcorn, candy and refreshments. Doors open at 7 p.m. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 1

Stephanie Nakasian. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. At W16, McGuireWoods Gallery; Seating – G.A. Row Seating. Known as one of the world's leading jazz singers, Stephanie Nakasian will take you on a fantasy swing voyage, fresh and authentic that transcends the Great Ladies of Song in both tribute and originality. Visit the website: [www.workhousearts.org/onstage](http://www.workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Brass 5. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. At W16, McGuireWoods Gallery; Seating – G.A. Row Seating. One of America's most successful ensembles for 29 years, the "5" offer a vast repertoire from Renaissance, Classical, Dixieland, Swing, Jazz, Rock to Country and more. Visit the website: [www.workhousearts.org/onstage](http://www.workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Camille A. Brown & Dancers. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion will take place in Monson Grand Tier, which is located on the third level of the Center for the Arts Lobby, 45 minutes prior to curtain. Called "one

of the most sought-after choreographers of her generation" by The New York Times, Camille A. Brown is reclaiming the cultural narratives of African-American identity through dance. Now, her Bessie Award-winning company, Camille A. Brown & Dancers take the stage at the Center for the Arts for the first time. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/camille-a-brown-amp-dancers>

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Mason Broadway Chorale Showcase. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. The University Chorale presents a series of Broadway classics for their 2022 spring showcase. The Broadway Showcase is a popular feature of the choral program at Mason each spring semester. Students assist with the design, coaching, and creating choreography for the production. Learn More: <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/chorale-broadway-showcase/>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Lynne Mackey. 2 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. At W16, McGuireWoods Gallery; Seating – G.A. Row Seating. Combining masterful technique with extraordinary expressiveness, Lynne shares, with her audiences, a wide range of classical and contemporary music. Visit the website: [www.workhousearts.org/onstage](http://www.workhousearts.org/onstage)

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Evocative Visions – Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Pianist Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike. In his final Keyboard Conversations concert of the season, he plays the visually inspired masterpieces of Debussy, plus Rachmaninoff, Liszt, and Grieg. An interactive question and answer session will conclude this program. Visit <https://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/keyboard-conversations-174-with-jeffrey-siegel-evocative-visions/>

board-conversations-174-with-jeffrey-siegel-evocative-visions/

## THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Mason Arts at Home – Visual Voices Lecture with Mario Rossero. 7:30 p.m. Virtual event. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Mario R. Rossero is the Executive Director of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), the leading professional membership organization that champions visual arts, design, and media arts education. He is an experienced art educator with roles as a museum educator, classroom art teacher, and adjunct professor and has held a number of supervision/administration roles in Pittsburgh and Chicago school systems. As Director of Arts for Chicago Public Schools, Mario spearheaded the first strategic arts education plan for the city aimed at increasing equity and access to arts education for all students. Prior to his current role, he was the Senior Vice President of Education for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Registration Link: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1964720/1912535/>

## FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Jazz Violin Performance. 8-10 p.m. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Sought after performer Nataly Mereshuk brings her beautiful classical tone to the world of hot jazz and swing! Join in an evening of music in the heart of historic Fairfax City. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Workhouse Arts Center Second Saturday Art Walk April 2022, 6 - 9 p.m. 9518 Workhouse Way Lorton, VA 22079  
Come out and visit the Workhouse Monthly Featured Artists. The Workhouse Arts Center has over 60

resident visual artists throughout its artist buildings as well as the Arches Gallery. Each month, the Workhouse Arts Center features individual artists or a group of artists from each building to exhibit a current body of work. During the Second Saturday Art Walk, artists are onsite to speak about their work. All campus studio buildings will be open from 6pm - 9pm and the artists there will be available to chat about their works and processes. Galleries, gift shop and Lucy Burns Museum are open extended hours. <https://www.workhousearts.org/>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Tabletop (T-TRAK) model trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Sunday April 10, 2022 from 1-4 p.m. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5 (\$6 for special events); seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), 703-425-9225.

## 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](http://www.gotrnova.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Aceevents. The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes. Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's

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

Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables. Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at [www.warner.senate.gov](http://www.warner.senate.gov). You may email [academy\\_noms@warner.senate.gov](mailto:academy_noms@warner.senate.gov) with any questions.

### 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](http://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/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html). Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or [eileen.thompson1@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.thompson1@gmail.com). Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and

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

### ONGOING

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org). STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the

2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).  
Docs Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.  
Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-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](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-4547.

## Sub-Variant

BA.2, an Omicron sub-variant that has undergone several genetic changes from the original Omicron virus, has been identified in Fairfax County COVID-19 patients, reports the Fairfax County Emergency Information. The sub-variant has been found in other areas across the state, the U.S. and globally. BA.2 is now estimated to be responsible for about one in three COVID-19 infections in the country and one in five COVID-19 infections in Virginia.

While BA.2 appears to be more contagious and can spread faster, it is not known to make people sicker, the report from the county said.

Recent studies show that getting a booster dose and remaining up to date on vaccination significantly increases protection against Omicron infections and hospitalizations in both adolescents and adults. The CDC this week approved a second booster shot for people over 50 who had the first booster shot at least four months ago.

But everyone is eligible for the first booster shot, and that is important to protect against serious illness.

“Existing COVID-19 vaccines remain effective against BA.2 infections and provide similar protection as for the original Omicron virus. Staying up to date on vaccination is particularly important as people who have received a booster are much better protected against illness and hospitalization than those who have only received two vaccine doses,” says Dr. Ben Schwartz, Health Department division director of epidemiology and population health.

As we learn to live with the COVID-19 virus, we need to be prepared for the emergence of new variants, the county report said. Keeping up to date on vaccinations is the single most effective way to protect yourself since immunity gained from natural infection or vaccination is known to wane over time.

Current CDC guidance recommends a booster shot at least five months after completing the primary mRNA series, or at least two months after receiving a J&J vaccine. While the vast majority of Fairfax residents have received at least one dose of vaccine, only 57 percent of those eligible for boosters are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

Although the COVID-19 Community Level for the Fairfax Health District remains low, it is anticipated that BA.2 will likely continue to increase.

The Health Department recommends that individuals who are concerned or who are at risk of more severe illness continue to choose to mask, avoid crowded indoor locations and use other layered mitigation measures to reduce their risk. In settings where masks are worn primarily for personal protection rather than source control (i.e., capturing droplets when we breathe, talk and cough to protect others), wearing a well-fitting mask that filters out particles more effectively is important. This includes N95 respirators, and KN-95, and KF-94 masks. Free N95 respirators are available at many sites in the community. <https://fairfaxcountyemergency.wpc.com/staging.com/2022/03/29/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-omicron-ba-2-sub-variant/>

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

FROM PAGE 6

Protective Factor 6: Social and emotional competence of children

Adverse childhood experiences are traumatic events that occur before a child reaches the age of 18. Adverse childhood experiences include all types of abuse and neglect, such as parental substance use, incarceration, and domestic violence. A landmark study in the 1990s found a significant relationship between the number of adverse childhood experiences a person experienced and a variety of negative outcomes in adulthood, including poor physical and mental health, substance use, and risky behaviors. The more adverse childhood experiences experienced, the greater the risk for these outcomes.

For more information and resources on protective factors, adverse childhood experiences, and supporting family resiliency, please visit [childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov) and [scanva.org](http://scanva.org).

If you experienced childhood abuse it was not your fault. Childhood abuse is preventable and children can recover.

There are ways you can help stop child maltreatment if you suspect or know that a child is being abused or neglected. If you or someone else is in immediate and serious danger, you should call 911.

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (Call or text 1.800.4.A.CHILD [1.800.422.4453]). Professional crisis counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 170 languages. All calls are confidential. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources.

Contact Virginia Child Protective Services: (800) 552-7096

Fairfax County Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov>

## Beloved Cancel Culture

FROM PAGE 9

it, graphically violent and controversially themed books in the curriculum, classroom collections and libraries,” said PABBIS leader Kathy Stohr at the time. “The term minefield is especially appropriate because the student is not aware until the material is right in his face, and then it is too late.”

Mychele Brickner, Fairfax County School Board chairwoman at the time, hoped the issue of controversial books would be a springboard to higher office, and she launched a campaign for chairman of the Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors. The chairmanship was open in 2013, and Brickner hoped concerns over inappropriate books in schools might provide a path to victory. But her campaign fizzled out when her opponent, Supervisor Gerry Connolly, turned the issue against her and was elected with a huge margin of victory.

“I can show you sections of the Bible that ought to be banned in schools,” said Connolly during the campaign. “I just don’t think government ought to be in the business of telling you or me what we should read or what our children should read.”

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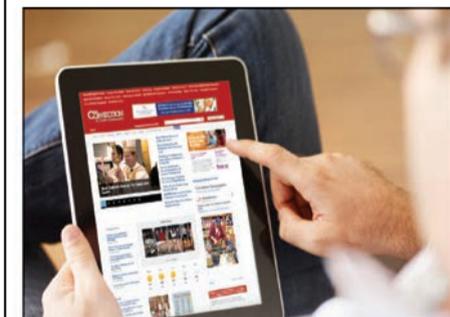
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## Why Me? Why Now?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I am not “woeing.” I am wondering. Why am I getting messages from my primary care physician concerning the need for my having an “advanced directive?” For those of you who don’t know what an ‘advanced directive’ is, the short answer is: it’s a set of instructions you want a significant person/people to have in hand when push comes to shove; and as a formerly (perhaps still) “terminal” cancer patient, I could get shoved at any time. The question remains: When I no longer can speak for myself, literally, do I want a document in place which speaks for me? If I don’t have such a document in place, my peaceful transition might be anything but.

Some of you may be more familiar with a less formal but nonetheless effective expression of your intent called a “D.N.R.,” “do not resuscitate.” An order to whomever: doctors, lawyers, family, friends, emergency medical personnel who might be summoned to your house/place of business, et cetera. It means no life-saving measures shall be performed on the patient. Let the patient succumb to his or her condition/affliction. An “advanced directive” ratches up this wish to an entirely new level. It clarifies for all interested parties exactly what the patient wants to happen to him when he’s incapable of making his wishes known. No guessing. No disagreements. No equivocation whatsoever. Clarity and direction – from the dying patient.

Not that I think my doctor is prescient in some way or is reading my medical tea leaves per se, still; as prudent as having an “advanced directive” or a “D.N.R. or a Power of Attorney in place is, it does give one, especially this one, pause. Not that my doctor knows anything particularly time-sensitive/time-relevant about my condition, but he does know an awful lot more than I do about all things medical. And he also knows how it all fits together in ways that I certainly don’t. What I know could fit on the diaphragm of a stethoscope. Moreover, he understands context and timing and the evolution of my health issues as they progress. I have no doubt that he’ll know when I’m heading south before I do.

As I consider this underlying reality, what indication might I receive – from him, that my cancer has taken a turn for the worse? Oh, I don’t know. What about multiple emails encouraging me to gather and complete documents that will assist Team Lourie when my final bell has rung. “For whom the bell tolls?” It tolls for thee, as in me. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. If I’m being advised – by my doctor no less, to get my things in order, which is pretty much what an “advanced directive” is, then perhaps I shouldn’t duck my responsibilities and go ahead and advance my directives?

On the contrary, if this email about a directive was not directed at me specifically, but rather a courtesy advisory to an entire patient population of a certain age, then I can live with that. My question is though: for how long?

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



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