1313 Merrie Ridge Road, McLean

*Stunning Colonial* nestled on a private cul-de-sac in the coveted Dogwoods at Langley. This inviting home offers approximately 4800 sf, with 6 BR, 3.5 BA, and 2 half BA. The gourmet kitchen features breakfast bar, ample cabinet storage, and eat-in breakfast area w/ skylight and deck. Primary BR w/ separate dressing area with tons of storage and ensuite; upper level has 4 add’l spacious BR’s with BA/soaking tub and luxury shower. LL features a large rec room w/ fireplace, 6th BR w/ spacious BA, and walk-out entrance and access to 2-car garage. Beautifully landscaped property with a private expansive flagstone patio. McLean HS pyramid!

1405 Layman Street, McLean

*Fabulous* 4BR/3BA, 2-level home, nestled in nature in sought-after Potomac Hills! This amazing home features a light/bright updated kitchen with herringbone title backsplash, 6-burner gas cooktop, breakfast bar and more! Elegant living room with huge picture window, fireplace & custom built-ins with lighting. Primary bedroom w/ luxury bath and two add’l BR’s on main level. Walkout LL features an inviting family room w/ fireplace, wet bar & huge picture window overlooking the patio, 4th bedroom, full bath, and large laundry room. Custom deck off dining room, overlooks parkland!

6603 Byrnes Drive, McLean

*Absolutely gorgeous* 4BR/4.5 BA custom home in sought-after McLean location, nestled in nature! Featuring a sparkling open-concept floorplan, vaulted ceilings and tons of natural light, this beautiful home also features hardwood floors, exquisite primary BR suite with dressing area, walk-in and luxury bath; completely separate living space attached with its’ own entrance; modern, mid-century feel throughout!

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!
Newcomers & Community Guide 2023

About Connection Newspapers in 2023

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By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The Connection gathered photos of some recent projects and happenings since the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted its first-ever Countywide Strategic Plan on October 5, 2021. The plan charts a shared future for all, enhanced quality of life, and equitable access, driven by the vision of “One Fairfax.”

A key component of the plan is the ten outcome areas, representing the issues the Fairfax County community cares about most. They were developed based on extensive community input and were reinforced repeatedly over an 18-month outreach period.

The areas include issues regarding cultural and recreational opportunities, empowerment and support for residents facing vulnerabilities, housing and neighborhood livability, mobility and transportation, the environment, economic development, social and racial equity, and health and safety. These are the things that impact our lives at home and work.

Housing and Neighborhood Livability: Ovation at Arrowbrook opens in Herndon with 274 apartments for households earning between 30 and 60 percent of the area median income. The green building with universal and sustainable design features and Earthcraft design is located less than a mile away from the Innovation Metro Station.

Mobility and Transportation: Innovation Metro

Photo Journal 2023: New Countywide Strategic Plan Shapes Fairfax

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

— First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

The public has a right to expect transparency from such local institutions. The founders clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

It is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people’s lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We also publish items about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, anniversaries and other business events and milestones are welcome. If you are planning an event open to the public that you would like to have listed in our calendars, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of, perhaps the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning in 1784.

We are blessed with remarkable, award-winning staff, contributing writers and photographers who are dedicated to our mission. Most have been writing for the Connection/Gazette for years, some for more than a decade (or two, or three). Each brings areas of interest and expertise. Check the bylines. Don’t miss Bonnie Hobbs, Mercia Hobson, Jeannie Theisemann, Janet Barnett, Michael Pope, Mike Salmon, Susan Laume, Glenda Booth, Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe, Hope Nelson, Marilyn Campbell and others.

Local newspapers, including the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We will renew calls for contributions and subscriptions. If you value local news and you have a budget for advertising and promotion, please endeavor to spend some of it with local newspapers including ours.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

By Mercia Hobson/ The Connection

September 13-19, 2023

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

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Photo by Mercia Hobson/ The Connection

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What’s on the Road Ahead for Centreville, Chantilly

Transportation projects and affordable senior homes.

By Bonnie Hobbs

I

n hopes of easing traffic congestion in the local area, several transportation projects are either planned or underway in Centreville and Chantilly. Below are details about some of them, as well as information about new senior housing:

Route 29 Widening

During the afternoon rush hours, Route 29 between Buckeye’s Gate Drive and Union Mill Road is 1.5 miles of slow and tedious traffic. That’s when residents are heading home to Centreville, or points west, trying to avoid I-66 west’s gridlock at the same time.

There’s also a bottleneck there during the morning rush, with long backups at the intersection of Clifton and Stringfellow roads. But VDOT has a plan to widen that stretch of Route 29 from four to six lanes.

The goal is to reduce congestion, while improving safety, operations and access. The project will also add and improve 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths along both sides of Route 29 to provide better bicycle and pedestrian access to the trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road Interchange. Planned, as well, are crosswalk improvements at major intersections, with modified signals to accommodate them.

There’ll be intersection improvements at Centreville Farms and Union Mill roads, Clifton and Stringfellow Roads, Meadow Estates Drive and Hampton Forest Way, and Buckleys Gate and Summit drives.

Estimated project cost is $97 million – with construction, alone, comprising $81.8 million of that amount. Work was expected to begin last year, but is now anticipated to start late this year instead, and take approximately two-and-a-half years to finish.

During the March 8 groundbreaking, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said, “This improvement will get residents where they need to be, instead of sitting in traffic, and will really improve their quality of life. The beneficiaries will also be the people in the neighborhoods off Route 29 who have had to put up with cut-through traffic from I-66 for many years. This project will finish the last section of this road outside of Fairfax City, and I’m looking forward to the ribbon cutting in 2026.”

Route 28 Widening

Rush hour on Route 28 in Centreville is often a bumper-to-bumper affair. But a multimillion-dollar widening project is aimed at easing this gridlock. It’s slated to be completed next year, and workers have been busy for a long time to make it happen.

Route 28 is being widened from four lanes to six, for about 2.3 miles, between the bridge over Bull Run (south of Comp ton Road) and the Route 29 Interchange. Besides adding more through lanes to Route 28, the project will provide additional lanes on side streets to improve traffic flow.

It will also improve intersection operations, upgrade existing traffic signals and improve bicycle and pedestrian crossings. In addition, new, 10-foot-wide, shared-use paths will be created on both sides of Route 28.

A Fairfax County project, it’s being done in cooperation with VDOT and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Total cost estimate is nearly $79 million. Shirley Contracting Co. is the design-builder, and the county’s Department of Transportation is doing the construction.

As construction at each intersection is finished, workers will focus on the side streets, tying in and facilitating new turn lanes to move traffic easier along Route 28. The road-widening began in summer 2021 and is expected to reach substantial completion sometime in 2024. Noise walls are currently being installed, and this work will continue until completion.

Route 50 Improvements

Under normal traffic conditions, the two-mile segment of Route 50 between Route 28 and Stringfellow Road in Chantilly is clogged during the morning and evening rush. It also averages 71,000 vehicles a day and has a high number of crashes.

So VDOT’s doing a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) study to assess how to make this stretch of road function better and safer. According to VDOT engineer Andy Beacher, STARS is used to develop low-cost solutions to traffic problems.

Toward that end, he said, “We studied all the intersections on Route 50 between Stringfellow and Route 28 and are making recommendations. However, there’s no magic bullet for this corridor. It’s very congested because of all the commercial development and commuters.”

See Projects, Page 20
Superintendent Michelle Reid Shares FCPS’s Hidden Gems

Did you know we have a Neurodiversity Specialist as well as a Twice Exceptional Specialist to ensure this population of students is supported? For those of you who don’t know, a twice exceptional student is one that has been identified as academically gifted in one or more areas and also identified as having a disability. Without support, those challenges can often hide the student’s abilities. These roles are unique to K-12 public education in the US. These staff members are such a great resource for our families and teachers. More detailed information and photos can be found here.

Kristen Haynor, Neurodiversity Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, first neurodiversity specialist in a K-12 school in the U.S. She hopes her appointment will encourage other districts to do the same. Haynor spends time in the classroom talking to students about her work.

Nonye Oladimeji began as the division’s - and Virginia’s - first public school - Twice Exceptional (2E) Education Specialist. Rachel Rubio serves as the new FCPS Dyslexia Specialist, a highly specialized role dedicated to the reading and writing disability that affects 20% of the population. Without teachers having the tools to recognize the signs, it can often go undiagnosed.

See Hidden Gems. Page 19

DINE AND DISCOVER EVENT

Join Us For A Taste of What’s to Come

THURSDAY
SEPT 21
2023
12:30 P.M.
1:30 P.M.

We’d love to have you join us as we celebrate our newly opened senior living community Sunrise of Vienna. Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our culinary team and learn more about the vibrant lifestyle that awaits in Vienna.

Call 703-719-8425 to RSVP or email Vienna.MEC@sunriseseniorliving.com.

Sunrise of Vienna
374 Maple Ave W.
Vienna, VA 22180
SunriseVienna.com

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Year One, the 2023 Annual Report

Steps taken to implement Fairfax County Strategic Plan.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

There was no community cake, no banners, speeches, or parades in February of this year when County Executive Bryan Hill shared the Year One Annual Report for the implementation of the first-ever Fairfax County Strategic Plan. Following the plan’s development in 2019 and interruption by the pandemic, the Board of Supervisors approved the strategic plan in October 2021, believing that county leadership must look ahead to shape the future of our community.

The 2023 Annual Report detailed the steps taken to implement the plan. It summarized the county’s efforts to improve the value and vitality of its 406 square miles for all residents, visitors, and employees. Four “key drivers” energized the countywide strategic plan: equity, data integration, inclusive engagement, and ten community outcome areas, which are:

- Cultural and Recreational Opportunities
- Economic Opportunity
- Effective and Efficient Government
- Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability
- Environment and Energy
- Healthy Communities
- Housing and Neighborhood Livability

2024 Advertised Budget:

Change the names of two community outcome areas to match the other eight: Health to Healthy Communities and Environment to Environment and Energy.

Reorganize proposed strategies within the Ten Community Outcome Areas according to community success indicators.

Incorporate recommendations from the Chairman’s Task Force on Equity and Opportunity into the strategic plan’s proposed strategies.

To reflect Fairfax County Public Schools’ (FCPS) new strategic plan, revise existing language.

To reflect the identified headline metrics, update the Economic Opportunity Sample Metrics.

In the Fairfax Countywide Strategic Plan, revised in May 2023, Chairman Jeff McKay wrote, “Inequities persist, and access to opportunity can vary significantly based on one’s identity and location.” Such is despite the county’s “enviable rankings” in key indicators of community prosperity, such as median income, school performance, and public safety.

To review the Strategic Plan or related items as a document, download the following PDFs: Countywide Strategic Plan (Current - Revised May 2023), Countywide Strategic Plan (October 2021), Two-Page Highlight (Driveways and Community Outcome Areas), Alignment with One Fairfax, and Community Engagement Highlights at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xd-Fro-B9T77s44Y159PE75chAF-2zlmTz4m4DnWIVY/edit.

See Supervisors, Page 8

Photo Journal 2023: New Countywide Strategic Plan Shapes Fairfax

Environment and Energy, Mobility and Transportation: In March of 2023, Fairfax County authorized additional funds to assist the Town of Vienna’s project that includes bioretention areas- rain gardens, curb extensions, and crosswalks on Meadow Lane at Tapawingo Road and Kingsley Road. Perennial plantings such as Pennsylvania Sedge, Joe Pye Weed, Fireball Bee Balm, and Cape Breeze Switchgrass are going in.

Housing and Neighborhood Livability: Demolition makes way for future housing units in Reston.
September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

All around the nation, people will be taking action to build stronger, more resilient and prepared communities during September, National Emergency Preparedness Month. This is an opportunity to look around and find ways to prepare yourself and others in your community for disasters. Taking action to prepare for an emergency before it strikes can lead to better outcomes and provide peace of mind.

Fairfax County's Department of Emergency Management and Security has tools that are designed to aid the community in becoming more prepared for disasters. Take some time to think about ways you can make a difference during this year's Emergency Preparedness Month.

Here are some tips:

- Prepare yourself and your family: The "Community Emergency Response Guide" (CERG) — available in multiple languages — has information on the types of threats and hazards local to Fairfax County, as well as tools to help you build an emergency plan and kit. It also has information on how to sign up for Fairfax Alerts so that you will receive alerts and warnings in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- Prepare your neighborhood: Once you have prepared yourself for an emergency, don’t stop there. You can be a leader in your neighborhood and organize a group of neighbors to help plan for how your neighborhood will help each other during a disaster.
- Prepare your business: Whether you own a business or work at a place you think needs an emergency plan, the "Business Disaster Resilience Guide" can help. This guide explains why it is crucial for businesses to have a continuity of operations plan and provides tools to help set the business up for success in the event it is affected by a disaster.
- Make an emergency kit: Emergency kits include basic supplies and are tailored to every person’s need. We recommend every household keep three to five days worth of food, water and supplies in shelter-in-place kits for each member of the household.
- Read and download the Community Emergency Response Guide: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency-management/cerg

Emergency Pet Preparedness
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animals/shelter/pet-resources/pet-preparedness

When potentially disastrous weather is in the forecast, it’s best to prepare early! It’s always better to be safe than sorry, and there’s no time like right now to make sure you have everything you – and your pet – need in the event of a weather-related disaster. Here See Emergency Preparedness. Page 9
Supervisors Share Issues

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Back row: Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill; Pat Herrity, Springfield; Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon; Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, Elected At-Large; Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia; (front row) Kathy L. Smith, Sully; Penelope A. Gross, Mason; Dalia A. Palchik, Providence; and James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock.

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Economic Opportunity—The pandemic led to massive economic disruptions all around the globe, including here in Fairfax County. As of this year, we are happy to see that we actually have more residents employed now than we did before the onset of the pandemic. We want to continue this momentum and are doing so by working with our Economic Development Authority, county staff, and the community. Safety and Security—Fairfax County was again named the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country. We have remained the safest jurisdiction by having world-class public safety agencies and a community that cares. I am proud of the work we have done together and look forward to continuing this critical work.

Lifelong Education and Learning—As a board, we prioritize investing in our schools each year, and this year is no different. Superior public schools are why businesses choose to locate here and how they can grow here with the available talent pool. It’s also a school system where all students can feel safe and heard.

James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District
The three most important issues in the Braddock District are continuing to invest in our schools, improving transportation options, and protecting our local environment.

John W. Foustates, Dranesville District
Many of the important issues in Dranesville are common across the county, like creating affordable housing, growing the local economy to provide good jobs and revenues to support county programs and services, and making our community more resilient to the ever-worsening impacts of climate change.

Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District
Mobility and Transportation—Continue making progress on the redevelopment of the Springfield and Richmond Highway communities.

The cover of the 2023 Annual Report for the first-ever Fairfax County Strategic Plan depicts the Tysons Corner skyline, featuring through the image many of the ten community outcome areas sought in the plan, such as economic opportunity, cultural and recreational opportunities, housing and neighborhood livability, mobility and transportation, and more.

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Emergency Preparedness Month

FROM PAGE 7

are some things to keep in mind as you prepare:

1. Make sure your pets’ microchip information is up-to-date, and that your dogs are wearing collars with identification tags. In the event that your pet is separated from you, this safety measure can ensure that whoever finds them will be able to find you, too.

2. Make sure you have the needed supplies and important documents for each of your pets. Check out our Pet Preparedness Disaster Kit Checklist for a handy list.

3. If you are evacuating, make sure the place you’re going allows pets. There are pet-friendly shelters in Fairfax County, but please check to make sure they will be open. Hotels are not required to accept pets, so please plan accordingly.

4. If you absolutely need to shelter your pets while you get to safety, we will accept pets of Fairfax County residents for temporary safekeeping at the shelter and are preparing kennel space just in case. If you do need to bring your pet(s) to our shelter, PLEASE bring vaccination history and any medications they are on, and preferably a bag of whatever food they’re eating as well. If you need assistance getting your pets to safety, please call Animal Protection Police at 703-691-2131.
Six Months Late, Finally a Budget

Raising Virginia’s standard deduction from just $3000/$6000 to almost three times that amount causes an annual revenue loss of over $1.1 billion.

By Del Vivian Watts

The General Assembly finally passed a full budget for this year. It goes into effect at midnight Friday, Sept. 15, unless the Governor wants to amend it. If he does, there will be another 30-day delay. Politically, I doubt that’ll happen because it would delay taxpayers receiving a tax rebate check just before the upcoming November election of up to $200 for individuals and $400 for married filers.

The virtually unprecedented six-month delay in passing an updated budget, in fact, was all about taxes—just like it was the only other time a budget update wasn’t passed before the start of the budget year July 1. That was 20 years ago and was over cutting the car tax. That year, an update of the second year of Virginia’s two-year budget never was passed.

This year, it was over much we should permanently cut taxes given that tax cuts reduce Virginia’s revenue available to support education. Even though Virginia is below what most states give local schools, 52% to 55% of Virginia state tax revenue goes to support education.

In July, JLARC (our independent Joint Audit and Review Commission) released an extensive report documenting that Virginia’s level of state funding far under-estimates what local schools actually cost. The state bases its share on just $10.7 billion, while what K-12 actually costs is much, much higher at $17.3 billion. The report concluded it would take an annual increase of over $3 billion in state funding support to address major areas of need it identified.

That JLARC report shifted the budget discussion towards a harder look at total tax relief. We had already cut state taxes over $4 billion last year by removing the sales tax on food, raising the standard deduction, and giving one-time rebates of up to $250/$500. Given the almost $3 billion in permanent tax relief in last year’s cuts, plus documented education under-funding and mounting concern about a federal government shutdown that would affect 30% of Virginia’s economy, the budget compromise we just passed only put an additional $280 million into permanent tax cuts while over $900 million will go back to taxpayers through the one-time $200/$400 rebate.

Over $96 million of the permanent tax cut will go to continuing the challenge of closing the large gap between the standard deduction Virginia taxpayers can take when they figure their state income tax and what they get on their federal income tax. Five years ago, Virginia’s standard deduction was only $3000 for a single filer and $6000 for joint filers. It had been 15 years since it had been raised. Meanwhile, the federal standard deduction had grown to $12,000/$24,000 pushed by annual increases for inflation and the 2017 federal tax reform. Annual inflation adjustments, since, have increased it to $13,850/$27,700.

Such a large gap is especially unfair to Virginia taxpayers because Virginia’s tax law requires that if you choose the federal standard deduction, you can’t choose to itemize deductions when you file your Virginia tax. Why? Virginia has chosen not to fund the bureaucracy it would take to audit itemized deductions and has always piggy-backed on federal tax audits.

Therefore, in 2018, we increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $4500/$9000 resulting in an ongoing, annual tax savings for approximately 80% of Virginia taxpayers. The 20% that don’t benefit are those who itemize to pay less in federal taxes and tend to be businesses or persons in the top 5% of income. Last year, we again increased the standard deduction making it $8,000/$16,000. Now, we’ve increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $8,500/$17,000.

This constant push to lower taxes for most taxpayers by raising the standard deduction has resulted in Virginia’s income tax being more progressive. In sharp contrast, the original proposal to lower the highest tax rate from 5.75 to 5.5 would have given most of the tax cut to the top 5% of income. They would have gotten thousands of dollars while the majority of taxpayers got less than $50 and many would get no tax relief.

However, the total effect of our raising the standard deduction from just $3000/$6000 to almost three times that amount is an annual revenue loss of over $1.1 billion. That cost in the face of documented under-funding of schools and the mental health crisis was why the General Assembly finally came to agreement that the bulk of the remaining current budget surplus needed to be returned to taxpayers as a one-time rebate and not as an ever greater permanent tax cut.

Opinion

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Over $96 million of the permanent tax cut will go to continuing the challenge of closing the large gap between the standard deduction Virginia taxpayers can take when they figure their state income tax and what they get on their federal income tax. Five years ago, Virginia’s standard deduction was only $3000 for a single filer and $6000 for joint filers. It had been 15 years since it had been raised. Meanwhile, the federal standard deduction had grown to $12,000/$24,000 pushed by annual increases for inflation and the 2017 federal tax reform. Annual inflation adjustments, since, have increased it to $13,850/$27,700.

Such a large gap is especially unfair to Virginia taxpayers because Virginia’s tax law requires that if you choose the federal standard deduction, you can’t choose to itemize deductions when you file your Virginia tax. Why? Virginia has chosen not to fund the bureaucracy it would take to audit itemized deductions and has always piggy-backed on federal tax audits.

Therefore, in 2018, we increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $4500/$9000 resulting in an ongoing, annual tax savings for approximately 80% of Virginia taxpayers. The 20% that don’t benefit are those who itemize to pay less in federal taxes and tend to be businesses or persons in the top 5% of income. Last year, we again increased the standard deduction making it $8,000/$16,000. Now, we’ve increased Virginia’s standard deduction to $8,500/$17,000.

This constant push to lower taxes for most taxpayers by raising the standard deduction has resulted in Virginia’s income tax being more progressive. In sharp contrast, the original proposal to lower the highest tax rate from 5.75 to 5.5 would have given most of the tax cut to the top 5% of income. They would have gotten thousands of dollars while the majority of taxpayers got less than $50 and many would get no tax relief.

However, the total effect of our raising the standard deduction from just $3000/$6000 to almost three times that amount is an annual revenue loss of over $1.1 billion. That cost in the face of documented under-funding of schools and the mental health crisis was why the General Assembly finally came to agreement that the bulk of the remaining current budget surplus needed to be returned to taxpayers as a one-time rebate and not as an ever greater permanent tax cut.

No Miracle in Virginia Student Test Scores

Del Kenneth R. ‘Ken’ Plum

There was more than a week delay in announcing Virginia student test scores this year. Last week we learned why. Despite the Governor’s unrelenting criticism in his campaign for governor and in his time in office about school test scores, he has not been able to improve the very scores for which he has been so critical in the past. He certainly made a big splash in his pursuit in his effort to improve our schools: He replaced most members of the State Board of Education with his own conservative members, took on a new Secretary of Education, fired two Superintendents of Instruction, and introduced gimmicks like laboratory tendents of Instruction, and introduced gimmicks like laboratory tendents of Instruction, and intro-
Plum

Letter to the Editor

How One Data Center Will Change Fairfax County ... For the Worse

The Annandale Civic Space at 7200 Columbia Pike will have its grand opening on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Penelope A. Gross, Mason District

A couple of new gems in Mason District are the Annandale Civic Space at 7200 Columbia Pike and Sunnyvale Skate Park, 8900 Columbia Pike. 

By MEREDITH FORDON

The Connection

September 6, 2023

Penelope A. Gross, Mason District

21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay:

Historic Huntley, located at 6515 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, is a 19th-century gem, a federal-style mansion originally owned by James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District supervisor.

Historic Huntley

We asked each of our nine jurisdictional directors some questions at large to tell us about their favorite off-the-beaten path spots in their communities.

Whether you’re new to the county, have moved to a different district, or have lived here for years, why not try some of these recommended spots for a morning or afternoon outing?

Discover what’s in Fairfax County’s backyards and all its 400 square miles beyond.

John W. Foust, Dranesville District

**Historic Huntley**

Located at 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, is a 19th-century gem, a Federal-Style mansion originally owned by James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District supervisor.

The mansion was built around 1810 and is a perfect example of Federal style architecture. It features 15 rooms, including a large ballroom, a library, and several bedrooms. The mansion is open to the public on select days throughout the year and offers guided tours.

**Howrey Field Park**

Howrey Field Park is home to three baseball diamonds, each equipped with休息室, a children’s playground, and a fitness center. The park is located in the center of the six Soldiers of Howrey Field Park is one of the best parks in Montgomery County, offering a variety of activities for people of all ages.

**Woolsey Skate Park**

Woolsey Skate Park features a skate park with ramps and obstacles, a kids’ pool, and a mini Bowl-A-Rama, a popular spot for skateboarders and BMX riders.

**South Run Rec Center**

South Run Rec Center is a great place for families to enjoy a variety of activities, from basketball and volleyball to gymnastics and martial arts. The center is also home to the Fairfax County Park Authority, which offers a range of programs and classes for kids and adults.

**Clearbrook Park**

Clearbrook Park is a great place for families to enjoy a variety of activities, from basketball and volleyball to gymnastics and martial arts. The center is also home to the Fairfax County Park Authority, which offers a range of programs and classes for kids and adults.

**Herndon Festival**

Herndon Festival is held in late May and offers something for the whole family. The festival features bands play rock and roll covers from classic to modern rock, but country and original music are also featured.

**McLean Community Center**

The McLean Community Center sponsors McLean Day on the third Saturday in May. The event features bands, food vendors, fireworks, and more. Enjoy four days of fun-filled activities and entertainment!

**Stewardship Education Center**

Stewardship Education Center is slated to open in the late fall. The center will become one of the most beautiful facilities in the Fairfax County Park Authority.

**Runnymede Park**

Runnymede Park is a great ride, walk, or jog option. The park features a two-story fitness center with a heated indoor pool and poolside spa, as well as a variety of outdoor activities, including a playground, picnic area, and walking trails.

**MosaicARTs**

MosaicARTs holds monthly art exhibitions, including the annual MosaicARTs exhibition, which features works by local and national artists.

**Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park**

Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park offers a variety of ziplines, including a two-story zipline and a zipline that soars above the street on top of the Watermark Hotel. Fairfax County is also home to the Watermark Hotel, a high-tech corridor located in the Kingstowne area.

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Supervisors Adopt Reston Comprehensive Plan

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted the new Reston Comprehensive Plan which includes updates to guidance for topics like affordable housing, open space and community health. The newly adopted plan applies to all 8,400 acres of Reston’s planned community, including roads.

Supervisor Walter Alcorn represents Reston on the board.

“Since my Board Matter almost four years ago, dedicated community members, Planning Commissioner John Carter and county staff have put in countless hours on creating a new draft Reston Comprehensive Plan,” Alcorn said. It has been an exhausting process for all involved.

Reston residents attended over 60 virtual and in-person public meetings over three years to comment on the proposed Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The board, Planning Commission, and county staff noted and considered the comments.

“The adoption of the Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment is a monumental achievement for Reston, ushering in a new era that ensures Reston’s continued success,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay. “This updated Plan safeguards existing neighborhoods and improves transit. It also sets the stage for the future of Reston, that is both responsive to the core values of Reston’s founder, Bob Simon, and to the valuable position that Reston plays as a major economic development location in the county.”

On July 19, 2023, the Planning Commission voted 12-0 to recommend the plan, PA 2020-III-UP1, to the Board of Supervisors; the county executive also supported the plan. The amendment updates Reston’s Comprehensive Plan in multiple areas: planning principles, land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, environmental stewardship, heritage resources, public art, equity, community health, and economic development. Here is an overview of the goals of those updates.

Plan features include maintaining residential density in village centers, focusing on higher-intensity mixed-use development in Reston Transit Station Areas, and protecting, maintaining, and providing transitions to surrounding residential neighborhoods. The plan emphasizes Reston Transit Station Area redevelopment.

The plan removes the residential redevelopment option for the village centers’ non-residential areas except for Lake Anne and Tall Oaks. It requires a Comprehensive Plan amendment to exercise a residential option.

Transportation uses multimodality to provide equitable, safe, efficient, attractive, and reliable travel options for current and future Reston residents, employees and visitors. As per countywide workforce dwelling policy, housing guidance includes the area median income for rental workforce dwelling units. It also has “a minimum of 12 percent [workforce dwelling units] and maintains the sliding scale for the percentage of WDUs currently included in the adopted Reston Comprehensive Plan.”

Reston’s list of public parks that serve Reston in the current adopted plan and allows for the equivalent of 12 athletic fields of various sizes and a provision for unprogrammed open spaces for sports and activities.

Environmental Stewardship specifies its vision and its challenges while offering Reston-specific solutions.

Heritage addresses the need to identify, evaluate, protect, and support Reston’s known and potential heritage resources to maintain their interpretive link to Reston’s history and ensure that current and planned public facilities will follow Reston Comprehensive Plan principles.

Public art ensures developers coordinate projects with Public Art Reston early on and work with local and national artists and organizations.

Equity focuses on community health and economic development elements. Housing policies allow all Fairfax residents a full range of opportunities, especially in mixed-use areas with multiple transportation options. Workforce development pathways give people the skills to work in a diverse economy and support their families. Healthy, accessible, affordable food is essential for a vibrant food system. Equity stresses the importance of nature-human interaction. Healthy and quality living and working conditions reflect the need to enjoy clean air and water now and in the future.

Quality facilities, programs, and services for all communities make the parks and recreation system equitable and inclusive. An equitable transportation vision includes a multimodal system to provide safe, efficient, attractive, and reliable travel options with equity for current and future Reston residents, employees, and visitors.

The newly adopted plan is the result of a Reston Comprehensive Plan Amendment process, which was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in response to Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn’s Board Matter presented in January 2020.

Waitlists Open for Affordable Housing

Individuals interested in applying to affordable housing waitlists have the opportunity to do so Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., for select properties in the county:

The Arden: Apartments located at 2317 Huntington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303  
Ovation at Arrowbrook: Apartments located at 1335 Fieldridge Avenue, Herndon VA 20170  
Madison Ridge: Apartments located at 14806 Rydell Road, Centreville, VA 20121  
The Residences at North Hill: Apartments located at 7250 Nightingale Hill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

How to Apply

Interested individuals can apply online via Rent Café, from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Instructions for using Rent Café can be found here:

Individuals who need assistance can call 703-246-5100 or come to the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development office at 3700 Pender Drive in Fairfax, VA.

Those who apply via Rent Café will be randomly placed on a waiting list for these properties. All applications received have an equal opportunity to be selected. Once a unit becomes available, the individuals on a waiting list will be contacted, screened, and determined eligible based on income level, household size, and the size of the rental unit. Households cannot currently be receiving other federal rental housing assistance to qualify.

Housing Funds Make a Local Impact in Fairfax

These affordable housing opportunities are made available through the Project Based Voucher program which provides rental assistance to eligible households to live in specific rental units. Through a contract with the owner of the unit, the FCHRA pays a portion of the monthly rent, while the household pays their portion of the monthly rent based upon 30% to 35% of adjusted gross income. The rental assistance is attached to the specific unit and remains at the property, even if the family moves. The FCHRA uses subsidies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Project Based Voucher program.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
On August 15, 2023, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (“CVA” or “Company”), filed an application (“Application”), pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Steps to Advance Virginia’s Energy Plan (SA VE Act) (“SA VE Act”), for (1) approval to amend and extend its SA VE Plan pursuant to the SA VE Act; and (2) for approval to implement a SA VE Rider for the calendar year 2024, inclusive of the costs associated with the Company’s Advanced Leak Detection and Repair Program (“Advanced LDAR Program”).

The Company requests to extend its SA VE Plan for three years (calendar years 2024 through 2026) (“Phase 5 SA VE Plan”). CVA proposes that during this three-year extended term, the Company would be authorized to spend up to $69 million in 2024, $67 million in 2025, and $73 million in 2026 for a total of $209 million. The Company requests authorization to exceed this investment by 10% on an annual basis and 10% on a cumulative basis, for a Phase 5 SA VE Plan maximum of $230 million. CVA further requests authorization to include costs associated with its Advanced LDAR Program in its Phase 5 SA VE Plan. The Company also requests approval to implement its 2024 SA VE Rider, which is based on a $69 million projected SA VE eligible capital program for 2024, deferred 2022 and projected 2024 costs associated with the Company’s Advanced LDAR Program, and the true-up of the recovery of the actual SA VE cost of service for the calendar year 2022, to be effective with the first billing unit of January 2024 through the last billing unit of December 2024.

CVA has proposed a 2022 True-Up Factor credit of $535,548 and a 2024 Projected Factor of $12,419,565, for a total proposed SA VE revenue requirement of $13,955,117. As proposed, the 2024 SA VE Rider would increase residential customers’ bills by $1.77 per month, for a total proposed monthly SA VE Rider rate of $2.73.

Further details are set forth in the Company’s Application and supporting exhibits, and interested persons are encouraged to review these documents.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Application and supporting documents and may approve revisions among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Company entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company’s Application.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter shall be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure “(Rules”), to be found at forms.office.com. Extraordinarily Sensitive Documents shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, Confidential Information, of the Rules. Any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk’s Office by phone at 1-703-435-2300 to arrange the delivery.

An electronic copy of the Company’s Application may be obtained by submitting a written request for counsel to the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Assistant General Counsel, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23866, balvis@nionsource.com.

On or before October 11, 2023, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: sce.virginia.gov/casecomments/SubmitPublicComments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

On or before October 11, 2023, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at sce.virginia.gov/caseinfo. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. All requests for hearing shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, if available. A copy thereof also must be sent to the Counsel for the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the facsimile electronic address for the action to be referenced. An online body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

On or before October 11, 2023, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission at sce.virginia.gov/caseinfo, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company’s Application. All filings, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such request for hearing shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, if available. A copy thereof also must be sent to the Counsel for the Company. Requests for hearing must include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party’s interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2023-00119.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment, all filings shall require compliance with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/ Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.
900 Apartments Coming to the Town of Herndon

When Quadrangle Development Corporation builds its two office towers in the Town of Herndon, they will be the tallest buildings ever constructed within the town’s boundaries. As Silver Line Metro riders head toward Dulles International Airport, the towers will soar skyward. The 28-acre site is located off Herndon Parkway, 0.4 miles from the Metro Silver Line’s Herndon Station, at the parkway’s intersection with Fairbrook Drive.

Quadrangle Development Corporation is promoting Fairbrook Park’s upcoming transit-oriented mixed-use community in the Town of Herndon. A new sign was recently posted at the intersection of Fairbrook Drive and Herndon Parkway, the community’s entrance, announcing the arrival of 900 luxury apartments and retail. None of the apartments are designated affordable dwelling units or income-restricted for low-income renters.

On its website, Quadrangle describes the property as two high-rise office towers designed by DCS Design to achieve LEED Silver Certification, which will sit on a three-story concrete podium with 1,955 garage parking spaces. Office Tower 1 will have 360,000 rentable square feet and rise 19 stories to 275 feet. Office Tower 2 will be approximately 240,000 rentable square feet and rise 13 stories to about 170 feet.

The two eight-story residential buildings will have 410,000 and 470,000 square feet of space, respectively, with 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and 10,000 square feet of daycare space. An 80,088-square-foot office building is currently occupying the by-right property.

Provision and contributions On Nov. 17, 2020, the Herndon Town Council approved Resolution 20-6-54 to approve with condition Special Exception SE #17-03 pertaining to applicant Fairbrook Business Parks. Among the conditions is providing a 2000-square-foot space as an undeveloped shell for the proposed “nature center/public space” to the Town of Herndon, rent-free for the first ten years and two five-year leases afterward. The town and the applicant will mutually agree on the specific use of the space.

Other contributions to the town include $900 per residential unit for off-site recreational facilities to offset the capacity impact on the town’s current facilities; $25,000 for each of the two buildings 3 and 4 (residential) for public safety and facility needs; and $12,262 per expected student to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for transfer to the School Board for capital improvements to schools that serve the town.

Great Falls Community Assoc. To Hold Election Forum

On Sept. 27, at 5:30 p.m., the Great Falls Community Association will hold an election forum at the Grange for members and the public. The six Dranesville Supervisor, House, and Senate candidates will discuss Great Falls issues relevant to their offices.

Candidates for Dranesville Supervisor are Puneet Ahluwalia (R) and Jimmy Bierman (D). Incumbent supervisor John Foust is not running for reelection. State Senate District 38 candidates are Jennifer Boysko (D) and Matthew Lang (R). House of Delegates District #6 candidates are Kristin Hoffman (R) and Del. “Rip” Sullivan (D).

“This will be a great occasion to hear what the candidates have to say and how their positions may impact our community,” said Chris Rich, president of the Great Falls Community Association.

None of Great Falls’ current local or state elected officials are running again. Del. Kathy Murphy resigns on Dec. 31. Redistricting means that Virginia Senator Barbara Favola represents will no longer represent Great Falls. John Foust, elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in November 2007 and re-elected in 2011, 2015, and 2019, will retire.

Before the moderated sessions, where candidates will present position statements and answer questions, Rich says they will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to community members and speak one-on-one with them.

— Mercia Hobson

McLean District Design Guidelines Released

County staff presented Volume II: District Design Guidelines, McLean, to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for endorsement on Sept. 12. Volume II contains written and visual ideas for project designs. Landowners and their consultants will use them in project designs.

The Community Revitalization Section (CRS) of the Department of Planning and Development developed the guidelines. Many county departments participated in the process, including DOT, DPWES, LDS, Park Authority, Health Department, and Urban Forest Management.

Vienna-County Reciprocal Police Agreement Could Improve Public Safety

A Town of Vienna Police Department detective may again be assigned to the Fairfax County Police Department’s Or-
Exercising Democratic Rights to Reduce Cafeteria Waste

By Halia Ochieng
Great Falls Student

A group of students from Great Falls Elementary and Cooper Middle Schools collected over a hundred signatures for a petition on reducing cafeteria waste. They then delivered the petition to Congressman Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer’s offices on Sept. 1. The students were inspired to take action after observing many unnecessarily wasteful practices while having lunch. These practices included using disposable utensils and trays, wrapping main courses in plastic, and forcing younger students who buy lunch to take a milk carton, many of which were thrown away full. Some cafeterias also left milk refrigerators open for the duration of the lunch period, failed to label recycling bins, and threw away vegetable waste that could have been composted.

The fact that some schools adopt more sustainable practices shows that it’s possible to change. For example, from talking with experts working on these issues, we learned that schools in Brooklyn participate in a composting program, which would be even easier for schools in Great Falls with gardens. We also learned that American University and George Washington University’s cafeteria switched to reusable packaging, and other schools have switched to milk dispensers that allow students to only take the amount of milk they plan to drink.

Given the number of students in Fairfax County, small changes could have large impacts. “If every student in the county threw away their plastic utensils daily, after one year, the waste would weigh as much as two Statues of Liberty,” explained sixth grader Maura Campione, president of the Great Falls Elementary chapter of the group.

At first, Congressional staff were very supportive of our initiative but suggested that we address these issues at the local and state levels. We feel the solution needs national, state, and local cooperation, and we pointed to national recycling laws in many Scandinavian countries that proved successful. Congressional staff promised to look at these laws and we committed to engage our school board, county and state legislature as well. This may be challenging because, although we learn about Congress in school, our local and state government structures are less familiar. We welcome our local leaders to step up and join us in this campaign.

Letters to the Editor
From Page 11

The 27 air-polluting diesel generators storing 148,500 gallons of flammable diesel fuel and toxic (especially to aquatic life) diesel exhaust fluid are regulated - any Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) with 660 gallons or more must be - but since 2018 the DEQ has reported 69 leaks/spills from regulated ASTs. The potential for contamination of the adjacent Cub Run stream (a tributary supplying the Occoquan Reservoir that provides drinking water for over 800,000 residents) makes the location a very poor choice. Moreover, the air polluting emissions are self-regulated at each facility, not collectively. This year, the DEQ tried to permit data center generators to exceed EPA air pollution standards, but that measure failed.

Our area has over 4,000 data center diesel generators and counting. The data center can’t function unless Dominion Energy builds a new substation and installs miles of transmission lines, which we as rate payers will pay for not the data center. Data centers are the main contributing factor for Dominion’s reliance on fossil fuels for at least 15 more years. But this detail is considered a separate issue by the county. Why be a part of the climate change solution when you can be a part of the problem?

As Northern Virginia becomes the data center capital of the world, we’re learning that the air and noise pollution threat to humans, wildlife and the environment is being ignored because of the promise of potential revenue they may provide to localities.

Data centers are needed but as Chairman McKay said “While we are open to data centers in Fairfax County, they only work if they’re in the proper location”. If approved, then nowhere is off limits.

Cynthia Shang
President of Save Pleasant Valley

FOR EVERY GENERATION. THIS IS WHY WE WALK.

At the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, we’re fighting for a different future. For families facing the disease today. For more time. For treatments.

We’re closer than ever to stopping Alzheimer’s. But to get there, we need you. Join us for the world’s largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

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Our area has over 4,000 data center diesel generators and counting. The data center can’t function unless Dominion Energy builds a new substation and installs miles of transmission lines, which we as rate payers will pay for not the data center. Data centers are the main contributing factor for Dominion’s reliance on fossil fuels for at least 15 more years. But this detail is considered a separate issue by the county. Why be a part of the climate change solution when you can be a part of the problem?

As Northern Virginia becomes the data center capital of the world, we’re learning that the air and noise pollution threat to humans, wildlife and the environment is being ignored because of the promise of potential revenue they may provide to localities.

Data centers are needed but as Chairman McKay said “While we are open to data centers in Fairfax County, they only work if they’re in the proper location”. If approved, then nowhere is off limits.

Cynthia Shang
President of Save Pleasant Valley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
FROM PAGE 11

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Lake Braddock Holds off Westfield To Improve to 2-1

By Will Palenscar
The Connection

In a low scoring football game in Burke, the Lake Braddock Bruins narrowly held on to beat the Westfield Bulldogs 9-7 on Friday, Sept. 8. After a scoreless first quarter Lake Braddock kicker Carson Gallant kicked a 24 yard field goal with no time remaining in the first half putting Lake Braddock up 3-0. In the second half Jakob Weiss would be the benefactor to a 32 yard reception which would then setup his 20 yard touchdown reception. The extra point was unsuccessful and Lake Braddock led 9-0. In the 4th quarter Connor Morin scored on a 35 yard touchdown reception with 8:24 to play in the game. Lake Braddock was then able to hold off Westfield from a comeback in the closing minutes of the game.

With the win Lake Braddock improves to (2-1) and will face West Potomac (2-0) on 9/14. Westfield falls to (2-1) and has a bye week and will host Justice HS on 9/22.

Connor Morin scores on this 35 yard touchdown reception

Lake Braddock QB Christian Foster #13 looks down the field to receiver Robert Hollen #82

Kai Austin #3 tries to avoid the tackle of Connor Morin #Kai Austin # 3

Jacob Weiss caught this ball for a 20 yard touchdown reception

Connor Morin scores on this 35 yard touchdown reception

Kennedy Duda #21 runs past Lake Braddock defenders
Superintendent Michelle Reid’s Hidden Gems

https://www.fcps.edu/blog/fairfax-county-public-schools-welcomes-first-nation-neurodiversity-specialist-amongst-trio

What are the most significant issues specific to the FCPS?

Strategic Plan: We are excited to be implementing our FCPS Strategic plan, which will serve as our North Star in ensuring excellence, equity and opportunity for all students through 2030. This plan reflects many months of hard work and input from students, staff and families: we reviewed more than 100,000 feedback survey responses and hosted more than 65 planning team and community meetings.

Our plan includes five goals: Goal #1, a strong start for all students, Goal #2, ensuring all feel safe, supported, included and empowered, Goal #3 reflects our commitment to academic growth and excellence, Goal #4 relies on equitable access and opportunity and Goal #5 is leading for tomorrow’s innovation. We will aim to meet our plan’s objectives by doing things like increasing Pre-K programs to meet community need, strong support for community literacy, boosting student participation in extracurricular and leadership activities, supporting successful completion of at least Algebra I by eighth grade, expanding availability and enrollment in advanced coursework and bolstering financial literacy among our student population.

MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/ House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: www.mcleannewcomers.org.
VDOT collected traffic and accident data on seven signalized intersections in the study area and then examined both short-term solutions that would help immediately, plus mid-term solutions that would provide relief into 2030. The estimated cost range for these improvements is $8 million to $11 million.

“Right now, we have no funding [to build this project],” said Beacher. “Once we finish the study and choose alternatives, we’ll have cost studies done and then work with Fairfax County to identify funding opportunities.”

Compton Road Shared-Use Path
Fairfax County and VDOT plan to build the Compton Road Shared-Use Path in Centreville. This 10-foot-wide trail will benefit local residents, connect the Bull Run Special Events Center and the Cub Run Trail System, and will also become part of the I-66 Trail Network.

The goal is to improve mobility and travel choices for pedestrians and bicyclists. The work will include a bridge over Cub Run to safely facilitate the shared-use path over the stream. It'll connect, as well, to the existing Bull Run Loop Trail, Sully Loop Trail and West County Trail, as well as to future trails. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation are anticipated to begin in early 2024. Start of construction is currently planned to start in mid-2027 and is expected to take approximately 20 months. Financed with federal, state and local funds, the total project cost is estimated at $9.3 million.

The Lodge at Autumn Willow
Construction is now underway for The Lodge at Autumn Willow in Chantilly to provide high-quality apartments for senior citizens at prices they can afford. There’ll be 150 independent-living units, with 15 ADA-compliant. Eleven percent of the residents will be seniors at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI); 14 percent, at or below 50 percent AMI; and 75 percent of them, at or below 60 percent AMI.

Tucked into a forest near the intersection of Stringfellow Road and Autumn Willow Drive, it’s a partnership of entities including the Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority (FCRHA), Michaels Development Co. and Virginia Housing. Groundbreaking was July 20, and construction is expected to take some eight months.

Michaels Development will manage the property, and the FCRHA will hold the lease for 99 years – guaranteeing the preservation of affordable housing at The Lodge at Autumn Willow for nearly the next century. FCRHA also awarded eight, project-based vouchers, helping ensure that the property will support households with a range of incomes.

Apartments will be one- and two-bedroom units, and the outdoor amenity spaces will include a serenity studio, firepit and recreation area. Onsite walkways on this wooded, 20.5-acre site will connect residents to county trails and the Little Rocky Run stream bed. In addition, new, widened sidewalks will run along Autumn Willow near the entrance. The property will have 135 parking spaces and is located near two fire stations, a hospital and shopping areas.

A basement-level gathering spot is planned at the end of each residential wing, and an accessible ramp leading to the front entrance will be reached via a turn-around loop off Autumn Willow Drive. A canopy in front of the two-story, brick-and-siding building will provide a covered walkway for drop-offs and pickups in the arrival plaza.

The outdoor courtyard between the building's two wings will contain a reading cove and recreation zone for both active and passive recreation and relaxation. And an existing trail running west to east will be maintained in place, enabling residents to walk to nearby stores.
ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAYS THRU OCT. 19
Weekly Farmers Markets. Thursdays 12 p.m. to
7 p.m. At The PARC at Tyson’s 8500 Leesburg
Pike, Tysons. Celebrate Fairfax, a nonprofit
organization dedicated to building commu-
nity in Fairfax County, is excited to announce
the launch of a weekly farmers market at The
PARC at Tyson’s. Enjoy local produce and
artisan goods sold by vendors at the Farm
Market, which has over 20 years of experi-
ence connecting communities to local farmers
and artisans. Find fresh fruits, vegetables,
and other locally sourced specialties.

FUNDAY MONDAY
“Funday Monday” is open to children of all
ages, however is best suited for the
pre-school set. Monday Funds run from 10:30 a.m.
to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise
noted — is held at Old Town Hall, 3999
University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of
free parking lots/garages in Old Town
Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side
entrance of Town Hall facing Route 236/ Main
Street. For more information visit www.
fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/
cultural-arts.

SCHEDULE
Sept. 18 – My Gym
Sept. 19 – Music Together Sing and Groove
Sept. 20 – My Gym
Sept. 21 – Kids’ Trolley Puppet Show "Creepy
Creatures"
Oct. 6 – Miss Molly’s Musical Fun
Oct. 13 – No Program
Oct. 20 – My Gym
Oct. 21 – Drew Blue Shoes Magic
Dec. 4 – Music Together Sing and Groove
Dec. 11 – My Gym
Dec. 18 – TBD

ONGOING
Fall Native Shrub and Tree Sale. At Walker Na-
ture Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The
Fall Native Shrub and Tree Sale has started.
your order. Orders are due by Friday, Septem-
ber 22 at 5 p.m. (as inventory allows). Plants
must be picked up on Saturday, September 30
between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER
Reston Museum. See how Reston’s founding
principles were implemented by joining the
upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held
10 a.m. every Saturday through November.
Sign up at https://www.restonmuseum.
can be expected to fund library and literacy programming
and materials in our community. Please note:
there will be no children’s books at this sale.
Our next Children’s and Educators book sale
will be March 2018. Visit the website: www.
RestonLibraryFriends.com, or email at reston
libraryfriends@gmail.com, or call 703-829-5467.

SEPT. 19-23
Big Fall Book Sale. At Reston Regional Library.
Reston. The Friends of the Reston Regional
Library will host their Big Fall Sale. This sale
will feature more than 30,000 books in very
gently used condition, from over 20 catego-
ries. All materials are donated. Proceeds go
to fund library and literacy programming
and materials in our community. Please note:
there will be no children’s books at this sale.
Our next Children’s and Educators book sale
will be March 2018. Visit the website: www.
RestonLibraryFriends.com, or email at reston
libraryfriends@gmail.com, or call 703-829-5467.
SCHEDULE
Wednesday, September 20th
Public shopping in the Lobby from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) seeks a **PRODUCT ENGINEER** in Vienna, VA to create both installable software products (ArcGIS GeoEvent Server) as well as software-as-a-service (ArcGIS Velocity) to enable customers to ingest, analyze, and visualize real-time geospatial data that are both high-velocity (data that updates frequently) and high-volume (large amounts of data that updates). Can work remotely. Reqs. BS+1 yrs. exp. To apply, submit resume to Vinesh Patel, 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373. If you have questions, you may contact Vinesh Patel at: vinesh_patel@esri.com, REQ#: 18672

**Volunteers Needed**

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@almc.org, or visit www.almc.org.

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 or 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd’s Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd’s Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center’s website is www.scmafc.org.

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*See warranty terms and conditions.

**From Page 19**

See Bulletin, Page 23
organized Crime and Narcotics trafficking and vice crimes have a substantial and detrimental effect on the health and welfare of the communities and that a cooperative effort between the Town of Vienna Police Department and the County of Fairfax Police Department would be advantageous in disrupting illicit drug activities.”

This is not the first such agreement. The new agreement reestablishes a previous one. County staff said in the board agenda item that staffing constraints in 2002 caused the Town of Vienna not to participate in activities with the FCPD. “This new agreement reestablishes the previous agreement between the Town of Vienna and the FCPD,” county staff said.

Each detective’s casework will determine how the departments share forfeited assets. The Organized Crime and Narcotics Division Commander decides. The minimum amount the Town of Vienna Police Department will receive will be 5 percent of all assets, with a maximum of no more than 70 percent, according to county documents.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21
6th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament, 7 a.m. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. In honor of Erin Peterson who was killed in the Virginia Tech tragedy. Tickets are $200 individual; $800 foursome. Call 703-830-3795; email info@erinpetersonfund.org.

FIELDTRIP/SEPT. 23
Fall Garden Festival, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This free event celebrates a world of unique plants, captivating garden accessories, live music that sets the perfect ambiance and delectable food options to satisfy your cravings. It’s not just any garden gathering – it’s a vibrant celebration of all things green and gorgeous. The Fall Garden Festival is your one-stop destination for gardening inspiration and unique finds. Gather your friends and family and join us for a day filled with nature’s beauty and the joy of the garden community. Call 703-324-8700.

ERIN Peterson Fund GOLF TOURNAMENT 2023
Town of Vienna Police | Vienna VA - Facebook
Buy With Confidence, Sell With Success

Inventory Is Low - Call Me Today

703-757-3222
Sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

Dianne Van Volkenburg donates a portion of each sale to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter