

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ♦ Chantilly ♦ Great Falls ♦ Herndon ♦ McLean ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Oakton
Reston ♦ Vienna ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

D-Day 80th Anniversary

PAGE 11

80th anniversary of D-Day; exhibit opens April 6 at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.

Living at End
Of the Runway

PAGE 3

Don't Opt Out

PAGE 4

Rally for Pride
Fight the Lawsuit

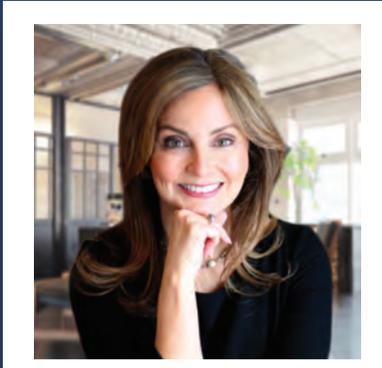
PAGE 6

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 9 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2024

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Work with the #1 Realtor

DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG

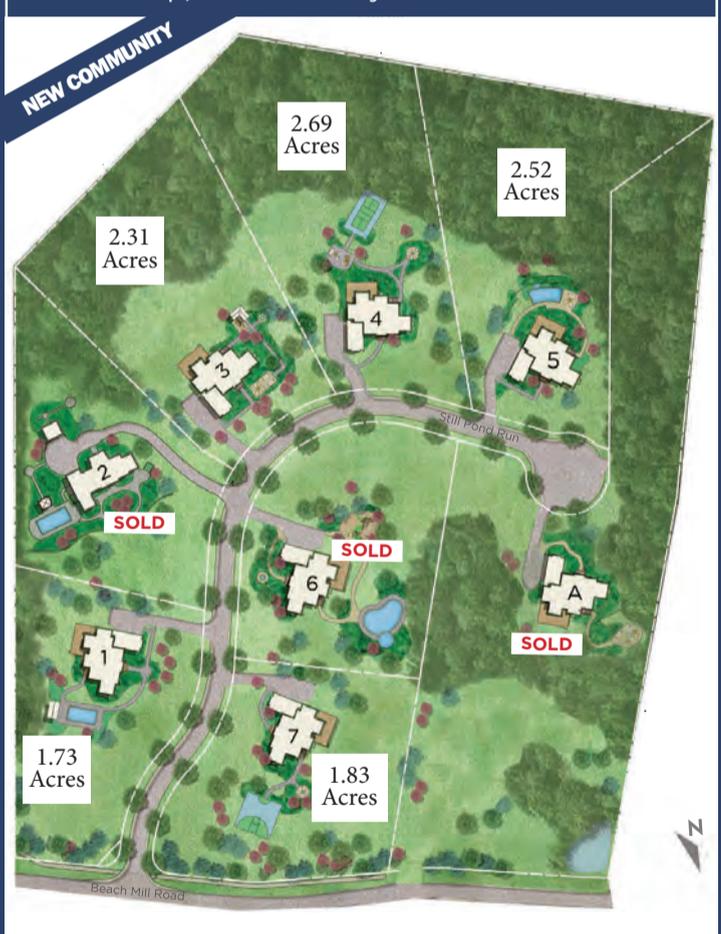


Joe Trippi, Justin Scango, Twee Ramos and Susan Canis

Spring Market is Here!

The Manors at Still Pond

Collection homes revised and reimagined for today's lifestyles with exciting new spaces and elevations exemplifies exceptional design and attention to detail. With 4 models to choose from: Evanton, Winthrop, Vincent & Wyndham.



Great Falls Prices Starting at: \$2,945,000



Great Falls \$2,195,000



Great Falls \$1,549,000



McLean \$2,799,000



Great Falls \$1,699,000



Clifton \$2,800,000



Great Falls \$1,599,000

What's Your Home Worth?



CALL ME TODAY!

703-757-3222

Sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE

Forbes GLOBAL PROPERTIES

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066 703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

2021-2023 Top Sales Team Northern Virginia Region West Virginia Region



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



NEWS

County Supervisors OK 'Worthy Project in Bad Location'

Affordable, senior housing to be built near busy Dulles runway.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a new housing project in Chantilly last week, two significant things happened. The Board ignored a fact-based plea from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to not place it there, and the supervisor recommending its approval misrepresented the position of a joint land-use committee.

And the thing is – the project is a great idea because it'll provide much-needed, affordable apartments for low-income senior citizens. The problem is that it's in an extremely noisy location where the residents will live directly beneath Dulles International Airport flight paths and will hear large airplanes both departing and coming in for landings, at low altitudes, 24/7.

"It's certainly a worthy project, but it's in a very bad location," said David Mould, MWAA vice president, Communications and Government Affairs. "As we've noted before, the Airports Authority has strong concerns about constructing any new homes in such a highly noise-sensitive location so close to the end of a busy runway."

Mould spoke in person last Tuesday, March 19, during the Supervisors' public hearing on Agape Property Management's proposal to build an independent-living facility and adult daycare center at 3870 Centerview Drive, in the Dulles Business Park off Route 50. Agape was seeking a land rezoning from industrial to commercial, plus a special-exception permit to erect senior housing there.

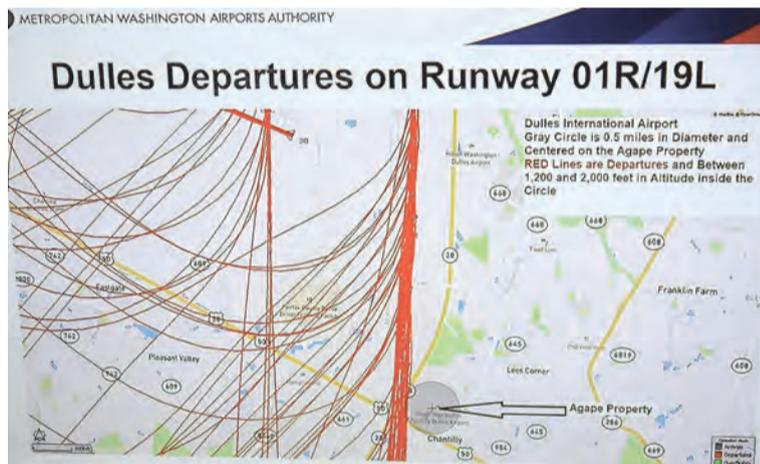
The Joint Sully District Council of Citizens Assns. and West Fairfax County Citizens Assn. Land-Use Committee had no objection to the Supervisors' Jan. 23 approval of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for this parcel, allowing a commercial-residential use there, instead of office/industrial. But it worried about people living in such a noisy environment; and before last week's hearing, it emailed its specific objections to the Supervisors and did not endorse the project (see sidebar).

At the Committee's Jan. 15 meeting, land-use planner Mike Van Atta, representing Agape, presented details of the proposal. He said Agape wanted to build some 228 leased apartments in a five-story building with enhanced, ADA-designed facilities for seniors with incomes 60 percent or lower than the Area Median Income.

Planned, as well, are an onsite pharmacy, office for visiting doctors, physical-therapy room, computer/arts rooms, recreation areas, dining room/community kitchen, in-home care, nursing supervision and med-



Site plan of the senior housing facility and adult daycare center.



Map depicting showing the flight paths planes use when landing at and departing from Dulles Airport. The gray circle represents the Agape project.

ication management, plus transportation and meal services. To be called Agape House Chantilly, it would have frontage on Thunderbolt Place and be near an existing pond and trails.

"It's one of the last, remaining vacant properties in the Dulles Business Park," said Van Atta. "It was approved for a hotel that was never built. We propose two, new vehicle-access points on Thunderbolt Place and separate entrances and drop-off areas for the residents and the adult daycare facility. A new public-park space just north of the pond will have new landscaping, seating areas, exercise stations and game tables. And there'll be a private, gated and secured courtyard with a garden and yoga area."

He said residents may participate in the programming and activities at the daycare center, and Agape would construct a new, 6-foot-wide trail along the entire property frontage, as well as two, new pedestrian crosswalks – one across Thunderbolt Place and one at the Thunderbolt/Centerview intersection.

After his presentation in January, the Land-Use Committee said it would express its concerns about this project when the rezoning came to the Supervisors. And one of the meeting attendees, Jehanne Arslan, told Van Atta, "Since the people moving in will

SEE AFFORDABL.R. SENIOR HOUSING, PAGE 12

Land-Use Group Holds Supervisor's Feet to the Fire

Committee and MWAA explain their opposition to Agape plan.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's one thing to deliberately misrepresent a group's opinion about a project and another to use that opinion to help sway a vote. Yet that's what Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) did last week prior to the Board of Supervisors' approval of Agape's housing project in her district.

That group – the Joint Sully District Council of Citizens Assns. (SDC) and West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee – was incensed about it. And its members are letting Smith and her colleagues know.

In a letter emailed Sunday, March 24, to Board Chairman Jeff McKay – who repeated Smith's erroneous statement before the vote was taken – the group said her comment indicating the committee approved of this project "was not an accurate statement of the committee's position."

Submitted by SDC Land Use and Transportation Chair Jeff Parnes and WFCCA President Steve Chulick, the letter explained that the Committee, comprised of citizen volunteers, "devotes its efforts to improving Fairfax County through the evaluation of development proposals and specific suggestions for improvement, or at times, justification for denial."

"It is difficult enough to keep citizens engaged in the Fairfax County land-use process," it continued. "When the committee's contributions are distorted and ignored, it reinforces the perception that citizen input is meaningless, and the Board is not interested."

"When the committee's position on an application is misrepresented to justify a controversial approval, the process suffers, and the value of citizen engagement is further diminished. In the future, we would hope this type of mischaracterization would not be repeated [and] that constructive citizen



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

David Mould

engagement in the process would be welcomed."

Indeed, after that March 19 Board meeting, committee member Jay Johnston lamented that "over the past several years now, Supervisor Smith has continued to ignore the concerns of the [joint land-use committee]. And now with the Agape rezoning and special-exception application, she clearly misstated, to say we approved when, actually, we have clear concerns."

"This has been an ongoing battle with the Supervisor, and especially disconcerting with regard to residential construction in [Chantilly's] Land Unit J – which is purely in Sully and mostly under the noise contours provided by Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)," continued Johnston. "Supervisor Smith does not believe the latest noise contours from 2019 should serve as a warning to deter developers from building in these areas."

"This is evident by her presentation of and ultimate requests for approval of the applications for residential housing around the Wegmans shopping center at Elm Street, the Boulevards, Ellipse at Westfields, and Stonebrook. I am surprised that we are still not doing the right thing by implementing the 2019 Noise Contours and, instead, continue putting future children and their families at risk. It is time for the Board

SEE OPPOSITION, PAGE 12

Southern Springfield Grows

Projects underway on Loisdale Road include transportation, government and car dealers.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

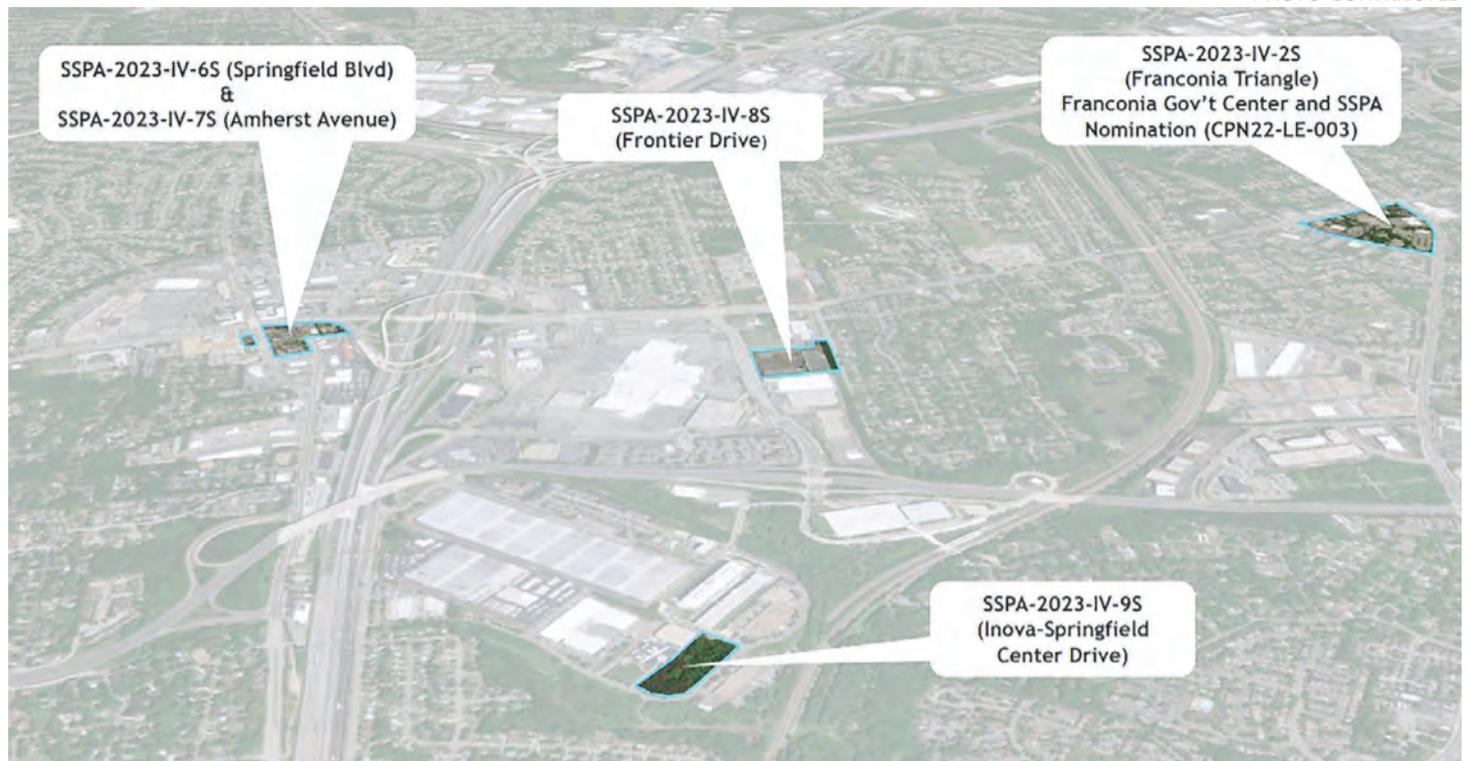
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cranes and bulldozers are rolling again in the southeastern portion of Springfield as the town center is gearing up for a hotel and apartments, while further south along Loisdale Road, construction continues for another car dealership and an Amazon facility.

The Franconia Land Use committee has a plan for the area highlighting four sections that includes a spot at Springfield Boulevard and Amherst Avenue that used to be home to one of the earliest McDonald's restaurants; another spot on Frontier Drive next to the Home Depot; a spot they call "Franconia Triangle," at the intersection of Franconia Road and Beulah Street; and a spot on the end of the GSA property off Loisdale Road.

According to the timeline in the presentation, there will be public hearings with the planning commission this spring or early summer.

VDOT has a project on the books in this area as well called the "Frontier Drive Extension." SEE SOUTHERN SPRINGFIELD, PAGE 10



This map shows areas around Franconia that are slated for redevelopment.

FCPS Explains Opt-Out Notification for Holocaust Speaker

FCPS and Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington share insights.



SCREENSHOT FCPS

Cooper Middle School in McLean, a Fairfax County Public School.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Against the backdrop of rising antisemitism in the county, state, and across the U.S., the release of an electronic letter from a Fairfax County Cooper Middle School assistant principal to 7th-grade families, with an offer to opt their children out of the March 18 Holocaust speaker presentation, apparently misled some.

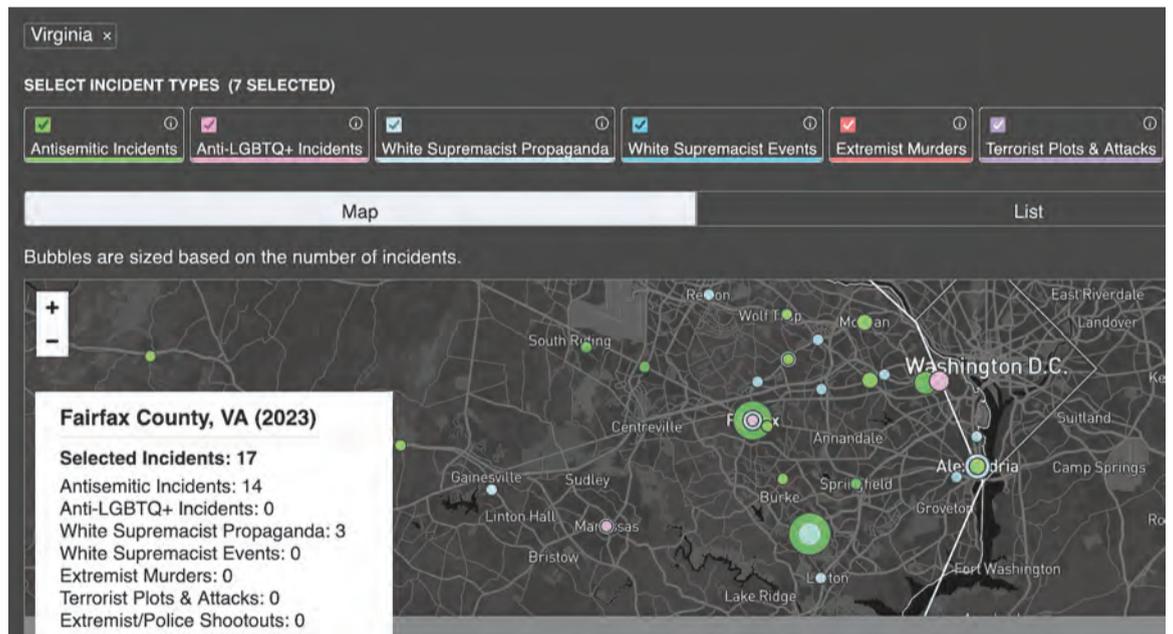
FCPS released an explanation on March 22, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington responded to "erroneous" media reports the day after the presentation.

"We apologize if this notification

led anyone to believe that we do not value these important learning opportunities, which Cooper Middle School has been providing for many years," an FCPS spokesperson said in a March 22 email to The Connection.

The day after the presentation, on March 19, Guila Franklin Siegel, associate director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, responded to those media reports and provided her insights in "JCRC Statement on Holocaust Survivor Presentation at Cooper Middle School." The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington coordinated the visit from Holocaust survivor Col. Frank Cohn.

"Recent media reports have



SCREENSHOT ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE (ADL) HEAT MAP U

ADL H.E.A.T. (Hate, Extremism, Anti-semitism, Terror) map is updated monthly. The green bubbles are a compilation of the most recent cases of anti-Jewish vandalism, harassment, and assault that may be viewed at the ADL Tracker.

suggested that Cooper School officials offered an opt-out to excuse non-Jewish students from learning about the Holocaust. These reports are erroneous," Siegel wrote. She added that FCPS noted the same. "The opt-out was designed for Jewish families "due to Jewish children in the past being subject-

ed to bullying, teasing, taunting, and other forms of unacceptable behavior, specifically during Holocaust-related lessons and programming," according to Siegel.

Siegel added that no Cooper student requested to opt out of the program based on the subject matter. "Indeed, students lined up

after the presentation to get Col. Cohn's autograph. That speaks to the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that Cooper created today, a culture which must be replicated in every school," she wrote.

In her initial March 11 letter to families, the assistant principal

SEE FCPS EXPLAINS, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

McLean ♦ Vienna ♦ Oakton ♦ Great Falls
Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ Oak Hill
Chantilly ♦ CENTREVIEW ♦ Burke
Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Twitter @followfairfax

An independent, locally owned weekly
newspaper delivered to
homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to
your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer

Susan Laume
Contributing Writer

ADVERTISING
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Classified & Employment
Advertising**
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Past issues of

THE
CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Something Country



Rockin' country that gets you dancin'

Sat April 6th at the
Electric Palm Restaurant

12745 Sea Ray Ln
Woodbridge, VA 22192

8 pm to 12 am

You Deserve to Earn more

5.25 % APY*

7-month CD New Money Only**



PRESIDENTIAL BANK

Call 800-383-6266
for more information

Visit us at the
McLean Location
6707 Old Dominion Drive
or any of our other convenient locations.

Monday – Friday / 8am–10pm Eastern Time

Visit www.presidential.com for additional terms, rates and details

*Annual Percentage Yield/ \$1000 Minimum to Open

**New money is defined as funds not currently held by

Presidential Bank and must be from an external source of funds

APY is accurate as of December 15, 2023. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal.

Member
FDIC

FCPS Pride Rally Mobilizes Leaders Against Lawsuit

Will FCPS continue to be safe for LGBTQIA+ students?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Last Thursday, an hour before the regular 7 p.m. March 21 Fairfax County School Board meeting, Fairfax County Public School Pride students organized and prepared to rally with their supporters outside Luther Jackson Middle School in Merrifield. They rallied to protest a legal complaint that challenges FCPS transgender policies, calling them sex and religious discrimination and violation of free speech rights. The lawsuit was filed against FCPS school board by American First Legal.

Andrew J. Block, former senior advisor to former president Donald Trump and president of American First Legal, filed the complaint, Jane Doe v. Fairfax County School Board, Case No. 2024-03171, in Fairfax County Circuit Court on March 4.

If the court were to rule in the plaintiff's favor, it would threaten FCPS Regulation 2603, adopted Oct. 9, 2020, and revised April 21, 2022. The procedures and guidelines for schools ensure that all students, in-



PHOTO BY FXCO. MARCH 19, 2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PROCLAMATION — To designate March 31, 2024, as Transgender Visibility Day. Requested by Chairman McKay and Supervisors Bierman, Walkinshaw, Lusk, Alcorn, Jimenez, Storck, Palchik and Smith. (Center) Rev. Emma Chattin of the Transgender Education Center in Burke accepts the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proclamation recognizing March 31 as Transgender Visibility Day.

cluding gender-expansive and transgender students, “experience a safe, supportive, and inclusive school environment.”

Laura Truong, an 18-year-old senior in FCPS said the lawsuit amounts to an attack on safety for transgender students. “This lawsuit could tear apart the safe space that school has been — or should be — for transgender students. It’s an attack

on the rights and safety of students and on student expression.”

“FCPS Pride stands with all transgender, non-binary, gender expansive, and other marginalized students in Fairfax County Public Schools in the face of an abhorrent lawsuit filed by Stephen Miller’s America First Legal Foundation against our school board,” posted FCPS Pride @FCPS Pride.

“Students should not be put at risk of bullying, harm, or discrimination.” According to FCPS Pride, “1 in 4 FCPS students identify as LGBTQIA+, so teachers should always assume that there is a transgender [student.]”

Opposing the anti-trans litigation, elected officials, representatives of education asso-

SEE FCPS PRIDE RALLY, PAGE 14

Remodeling your kitchen?
Make sure it's Nicely Done!
Call (703) 764-3748, or stop by our showroom for a free design consultation!

- Family Owned
- Licensed & Insured
- Part of your community since 2003

www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com

NICELY DONE
Kitchens and Baths
8934 Burke Lake Rd.
Springfield, VA, 22151
Located in Kings Park Shopping Center

PRINT AND DIGITAL OPTIONS TO REACH YOUR TARGET MARKET

- Email Blasts
- Print
- Digital Billboards
- Sponsored Content
- Exclusive Front Page Shoutout
- Social Media



THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

For Advertising:
Call 703.778.9431
or email
advertising@connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

Franconia District Holds Budget Town Hall

Public hearings on the budget April 16 - 18.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

As Fairfax County moves closer to FY25 budget public hearings April 16 through 18, individual districts are holding budget town halls to gather residents' input. The year's budget planning cycle began with County Executive Bryan Hill's presentation of the "advertised budget" to the Board on Feb. 20.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District, held his town hall, virtually, on March 22, with assistance from Bryan Hill; Franconia District school board member, Marcia St. John-Cunning; and school board chief financial officer Lee Burton. Lusk invited residents to provide input and submit questions through email, call-in and Facebook.

Opening the session, Lusk noted, "One of the most important roles that I have in this job is to advocate on behalf of the Franconia District residents for budget priorities and improve their lives and grow our community as your county supervisor." Lusk spoke of regional market forces which drive rising real estate tax assessments and personal property values. Real estate assessments have risen this year by 3.2 percent. Lusk said Fairfax County is "one of the most desirable locations to live in the country. As a result, housing prices are increasing as more and more people compete for fewer homes. ... I remain committed to advocating for a reasonable adjustment to the real estate tax rate and personal property tax assessments."

Lusk called this budget year "especially challenging," citing a very competitive labor market for employees, with increased competition for police officers, firefighters, teachers, trash collectors, engineers, planners, transit workers, and others needed to maintain a high level of service. Meanwhile, the post-pandemic decrease in office values and rising vacancy rates negatively impacts county revenue. The county's FY25 budgeted operating contribution of \$203.7 million is a 21.3 percent increase over the \$167.9 million subsidy over FY24. As a final factor, Lusk recognized "the approximately 51.4 percent of every dollar in the proposed budget goes to supporting our school system. The budget request from the school board this year includes a 10 percent increase over last year's budget request, for about \$254 million."

The advertised budget could raise average residential tax bills by about \$524. That is without fully meeting the school board's request.

Hill commented that, "The largest net increase included in the advertised budget is to support our county schools." This year the school board budget request includes a six percent salary increase for all FCPS employees, and other funding, totaling \$253 million, or about a ten percent increase. Hill's proposed budget included \$165 million.

Burton speaking of the 10.5 percent increased school board request said, "one might think that is really high, but as it turns out, our surrounding neighbors stepped out with a 11.3 and a 10.6 percent increase in their county transfers as well."

Hill added, "The largest driver of the county increase portion is due to compensation, with the proposed pay and benefits increase totaling \$148 million." Compensation increases were driven by collective bargaining

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
County and school officials, Rodney Lusk, Marcia St. John-Cunning, Bryan Hill, and Lee Burton present the proposed budget during Franconia District Town Hall.

HOW TO PROVIDE INPUT

Online at engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/FY25Budget
Text FY25Budget to 73224
Email FY25Budget@publicinput.com
By Phone call 703-890-5898, code 1379

Testify at a budget public hearing in person, by video or phone. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form. Call the Clerk to the Board's Office at (703) 324-3151 (TTY 711) or email clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

Attend a Budget Town Hall in your district. Times and details available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2025-budget-town-hall-meetings.

FAIRFAX COUNTY

agreements for police, fire, and transit workers, with matching pay increases for non-represented employees.

County residents who joined the discussion, spoke either to ask questions about the increases or to advocate for spending in preferred areas. Jerry, from Hunter Mill, asked whether residents are seeing a "return on their investment" in from school funding, or are most children educated here leaving the area after high school or college graduation.

Lusk said that part of attracting companies to our area, with their jobs and revenue, is to meet their number one concern, that we have talented people to fill their vacancies; and affordable housing.

Another speaker noted real estate assessments in the last four years have risen 41 percent higher than CPI. Lusk noted the state requirement to reassess properties every year and people's willingness to pay more for houses.

Lauren, who works with Meals on Wheels clients, said one of whom is concerned that her tax bill is higher than her mortgage once was. Lusk acknowledged that the County needs "innovative revenue sources so that home owners aren't bearing the tax burden." He is looking for emerging areas to offset the residential real estate taxes.

Other speakers supported public library funding and the park system. Not all questions were reached during the hour and a quarter time period.

While this would be Fairfax County's first real estate tax rate increase in six years, residential tax bills have continued to rise due to rising assessments. While Supervisor Lusk pointed to regional market forces impacting real estate assessment, the nearby jurisdictions of Alexandria, Loudoun, and Prince William have not proposed increases to their real estate tax rates for FY25; Arlington has proposed a 1.5 cent increase.

Residents can see more about the proposed budget at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/Assets/Documents/fy2025/advertised/FY2025AdvertisedBudgetPresentation.pdf>; or sign up to testify at the budget public hearing.

2024 Annual Members' Meeting
Tuesday, April 9 • 6:30-8 p.m.
Reston Association Conference Center
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191



Scan QR code to RSVP



CRYOXYGEN CLINIC  **The Solution to Modern Living**

 WHOLE BODY CRYOTHERAPY	 LOCALIZED CRYOTHERAPY	 MILD HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY
 INFRARED SAUNA	 DRY SALT THERAPY	 COMPRESSION THERAPY

Our philosophy is based on total balance, energy and proactive healing

www.cryoxygen.com

CONTACT: (703) 559-3669 | info@cryoxygen.com **LOCATION:** 2674 Avenir Pl E, Vienna, VA 22180

Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

ROUNDUPS

Personal Safety Presentation For Teenage Girls

An empowering and informative Teen Girls' Personal Safety Presentation will be presented virtually, Monday, April 1, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Offered by Fairfax County police, this program will equip teenage girls with the knowledge they need to feel confident in any situation.

The instructor will cover a wide range of crucial topics, including Crime Prevention, Situational Awareness, Observing Your Surroundings, Reducing the Risk of an Attack, Developing a Plan of Action, and Knowing When to Use Force. It's a valuable opportunity for teens to learn practical strategies that'll help them navigate the world with greater peace of mind.

The presentation is for girls 13-17, and they must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. (Parents may log in from a different location than your teen). To attend, people must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3PtOjRD>.

Faith-Based Meeting about Preventing Scams

The Sully Police District's quarterly Faith-Based Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2, from 9-10:30 a.m., at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road in Centreville. Melissa Smarr will discuss scams, plus how to recognize them and avoid becoming a victim. There'll also be updates from the Sully District Police Station, plus information about upcoming events. Light refreshments will be served. Those wanting to attend are asked to RSVP at https://www.signup-genius.com/go/10C0C4EAEA62DAAFAC43-48513918-2nd-quarter#.

Fairfax City Is Holding Art Contest

Each year, Fairfax City presents Spotlight on the Arts which showcases a wide variety of music, theatre, dance, visual, and literary art performances at venues throughout the City. It's sponsored by the City in cooperation with George Mason University and Fairfax's business and arts community.

This year, a new event is making its debut – the first annual Spotlight Art Contest – and the public will select the winners. It's open to everyone, with no age limits, and there's no fee to enter. The top three artists will each be presented with a cash award (and bragging rights) at the Spotlight Opening Reception on Friday, April 26.

The 39th annual Spotlight on the Arts Festival will be held April 25-28, and the organizers want to support local artists in the Central Fairfax region, enhance awareness of the visual arts, and encourage emerging artists in the community.

Participating artists will enter original works of art, and the Spotlight on the Arts Board will select 20 finalists from all the submissions. Finalists will then be eligible for the top three prizes: \$1,000 for first place; \$500, second place; and \$250, third place.

The 20 finalists' artwork will be displayed at the opening reception and will be offered for sale via a silent auction that evening. (However, artists may opt out of the silent auction, if they desire).

The art contest prize winners will be selected by ballots cast by attendees at the opening reception. The top three entries will be determined by the number of votes each receives.

All submissions must be received by Monday, April 1, at 4 p.m. Finalists will be notified by April 8 at 4 p.m. For art-contest rules and an entry form to submit artwork for consideration, go to <https://www.fairfaxspotlight.org/art-contest/>.

- BONNIE HOBBS

Man Charged with Indecent Exposure at Two Malls

Fairfax County police have charged a Maryland man with exposing himself at two local malls. He is Jamall Mathis, 29, and the incidents occurred at both the Fair Oaks and Springfield malls. Shopping Center Unit detectives, with the assistance of the police Fugitive Tracking and Apprehension Squad, made the arrest.



Mathis

According to police, on Jan. 11 at 5 p.m., officers responded to the Spencer's store inside Fair Oaks Mall for a report of a man exposing himself inside the store. Police say a detective assigned to that mall then began "a thorough investigation and identified Mathis as the suspect."

Afterward, officers assigned to the Springfield Mall allegedly tied him to a similar crime that had occurred there. Police say they were able to identify Mathis as "the suspect involved in an indecent-exposure incident that occurred Oct. 12, 2023, at Five Below" inside that mall.

Then, on March 15, officers assigned to the Fugitive Tracking and Apprehension Unit located Mathis in the Franconia district and arrested him. Mathis was charged with two counts of indecent exposure and later released on bond.

Due to the repeated nature of these offenses, officers are seeking additional victims. And if anyone recognizes Mathis or has information about these incidents, they're urged to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3.

Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), texting FCCS plus the tip to 847411, or going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>. Or download the P3 Tips' App, "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers." Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards. If they wish to be contacted by a detective, they should leave their contact information.

- BONNIE HOBBS

Where Comfort & Family Values Meet!

\$74

(Reg \$84)

Don't Forget Your Safety & Maintenance INSPECTION Per System

0%

APR FOR 36 MONTHS*

with equal payments. Minimum purchase of \$7,500.

CARRIER REBATES

UP TO \$2,100†



CARRIER RESIDENTIAL

FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER

Carrier

Turn to the experts



SALES | SERVICE | INSTALLATION

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Planned Maintenance Agreements
- Free Estimate on System Replacement
- FREE Second Opinion on System Failure
- Senior & Military Discounts
- We Service All Brands
- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee
- Up Front Pricing



SCAN CODE FOR MORE INFO

Call Today! 703-491-2771 | www.brennansHVAC.com | info@brennanshvac.com



†System rebates ranging from \$0 to \$2,100 depending on equipment purchased. Rebates subject to change. Expires 6/28/24. *With approved credit on qualifying equipment. Call Brennan's for complete details.

8 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 27 - APRIL 2, 2024

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SENIOR LIVING

Ilda's Overlook Senior Residences Opens in Braddock District

This new community, Ilda's Overlook, provides 80 affordable homes to seniors ages 62 and above with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income. Ilda's Overlook was built in partnership with Erickson Senior Living, who selected APAH as the affordable housing partner for the Woodleigh Chase Senior Living Community site, which was formerly the Northern Virginia Training Center. Ilda's Overlook contributes to Fairfax County's goal to increase the number of affordable housing units by 10,000 units by 2034.

Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA), Fairfax County officials and project partners celebrated the grand opening of Ilda's Overlook Senior Residences earlier in March.

"The delivery of Ilda's Overlook puts us at almost 1,000 new, affordable homes delivered since January of 2020. By the end of the calendar year, we will be close to 1,500 new homes. This is great progress and demonstrates that affordable housing belongs in all corners of Fairfax County, and across all generations," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay.

About Ilda's Overlook

The property's name, Ilda's Overlook, is a nod to Black history in Fairfax County. It references a community founded by Moses Parker and Horace Gibson, two blacksmiths

who were formerly enslaved but purchased their freedom and a plot of land after the Civil War. They created a bustling, integrated neighborhood and named it after Gibson's daughter Matilda's affectionate nickname, Ilda. "It's exciting to honor local history while we build for the future and strive for a more inclusive region," said APAH President and CEO, Carmen Romero.

Ilda's Overlook is designed for independent seniors to age in place, foster social connections and build a sense of community. The property is 100% universal design, ensuring accessibility to residents of varying ages and physical abilities, and is built to EarthCraft Gold standards, a high bar for sustainable construction and reduced energy consumption. Ilda's Overlook is APAH's first property to include rooftop solar panels. Amenities at Ilda's Overlook include in-unit washers and dryers, free Wi-Fi access for all residents, shared community spaces, a fitness and wellness suite, and community gardens.

Financing to build affordable housing requires complex collaboration. Ilda's Overlook, a \$31.5 million development, makes use of both 9% and 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) awarded by Virginia Housing; Truist purchased the LIHTC equity, providing more than \$16 million in project funding, and provided the construction loan. Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development supported the project



PHOTO CREDIT: JON FLEMING

Pictured from left to right: Ronnell Chatmon, Office of Congressman Gerry Connolly; Ryan Nash, APAH; Lauren Dillard, Virginia Housing; Rich Jordan, APAH Board; Chairman Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Deborah Lebeau, Resident; James Walkinshaw, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Tom Fleetwood & Chair Lenore Stanton, Fairfax County Housing & Redevelopment Authority; Carmen Romero, APAH; Scott Gensler, Erickson Senior Living; Mike Chiappa, APAH.

with a \$1.4 million loan from the Virginia Housing Trust Fund as well as \$1.9 million from the Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency program. The Federal Home Loan Bank provided a \$750,000 loan, and PNC Bank is the project's permanent financing lender.

Erickson Senior Living, who recently opened the neighboring 42-acre Woodleigh Chase condominium community for retirees, looks forward to welcoming senior residents from all walks of life. Grimm + Parker Architecture designed the new building and Harkins Builders is the general contractor.

"This is an exciting day and yet another step forward in our efforts to ensure that Fairfax County residents can live and age in our community," said Lenore Stanton, Chair of the Fairfax County Redevelopment

and Housing Authority.

Community Impact

"Ilda's Overlook Senior Residences provides much needed affordable housing for older adults in the Braddock District," said James Walkinshaw, Braddock District Supervisor, who cited the goal of improving the availability of high-quality affordable housing to older adults with this and other projects.

APAH provides onsite resident services at Ilda's Overlook, connecting residents to resources and providing programming, events, and opportunities. Residents will enjoy free shuttle service to nearby retail, transit, entertainment, or appointments, an amenity shared with APAH's Oakwood Meadow Senior Residences property. For more, visit <https://www.ildasoverlooksenior.com/>.

ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

Discover Vibrant Living for Seniors

IN THE HEART OF VIENNA

Sunrise of Vienna is a brand-new senior living community conveniently situated on Maple Avenue. Expert assisted living care and a personalized lifestyle await in our beautifully designed community, featuring:

- Amenities including a fitness center, salon, and theater
- Engaging activities and unique programming
- Fresh, seasonal cuisine crafted by our talented culinary team
- Tango Pastry, a quaint street-level coffee shop

For a limited time, we're offering exclusive pricing on select suites.



Book your personal tour by calling 703-719-8425 or visiting SunriseVienna.com.

©2024 Sunrise Senior Living

Dry Spell Leads to Fires

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue on Alert.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

The recent dry spell on the east coast led to fires across the region prompting action from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and neighbors to minimize injuries.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting in early March, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) recognized the Raceway Farms neighborhood for coming together during a house fire. The fire was spotted by the neighbors from the street, so they knocked on the front door, using the ring doorbell camera and calling 911 before the home's fire alarms went off. Everyone, two adults, a young child and the family dog got out safely, even as smoke was pouring into the house. The family credits neighbors with saving them. In the aftermath, "the family has been amazed by the outpouring of neighborhood support, some taking off work to help, buying groceries, babysitting and even launching an on-line fundraiser. The family says they will rebuild in the neighborhood that has shown them so much love," wrote Storck in his newsletter.

This was one of several fires this month. On March 14, firefighters arrived on scene of a fire at a

landfill in the 4600 block of West Ox Road in the Fair Lakes area. The fire was contained and crews remained on scene for an extended period of time, the Fire and Rescue Department reported.

On Wednesday, March 20 the FCFRD responded to a two-alarm townhouse fire in the 5700 block of Walnut Wood Lane in Burke. The fire was quickly brought under control and one person was transported with non life-threatening injuries, FCFRD said.

FCFRD reported that they responded to 26 outside fires in addition to the six structure fires since Monday, March 18. Later that week they released a warning to the public highlighting the significant fire activity, partially attributed to the high winds. "Dispatchers are getting a lot of calls for reports of smoke in all areas of the county. Significant fires in surrounding jurisdictions and high winds are bringing smoke to the area. Additionally, FCFRD is currently working six outside fires throughout the county," the FCFRD announcement said.

FCFRD urged everyone to exercise caution if handling open flames or equipment that create sparks. Also, use caution disposing of cigarette butts, matches, and other flammable items in appropriate containers. Keep vehicles off of



Fire in Fair Lakes on March 14..

dry grass and obey local burn bans. Most dry grasses, dead leaves, and other tree litter could easily ignite and spread fire quickly, FCFRD said.

Fatality from Winter Fire

The dry weather began earlier in the winter and there were several fire emergencies and one led to a fatality. On Saturday, Jan. 20, at approximately 5:58 p.m. FCFRD units were dispatched for a reported house fire in the 3800 block of Kings Hill Court in the

Mount Vernon area. Units arrived on the scene to find a two-story, single-family home with fire on the first floor extending to the second floor. Crews worked to extinguish the fire quickly. During search and rescue operations, one elderly male was rescued and transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. The man died later that evening. The cause of death is pending an autopsy and toxicology report from the medical examiner.

A neighbor observed the fire

from the rear of the structure and called 911. While smoke alarms were present in the residence, it remains uncertain whether they were activated. The ongoing investigation has identified the living room as the origin of the fire, although the exact cause is yet to be determined, FCFRD said. Red Cross assisted with the additional displaced occupants who were not home at the time of the fire. Damages were estimated at approximately \$475,500.



Fire at Wakefield Forest Elementary School on Thursday, March 21.

Southern Springfield Grows



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

At Springfield Town Center, there are plans for a hotel and apartments.

FROM PAGE 4

tion and Braided Ramps in Fairfax County," that will extend Frontier Drive through the Metro station and link with Loisdale Road near the area where the recent construction was occurring. According to VDOT, the project aims to relieve congestion and improve access to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station, the Springfield Town Center area, the General Services Administration complex, the Northern Virginia Community College Medi-

cal Education Campus and the new Transportation Security Administration building on Springfield Center Drive. This \$221.7 million project has no right-of-way acquisition date listed and no construction date yet.

The Amazon Data Center is going in closer to the intersection of Loisdale Road and Newington Road. The first data center building is up but there is additional land being cleared for more development. This is impacting 23 acres of land in the Springfield Planning Dis-



Along Loisdale Road, another car dealer is going in. The area for the car dealer is a 7.2 acre site owned by Sheehy Loisdale Property, LLC. A 10-foot asphalt trail along Loisdale Road will be put in with this car dealership.

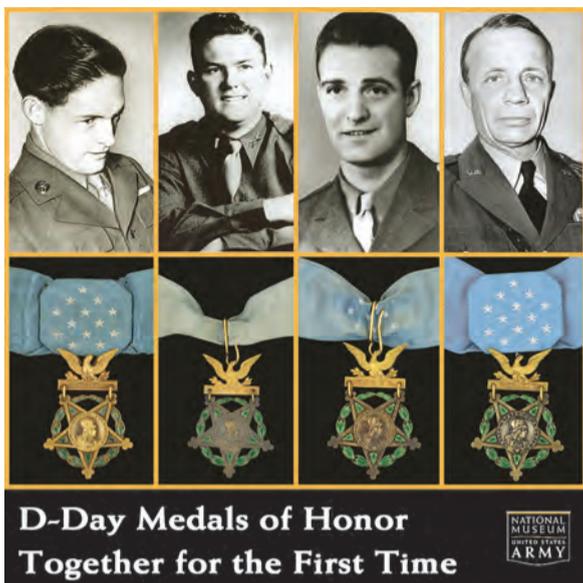
trict.

Another site is a vacant piece of property on Springfield Center Drive, adjacent to the NVCC medical education campus. This site is owned by Inova and is subject to an ongoing Comprehensive Plan amendment to consider residential mixed use and/or a continuing care facility, said a Fairfax County spokesperson.

The new FBI headquarters was slated for this area as well but instead is moving to a site in Maryland near the Greenbelt Metro

station. According to the General Services Administration, Greenbelt was determined to be the best option for the FBI.

In the fall of 2020, the Transportation Security Administration moved its headquarters from Arlington to Springfield in an area off Loisdale Road but in close proximity to the Metro station and the town center. The TSA building is at the rear of an industrial looking area and is not readily visible from Spring Mall Drive.



**D-Day Medals of Honor
Together for the First Time**

D-Day medals of honor are together for the first time in the exhibit.

Photo # SC-189986 Troops in an LCPV approaching Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944



80th anniversary of D-Day; exhibit opens April 6 at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY



80th anniversary of D-Day; exhibit opens April 6 at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.

Honoring Courageous Soldiers

Army Museum Commemorates D-Day's 80th Anniversary.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

If you ever fantasized about parachuting out of an airplane, check out the new D-Day exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. But if you successfully land, you'll be in a Nazi-occupied country on D-Day in the heat of World War II.

To honor those who participated in the invasion of German-occupied France on June 6, 1944, when the multi-nation Allied Expeditionary Forces landed on Normandy, France's beaches, the museum will stage a D-Day exhibit and host many educational

programs from April 6 to mid-November.

D-Day, code-named Operation Overlord, was one of the most complex land, sea and air operations ever at that time, the largest amphibious invasion in military history.

Historian David Ambrose wrote in his book, D-Day, "In one night and day, 175,000 fighting men and their equipment, including 50,000 vehicles of all types, ranging from motorcycles to tanks and armored bulldozers were transported across 60 to 100 miles of open water and landed on a hostile shore against intense opposition. They were either carried by or supported by 5,333 ships and crafts of all types and almost 11,000 airplanes ... It was as if the cities of Green Bay, Racine, and Kenosha Wisconsin, were

picked up and moved – every man, woman, and child, every automobile and truck – to the east side of Lake Michigan in one night."

Led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, the military

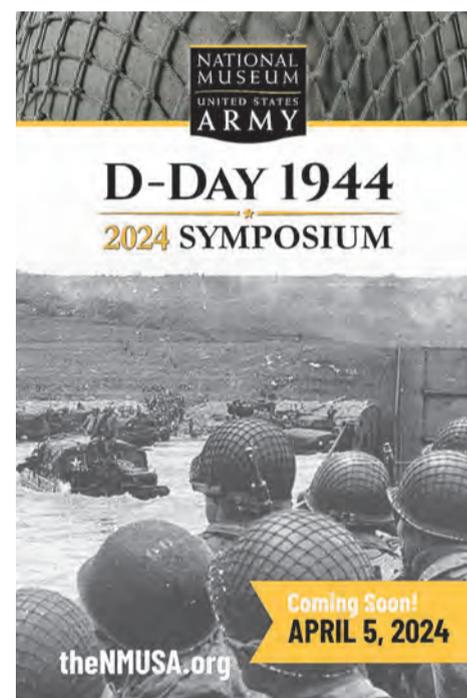
"I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory."

– General Dwight D. Eisenhower

alliance had meticulously planned the unprecedented invasion. The troops crossed the English channel, secured Normandy's beaches and

went on to liberate Paris. Many credit the historic battle with turning the tide against the Nazis, leading to the defeat of the Axis Powers led by German chancellor Adolph Hitler.

For the war, the United States had grown the U.S. Army from 170,000 men in 1940 to



Register for the virtual symposium at bit.ly/DDay2024.

SEE HONORING COURAGEOUS, PAGE 19



The National Museum of the U. S. Army at Fort Belvoir.



A World War II Sherman Cobra King tank on display at the museum permanently. The exhibit on the 80th anniversary of D-Day opens April 6.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Affordable, Senior Housing

FROM PAGE 3

be elderly – and a lot of them have hearing difficulties – the ambient noise outside should be addressed to make an environment people will feel comfortable in.”

At last week’s hearing before the Supervisors, Emma Estes with the county’s Department of Planning and Development said the site is nearly 3.8 acres and is in the 65-70 dba (decibels) noise zone. But Van Atta said the noise meets “acceptable levels” on the property.

“We’ll provide an abrogation easement to MWAA [underscoring airplanes’ right to fly over the property] and will disclose the site’s proximity to the airport in all our marketing materials,” he said. Van Atta added that potential residents would be told “overflights and associated noise may impact them.” And he said both county staff and the Planning Commission had approved Agape’s proposal.

Then Mould of MWAA addressed the Supervisors. “Proponents of the project note that the homes would be just outside [an aircraft] noise-contour line,” he said. “But this project is very, very close to the flight paths and the end of the runway. When planes are coming in for a landing, they’re at their lowest and loudest point, right before they get onto the runway. And this runway is in major use around the clock It’s



Artist’s rendition of the building, looking north.

one of Dulles’s main runways, and it will be a fairly constant quality-of-life issue for people living here.”

“The best way to avoid airplane-noise problems is to keep housing away from high-noise zones,” he continued. “[That’s where] aircraft noise is the loudest, has the greatest impact, causes the most problems and generates the most complaints.” Furthermore, said Mould, since airplanes greatly decrease their altitude when preparing to land on the runway, they’re only about 500 feet overhead then – or roughly the height of the Washington Monument.

He said that’s how low they’d fly over Agape’s housing project, and “these are really big planes flying

SEE AGAPE DULLES, PAGE 13

Opposition To Agape

FROM PAGE 3

of Supervisors to stand up and do the right thing by future residents.”

Also in response to Smith’s misleading statement, WFC-CA President Stephen Chulick, said, “This is unconscionable. By now, Kathy must be very aware of our concerns about the county’s failure to adopt MWAA’s updated noise contours and our objections to virtually every residential development in Westfields.”

David Mould, MWAA vice president, Communications and Government Affairs, weighed in as well on the issue of allowing homes to be built in areas MWAA deems too noisy for residents. And while the majority of Dulles Airport’s 2023 airplane-noise complaints came from Loudoun County’s Birchwood/Brambleton neighborhood, he said people living in homes built in Chantilly’s notorious Land Unit J area also made their feelings known.

“In Fairfax County, communities south of Route 50, both new and older residential, submitted 495 complaints,” said

Mould. “We expect that number to rise substantially when people start moving into the new communities that have been approved for construction in high-noise areas.”

In fact, he added, “Just south of Route 50, one new development is in line with Runway 01-R. In this community [Commonwealth Place at Westfields], just north of the Wegmans on Newbrook Drive in Chantilly, there is one resident who submitted 191 aircraft noise complaints in 2023.”

During the pandemic – when residents’ abilities to directly comment to the supervisors on local construction proposals was severely hampered by virtual meetings – the supervisors approved for construction nearly 1,000 homes under the flight paths in Land Unit J. Also in 2020, when the Board had the chance to adopt MWAA’s updated, 2019 aircraft-noise contours data for that area, it chose not to.

Instead, during the July 21, 2020, meeting of its Land-Use Policy Committee – chaired by

SEE OPPOSITION, PAGE 13

Are you 55 and older and want to age at home?

Check out the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

PACE can offer:

- Personalized medical services
- At-home nursing and personal care
- Transportation
- Social activities & community support

Visit cherryblossompace.com or call (833) 851-7454



Cherry Blossom
PACE Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly



Agape Dulles

FROM PAGE 12

loudly on flight paths that have been in use since the airport opened in 1962. And these flight paths cannot be changed, because of their proximity to the runway. Flights also depart along this same path, and they're much louder when they're taking off. So departing planes would be an even bigger noise problem for people living here – especially when they're trying to sleep – because this goes on 24/7.”

Mould then showed the Supervisors a map depicting the flightpaths' proximity to where the senior housing would go. “The red lines on this map are the departure paths, and the gray circle next to the arrow at the bottom is the proposed location of this project,” he explained. “Very large planes are either landing or taking off from this runway 400-plus times a day. And that number will only grow as air traffic increases in the years ahead.

“If homes are built here, there will be complaints about noise to the airport as well as to the county. It's already happening in other places where new housing was built under flight paths, despite the airport's repeated cautions about noise. One community not far from here was built just a few years ago, near the end of another Dulles runway. It was approved after the developers and their lawyers and consultants insisted there wouldn't be a noise problem.”

“But the people who moved into the houses disagree,” continued Mould. “And last year, more than 70 percent of all the noise complaints we received around Dulles Airport were from this one community. So the Airports Authority respectfully requests that



PHOTO COURTESY OF MWAA

Photo of an airplane flying 500 feet above the site where senior housing will be built.

this project not be approved at this particular location to avoid having the same kind of problem here.”

Van Atta, however, said the applicant's noise study showed that most of the site would have an average 54 dba, with “a sliver of it in the 65-70 dba range.” He said the building and recreation areas are in the 60-65 dba, with only the surface parking in the 65-plus dba. “The building interior will be no more than 45 dba and will have thicker windows, additional insulation and other noise-mitigation measures,” said Van Atta.

SEE COUNTY SUPERVISORS OK, PAGE 14

Opposition To Agape

FROM PAGE 12

Smith, in whose district all those new homes would be built – the supervisors decided to keep using the data from 1993. That antiquated noise-contour data is now 31 years old; but still, Smith and the Board persist.

And the continuing push to approve more and more housing projects near the airport troubles MWAA.

“For decades, people didn't build in these areas,” said Mould. “Dulles is the only major airport on the East Coast with room to grow, and it's in a great position to contribute to the Northern Virginia economy. But when all the other already-approved residential projects in the Land Unit J area [become occupied], we anticipate the noise complaints will sharply increase, just as they did in Birchwood/Brambleton.”

Regarding Agape's project, Mould stressed that the developer's noise study showing a 54 dba level at the building site was done over 24 hours from March 4-5, 2022 – when fewer planes were flying because of the pandemic. At that time, said

Mould, “Dulles had a total of 599 flight operations (takeoffs and landings). Today, Dulles is averaging about 820 daily operations.”

Furthermore, he noted, “That study was conducted on a Friday through Saturday, and weekends are traditionally slower days for air traffic. So it doesn't represent the current reality – or future projections – of Dulles air traffic.

“In addition, these studies are normally conducted over a much-longer period of time, because just studying one, 24-hour period doesn't give a complete and accurate picture of future noise levels or of what residents in this area would typically experience.”

In an email sent to the Board before its March 19 meeting, the citizen's land-use committee expressed its concerns about Agape's proposal, and noise was among them. “The noise from aircraft overflights will lessen residents' enjoyment of any outdoor spaces and activities,” wrote the committee. It also wondered if potential

SEE OPPOSITION, PAGE 14

Reach
your
audience
in
2024

Turn to the Connection Newspapers digital and print advertising options to reach customers in your community!



- EMAIL BLASTS
- DIGITAL BILLBOARDS
- FRONT PAGE SHOUTOUT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SPONSORED CONTENT

For Advertising: Call 703.778.9431 or Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job is complete for the past 17 years

Free Estimates **703-999-2929**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

County Supervisors OK ‘Worthy Project in Bad Location’

FROM PAGE 13

He noted that the outside decibel level wouldn't change, whether MWAA's updated 2019 noise contours are used or the outdated ones from 1993 that the county insists on using – even though they're more than three decades old. “And we'll have post-construction noise studies done, and if the building is above 45 dba, we'd go back and retrofit it before anyone occupies it,” said Van Atta. “We think we're putting forth a good project and this is a good location for affordable housing.”

Supervisor Walt Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) asked if there'd be mitigation, 10 or 20 years later, if the noise increases. “Once it's occupied, we're not going to do anymore testing,” replied Van Atta. “But there must still be compliance with that 45 dba interior proffer, which would continue with all succeeding tenants.”

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) then made a motion to approve Agape's proposal. “This is such an important need for our community to have senior living at 60 percent or below area median income,” she said. “The applicant has worked really hard on this project. It is in a good location. People living there will be able

to get to businesses, there are bus routes around, and our community center isn't far away.

“So I'm supportive of this project. The Planning Commission approved, the Joint Sully Land-Use Committee approved it and [it] meets the expectations of the zoning ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.”

Members of the joint land-use committee disagreed, saying the “committee's position on [this] application is [being] misrepresented to justify a controversial approval.” (See sidebar.)

Alcorn supported the motion, but told staff, “In future cases like this, we need the ability to ensure compliance with the 45 dba interior requirement. And although the state legislature threw out any possibility of us requiring disclosure in the Airport Noise Overlay Area generally, we'll have to be creative about where we get proffers.”

The Board then approved the project, 9-1, with only Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) voting no. “I think it's a great use in a bad location,” he said. “I don't support residential in flight paths. The future of Dulles Airport is too important and, hopefully, it's going to continue to grow.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FCPS PRIDE

Chris McCormick, one of FCPS Pride's co-chairs, addresses the school board.

FCPS Pride Rally

FROM PAGE 6

ciations, and clergy, such as Delegates Marcus Simon and Laura Jane Cohen, Amber Beichler from Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington, Chuck Ronco of the Fairfax Foundation Association, and Pastor Jung Pyo Hong spoke at the rally.

Del. Laura Jane Cohen, former Fairfax County school board member (2019- 2023), said, “I was proud to have the opportunity, as we approach Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, to not only speak as a delegate and former school board member, but also as the mom of a trans young person. As we continue to bear horrific tragedies in our community, most recently the tragic loss of Nex Benedict, we are reminded that family love and acceptance aren't always enough,” Cohen said. “As a mom and a Delegate, I will continue to fiercely fight to ensure schools across the Commonwealth are inclusive, affirming, and supportive places where all our children can thrive.”

The students also plan to celebrate Transgender Visibility Day in Fairfax County on March 31. On March 19, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a proclamation in a vote of 9-0, with Supervisor Pat Herry of Springfield out of the room, that March 31 be designated as Transgender Visibility Day. Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisors Bierman, Walkinshaw, Lusk, Alcorn, Jimenez, Storck, Palchik, and Smith requested the proclamation. Reading the proclamation, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (D-Dranesville) said in part, “In celebration of the county's richly diverse population and our One Fairfax policy, we affirm and restate our commitment to building a culture of inclusion and acceptance of transgender individuals ... and urge all residents to support the transgender community.”

Shortly before the 6 p.m. rally, a FCPD officer responded to Luther Jackson Middle School. An LGBTQIA+ supporter reported a larceny, according to a police

spokesperson in an email to The Connection. The spokesperson wrote that the complainant advised police she posted two pride flag signs on school property, and as soon as she walked away, a man took both signs and put them in his vehicle and drove away. “The motive of the larceny is currently under investigation,” the police spokesperson said.

“I am very sad that the yard signs were taken in front of our eyes,” Rigby texted to The Connection after the rally. “It seemed just a very uncharitable thing to do. He took our symbols of inclusion and community during our celebration,” he said.

The American First Legal release on March 5 states, “FCPS Regulation 2603 requires all students to refer to ‘students who identify as gender-expansive or transgender by their chosen name and pronoun, regardless of the name and gender recorded in the student's permanent pupil record.’ In practice, this rule requires students to adhere to a woke agenda that denies reality [and] even more disturbingly, the rule allows students to use the restroom and locker room ‘consistent with the student's gender identity.’”

The lawsuit is on behalf of an FCPS practicing Roman Catholic high school student “for allowing teenage boys to use the female restrooms and for forcing a radical, government-sponsored gender indoctrination and approved-speech scheme that discriminates against students on the basis of sex and religion and violates their free speech rights under the Virginia Constitution,” according to America First Legal.

Jane Doe v. Fairfax County School Board, stems from Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Virginia Department of Education Model Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools, 2023, effective July 18 of last year for the treatment of transgender and non-binary students.

SEE PRIDE RALLY, PAGE 15
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Committee and MWAA Explain their Opposition

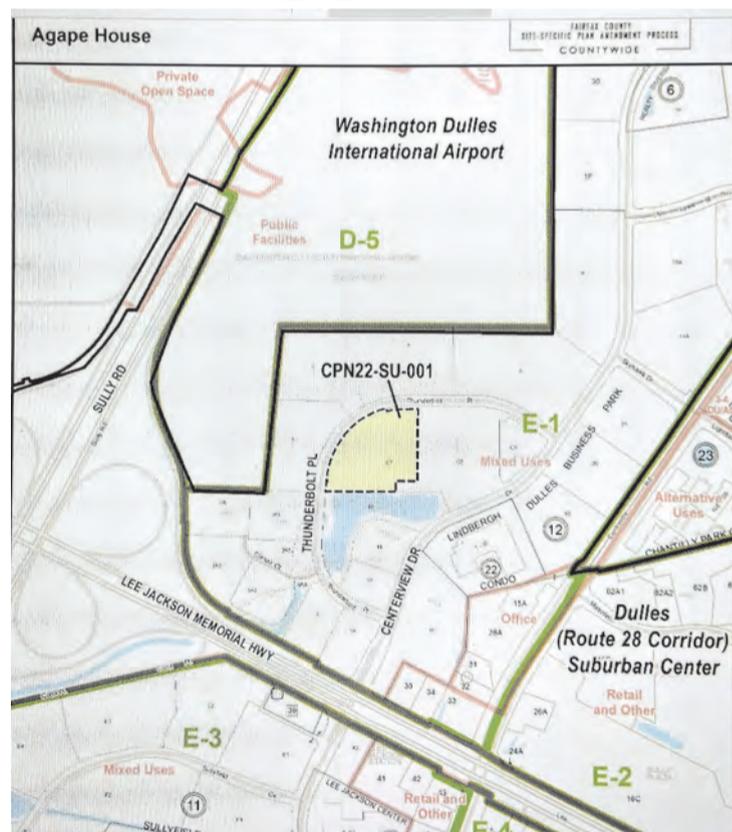
FROM PAGE 13

residents would really have a “clear understanding” of just how noisy it would be.

“Visiting the facility and living there are two completely different matters, and sound tolerance decreases with time,” the committee said. “We question what landscaping can be provided to soften sound reverberations in these outdoor recreation areas.”

The committee also recommended a pedestrian connection from Centerview Drive to Centreville Road to give residents a shorter, more direct route to the Sully Plaza shopping center. And it suggested marking a bike lane along Thunderbolt Place so seniors wouldn't have to share the road right-of-way with motorists. It said the facility needed more parking for staff, visitors and residents with their own vehicles. And it recommended a communal dining area for residents' socialization, plus indoor amenities, such as pool tables and darts, for additional recreation.

Now, the Board has another email from the land-use committee, calling out Smith's action at last week's meeting. And two county residents are among those glad the committee isn't



Map showing how close Agape's housing project is to Dulles International Airport.

letting it go unnoticed.

“Smith rarely acknowledges the committee's hard work, concerns and recommendations, as it is,” said Sheila Dunheimer. “Her outright misrepresentation is definitely a ‘red line’ that should

not be tolerated.”

“Clearly, the joint committee had many concerns,” added Jehanne Arslan. “Smith's misrepresentation is a regrettable lapse which ultimately reflects badly upon the entire Board.”

FCPS Explains Opt-Out Notification For Holocaust Speaker

FROM PAGE 4

wrote, "Students in History 7 are currently learning about World War II, which includes a lesson focused on the Holocaust. Cooper has engaged a Holocaust survivor to visit and speak to our 7th-grade students. This year's speaker is Ruth Cohen ... If you prefer to opt your child out of participating in this presentation, please email your child's teacher, and they will be provided an alternate assignment."

According to the FCPS spokesperson, Cooper Middle School in McLean "invited a Holocaust survivor as a guest speaker to talk with students as a supplement to classroom learning about the Holocaust and World War II." She noted that some years ago, several Jewish students at Cooper Middle School voiced anxiety about the visit, so they partnered with parents to work with them.

"They [the families] could make the best decision on behalf of their child," the spokesperson for FCPS wrote. "To be clear, students are not able to opt out of our lessons about the Holocaust, which are part of the social studies seventh-grade curriculum," she wrote and provided the 2024 FCPS 2023-234 Grades K-8 Opt Forms. According to FCPS, the Holocaust is included in the Virginia Department of Education

History and Social Science Standards. "The learning objectives around the Holocaust are a required part of the curriculum," said the FCPS spokesperson.

Holocaust-specific "important learning opportunities" refer to the "supplemental learning opportunities" to hear directly from a Holocaust survivor "after students complete FCPS curriculum lessons on World War II and the Holocaust." The school letter by the administrator indicated an opt-out for "the speaker's visit, which enhances classroom learning," the spokesperson clarified.

The Cooper Middle School administrator's published letter erroneously stated, "This year's speaker is Ruth Cohen." An FCPS spokesperson noted that "Col. Frank Cohn spoke."

According to FCPS, it will continue to work with administrators and educators to prepare all students for comparable learning experiences so they feel comfortable in these programs and understand behavioral standards.

"We hope this message clears up any confusion, and we are grateful to continue our work partnering with the Jewish Community Relations Council to offer this meaningful learning experience for our students and families," the FCPS spokesperson said.

FCPS Pride Rally

FROM PAGE 14

The Virginia Department of Education Model Policies 2023 sparked criticism from LGBTQIA+ advocates, like FCPS Pride. School divisions, including Richmond, Arlington, and Fairfax, refused to adopt the new version of policies that limit access to restrooms, in tension with federal law (*Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board*), prohibit teachers and school staff from calling students by their affirming names and pronouns unless there is written permission from a parent; and allow teachers and staff to disregard parent's written instruction and misname and misgender students in the classroom based on their personal beliefs among other things.

ACLU Virginia reacted with Breanna Diaz, ACLU of Virginia Policy and Legislative Counsel, who said at the time, "We are horrified that VDOE opted to move forward with proposed model policies that at best invite — and at worst, require — discrimination, that violate state and federal law, and that have no place in Virginia schools."

The "guidance document," as the Virginia Department of Education termed

it, rolled back protections for trans and non-binary students enacted under Gov. Ralph Northam's administration, the Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools (2020).

On Aug. 15, 2023, Michelle Reid, Ed.D, Superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools, rejected the Model Policies 2023, issuing a Superintendent Message, telling parents the district's existing policies still stood "for our gender expansive and transgender students." Reid added that a detailed legal review determined that the current Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) policies on transgender and gender-expansive students were consistent with federal and state anti-discrimination laws.

In reaction, on Aug. 23, 2023, Jason S. Miyares, Attorney General of Virginia issued an official Attorney General's Opinion, saying that "model Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools ... do not violate federal or state discrimination laws ... [and] pursuant to Code § 22.1-23.3, local school boards are required to adopt policies that are consistent with these model policies."



tranzon
A BETTER WAY TO REAL ESTATE

LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION
Thurs., April 18, 2024, 1 p.m.



10,000+ SQ. FT. EXECUTIVE ESTATE ON 5± ACRES
GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA
436 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066

Nestled on 5± acres, this 6-bedroom estate is a masterpiece of luxury living. With elegant finishes, 12 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, two spacious primary suites, and multiple entertainment areas, this home is a true gem.

All bedrooms are en suite, and you'll find multiple staircases, an office/library, four-car garage, circular driveway, an elevator-ready shaft and so much more.

Open Houses: April 6 (Sat.) & 14 (Sun.), 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



TRANZON.COM/KEY5025
Tranzon Key | VAAF 423

888.621.2110
TRANZON.COM

State Farm Insurance

G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS



State Farm™
AUTO • HOME • LIFE
FINANCIAL SERVICES



Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays

Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit www.gstephendulaney.com



703-759-4155

731-C WALKER RD. · GREAT FALLS, VA

State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois

Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

BONITA LESTINA

FAIRFAX OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Enjoy an evening of music showcasing a variety of genres in the elegant interior of historic Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) in the heart of Fairfax City. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8 p.m. and run from October to April. Admission is free. Visit: www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts.

SCHEDULE

April 5: Francesca Hurst – Solo Piano
April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

MARCH 9 TO APRIL 14

"Every Brilliant Thing." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center Performing Arts, announces its newest production, Every Brilliant Thing, a heartfelt one-person play that celebrates the little things that make life brilliant. "Every Brilliant Thing" is an interactive solo performance piece that explores the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity to find joy in all the little things. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and range from \$25 to \$35. For more information, visit the website (www.workhousearts.org).

MARCH 23 – APRIL 13, 2024

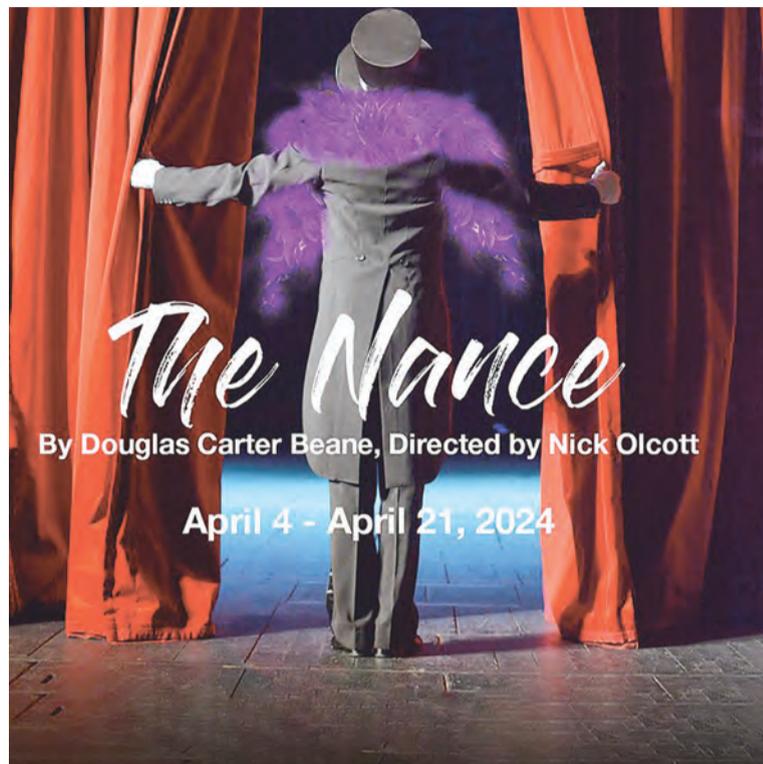
Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Adapted by Ken Ludwig. It's 1934, just after midnight, and a snowstorm has stopped the opulent sleeper train in its tracks. A wealthy American businessman is discovered dead, and the brilliant and beautifully mustachioed Hercule Poirot must solve the mystery before the murderer strikes again.

MARCH 25 TO APRIL 19

Mason Exhibitions. Mason Exhibitions presents two exhibitions on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus, Faces & Figures: Identity Through Printmaking in South Africa at Gillespie Gallery in the Art and Design Building from March 25—April 19 with an opening reception on Tuesday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Roots & Reflections: Contemporary Chinese Artists in DC at Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery on display through April 19.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center's Center Stage, Reston. The internationally renowned ensemble,



"The Nance" will be shown April 4-21, 2024 at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

ble, rooted for more than 50 years in African American traditions and modern dance legacy, brings both the iconic and the innovative to the stage.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

"Saving Claire" Documentary. 11 a.m.-noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Saving Claire" is an innovative new tool for fall prevention which tells the story of denying gravity. "Saving Claire" works. It is tested, repeatable, and a scalable model. There will be a panel discussion following the documentary viewing.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

"The Tales of Beatrix Potter". 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With dancers of The Royal Ballet. This live-action film adapts the animal stories of Beatrix Potter into a full-fledged ballet performance danced by various stars of the Royal Ballet. An ideal film for both children and adults. Rated G.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Maunder Thursday. 7:30 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean. This service commemorates Jesus Christ's institution of the eucharist during the last supper. The Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey will preach, reflecting on I Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31b-35. There will be two services on Good Friday, March 29. One at Noon and one at 7:30 pm, both in the Sanctuary. These services will focus on the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John. Good Friday services commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death on the cross at Calvary. The service will be led by the Rev. Layne Brubaker.

Both evening services will also be live streamed on our website and our YouTube Channel. Join us as we observe these important days in the Christian year and as we prepare for the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Easter Egg Hunt. At Lewinsville Pres-

byterian Church, at corner of Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street in McLean.

- ❖ Hunt #1 will be for pre-school children ages 2 through Kindergarten age 5 from 9:30 to 10:15 am.
 - ❖ Hunt #2 will be for grades 1-3 at 11:00 to 11:45 am.
 - ❖ And Hunt #3 will be for children grades 4-5 held at 12:30 – 1:15 pm.
- Each hunt will begin in the Pavilion (the garden area to the north-east of the main parking lot) with activities and games. Egg hunts will follow in the garden surrounding the Pavilion.

EASTER SERVICE

Celebrate the joy of Easter with us at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. They will have three services of worship:

The sunrise service will be held at 6:30 a.m. in the cemetery and will be led by the Rev. Layne Brubaker. This will be a small, informal worship setting in the location which has provided a final resting place for members of the Tysons-McLean community for more than 175 years.

Our 9:00 am and 11:00 am Services of Worship will be a traditional Easter service in the sanctuary featuring commissioned music by David Conte, with Brass, Organ & Tympani. Lewinsville Choirs will provide glorious music of the season.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey will preach at both services, reflecting on Isaiah 25:6-9 and Mark 16:1-18. The 9 am and 11 am services will also be live streamed on our website and on our YouTube channel.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Spring Fest. 10 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join your neighbors to celebrate the changing of seasons with self-guided arts and crafts, entertainment and the opportunity for your children to get a photo with Bunny. Bring your camera and smartphone for photos! An MCC staff member will be on hand to take a photo of you and your family.



Mutts Gone Nuts can be seen Saturday, April 6, 2024 at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

ENJOY EGG-CELLENT

SPRING CELEBRATIONS AT FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS!

Spring is in the air and the Fairfax County Park Authority is gearing up for a season of family-friendly fun with all sorts of egg hunts and spring celebrations at several locations throughout the county. Enjoy festive activities for all ages in the park – the perfect setting for creating lasting spring memories:

Spring EGG-stravaganza at Lake Fairfax Park on March 23 from 3:30-5 p.m. Cost \$8.

Baskets & Bunnies at Burke Lake Park on March 30

Amusements tickets, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Cost \$10 (online ticketing open until March 28. Limited day-of sales).

Egg Hunt Ticket (1-4 years). Choose times between 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost \$5 (online ticketing open until March 28. Limited day-of sales).

Bubbles and Bunnies at Cub Run Rec Center on March 30, 9-10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost \$20.

Easter Egg Hunt at Colvin Run Mill on March 30. Choose times between noon to 3:45 p.m. Cost \$8.

Mini Golf Egg-plorations at Oakmont Rec Center on March 30. Choose times between 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost \$15.

Egg-speriments at Hidden Oaks Nature Center on April 6, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Cost \$10.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

"Empowering Women for Their Future." 2-4 p.m. At Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Road, Chantilly. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Women in NAACP. This event promises to be an inspiring gathering celebrating the contributions of women throughout history and exploring ways to empower women for the future. Guest speakers who will share their insights and experiences:

Jatrice Martel Gaiter: Executive Vice President, External Affairs for Volunteers America

Angela V. Harris: Award-winning Coach, Technologist, and Philanthropist Jneva Norfleet: Program

Analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation

APRIL 1-30

Young at Art Exhibit for 55+ Plus Age Group. At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. This free exhibit, for two-dimensional art only, will take place from Monday, April 1 to Tuesday, April 30. A reception and presentation of awards is planned for Thursday, April 13th in the Community Room from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to view the art and present several fun awards. At 2:15 p.m., you are invited to attend a performance by violinist Miles Stiebel at the CenterStage.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

"The Salesman" Film. 1 p.m. (Iran and France; Directed Asghar Farhadi) Shown in Farsi with English subtitles. From the director of "A Separation," a married couple perform in Arthur Miller's 1949 play "Death of a Salesman" on stage. When the wife is assaulted, her husband attempts to determine the identity of the attacker, while she struggles to cope with post-traumatic stress. Winner of a Cannes Film Festival and Oscar award.

APRIL 4-21

"The Nance." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. This witty, Tony Award-Nominated play, filled with music, dance, and comedy sketches, introduces us to Chauncey Miles, a gay burlesque performer at the Irving Place Theater. The Nance recreates the naughty, raucous world of burlesque's heyday and tells the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. At a time when it was easy to play gay and dangerous to be gay, Chauncey's uproarious antics on the stage stand out in marked contrast to his offstage life. Visit www.1st-stage.org or call 703-854-1856.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024. <https://ahsgardening.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/springgardenmarket2024/>

APRIL 5-7
“STOMP” At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. STOMP is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The percussive hit also brings new surprises, with sections of the show now updated and restructured and the addition of two new full-scale routines, utilizing props such as tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. Visit capitalonehall.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Trout Fishing in America. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center’s Center Stage, Reston. Trout Fishing in America is the longstanding, four-time Grammy-nominated musical partnership of Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Mutts Gone Nuts. at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Prepare to be bow-wow-ed! Canines and comedy collide in Mutts Gone Nuts when husband and wife duo Scott and Joan Houghton return to the Center for the Arts and unleash their troupe of four-legged friends for a dog-thrilling extravaganza like no other. The show includes some of the most talented dogs in the world doing barrel tricks, dancing, magic, and jump rope routines! The talented furry lineup even includes a Guinness World Record holder for the highest jump by a dog at 75 and 1/2 inches and a world champion frisbee dog.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Founder’s Day. At Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. 12 to 4 p.m. Reston Museum.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

um will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Founder’s Day, which began as a celebration of Reston’s founder Robert E. Simon Jr.’s 90th birthday. The event has continued every year since, showcasing how Reston’s community continues to live the legacy established by Simon. Lake Anne Plaza will be filled with the music of performers, a community clean up, book fair, and family-friendly activities. Learn more at restonmuseum.org/event-details/founders-day-2.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Bluebells at the Bend Festival. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This family-friendly event offers fun for all ages, including:
Wildflower Walks: Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of spring as you stroll through fields of vibrant bluebells and other wildflowers, guided by knowledgeable experts.

Live Music: Enjoy performances as you take in the sights and sounds of nature in full bloom.

Up-Close Encounters: Get up close and personal with live animals and learn fascinating facts about the creatures that call Riverbend Park home.

Creative Kids’ Crafts: Spark your little ones’ imagination with hands-on crafts and activities designed to inspire creativity and wonder.

Exciting Exhibitors: Explore a variety of exhibits showcasing local organizations, artists and environmental initiatives that celebrate the beauty and importance of nature.

Delicious Food: Indulge your taste buds with a delectable selection of food offerings that are sure to satisfy cravings and fuel your adventure.



“Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express” will be featured March 23-April 13, 2024, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. <https://thelittletheatre.com/performances/>

Tickets are \$10 per person online until April 5, and \$12 per person on the day of the event.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Get Healthy Vienna! Expo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, Vienna. The Vienna-Oakton community is abundant in businesses that meet the health, wellness, fitness, and social engagement needs of local residents. On April 6, the Vienna Business Association (VBA) will showcase a cross-section of these businesses and organizations at the 2nd Annual Get Healthy Vienna! Expo 2024. It will feature up to 50 exhibitors who will share information about the services and products that their businesses or organizations provide. This year’s Expo will feature a Kids and Families Zone, which will include children’s activities and demonstrations throughout the day. There will be a special appearance by various Superheroes, courtesy of the Vienna Singing Princesses, face-paintings, and health-related activities for kids. Moreover, an adult section will include a robust variety of health and wellness providers, and special presentations throughout the day.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6
Into the Woods: A Spring Celebration at Frying Pan Farm Park. At 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and noon. Celebrate the cherry blossoms’ arrival and join them in the woods of Frying Pan Farm Park for a nature-filled experience. Into the Woods is a free, fun-for-all-ages, self-paced tour that promises to ignite your sense of wonder and discovery. Visitors can enjoy:
Unique Natural Wonders: Discover the magic of Frying Pan Farm Park’s woods, where the combination of spring sunshine and rare soil creates a vibrant ecosystem.
Self-Paced Exploration: Embark on a nature-filled adventure at your own pace, starting from the main park entrance. Follow the trail near the historic meetinghouse and prepare to be amazed at every turn.

Interactive Stations: Along the trail, encounter stations designed for wildlife appreciation, fairy house building and craft-making. Let your creativity soar as you engage with the natural world around you.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7
Chamber Music Series – The Borisevich Duo. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingle-side Ave., McLean. Back by very popular demand, this dynamic husband-wife duo not only make beautiful music together, but they enrich their performances by sharing insight and music history with the audience.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7
Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel – Three Great Romantics. At 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax.

MONDAY/APRIL 8
“Confessions of a Good Samaritan.” 5 p.m. At GMU’s Johnson Center Cinema, Fairfax. The Visiting Filmmakers Series invites you to a free screening of Confessions of a Good Samaritan, followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, Penny Lane, and Dr. Lisa Eckenwiler, Professor and Chair of GMU’s Department of Philosophy. In the film, director Penny Lane’s decision to become a “Good Samaritan” by giving one of her kidneys to a stranger launches her on an unexpectedly funny, intimate, and provocative personal quest to understand the nature of altruism.

MONDAY/APRIL 8
Enjoy Viewing the Solar Eclipse. Don’t miss out on the unique opportunity to view a solar eclipse with the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Park Authority has prepared extraordinary eclipse viewing activities at locations throughout the county on Monday, April 8. Join them for a safe viewing experience that will include both pre- and post-eclipse activities, games and demonstrations. April 8 viewing event locations include:
 Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (2-4 p.m.)

Burke Lake Park (2-4 p.m.)
 Historic Huntley (1:30-4:30 p.m.)
 Turner Farm Park (1:30-4:30 p.m.)
 Event admission is \$10 per person. Each location will have a limited number of eclipse-viewing glasses, and sun-spotting scopes will be available to view the eclipse thanks to donations from the Fairfax County Park Foundation. Participants are encouraged to bring portable chairs and blankets.

APRIL 11-12
American Daffodil Society Convention. At Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Thursday, April 11, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. | Friday, April 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Daffodils signal the true arrival of Spring! Blooming en masse there is little that rivals the spectacle, but get closer and you will see the utter miracle, the vast variety, and sheer beauty of these springtime arrivals. The American Daffodil Society (ADS) offers the opportunity to the general public to capture a glimpse of thousands of blooms during their 70th Anniversary ADS Convention. Stunning varieties, many centuries old, and others so innovative and new that they have not yet been named will enthrall you. From the popular yellow trumpets to blooms that measures ¼ inch across and colors of pale yellow to white and rose, collections and individual blooms will be exhibited. This will be a show/convention not to be missed.

ARTSCREEN:
A FREE FILM SERIES CELEBRATING THE ARTS
Join in a free film series on Friday evenings in the City of Fairfax at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Films begin at 7:30 p.m. Free popcorn, candy, refreshments and door prizes, too!
 April 12: *Midnight in Paris.* (2011) PG-13 - While on a trip to Paris with his fiancée’s family, a nostalgic screenwriter finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920s every day at midnight.

**The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY**



\$1000 OFF*
AND
**No Payments & No Interest
For 18 Months****
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/24

BCI BATH & SHOWER
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/24. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

Call today and receive a
**FREE SHOWER
PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB**

1-877-591-9950

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445







FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

**Leaf Filter® CLOG-FREE GUTTERS
FOREVER**

GUTTER PROTECTION



THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + 10% OFF + 0%
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* SENIORS & MILITARY! APR FOR 24 MONTHS**

USA Promo Code: 285
FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST A COMPANY OF LEAFHOME

**Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms for 24 mo. apply to qualifying purchases of \$1,000 or more with approved credit. Minimum monthly payments will not pay off balance before end of promotional period. APR for new purchases is 28.99% Effective: 01/01/2023 - subject to change. Call 1-800-431-5921 for complete details. 27th leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. *For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. Offer valid at time of estimate only. See Representative for full warranty details. Manufactured in Plainwell, Michigan and processed at LMTherac Group in China. AR #036620022, CA #1035795, CT #HIC 0649005, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCE-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHC148329, MI # 2102212586, #762000022, #762000403, #2108312946, NY #R731804, NY #226192, ND 47304, ND #5014524, NJ #134105955900, NM #430693, NV #0809930, NY #19114, HI #52223, OR #219234, PA #PA069383, RI #RSC-41354, TN #9266, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFTW8232, WY #WV056912.

CLASSIFIED
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS



Over 500 Vacation Homes
Entire Outer Banks from
Corolla's 4x4 to Hatteras Island!
Oceanfront to Soundfront!
All price ranges!

Book Now For Best Selection!

877-642-3224 brindleybeach.com

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE
when tackling your roof!**



ERIC FREE ESTIMATE **1.844.902.4611**
Metal Roofs Expires 3/31/2024

Limited Time Offer!
SAVE!
Up to **50% OFF**
ON YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% OFF
Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Construction Mid West, Inc. ("Eric"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on business.viciscompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at ericmetalroofs.com/eric/licenses/. VA License Number: 2705029944

MADE IN THE U.S.A.



**It's not just a generator.
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$735.

Call 844-947-1479 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to all of our papers



www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Legals

ABC LICENSE
CHIKO Cascades LLC trading as CHIKO, 46038 Cranston St, Sterling VA 20165. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant, to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Daniel Lee, Officer/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

ABC LICENSE
CitySwing LLC trading as CitySwing, 1805 Discovery Street, Reston VA 20190. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant, to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tari Cash, Officer/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Employment

Associate Manager, Enterprise Analytics & Insights for Strategic Education Inc. at its facilities in Herndon, VA. Duties: Manage and conduct a variety of analytic and reporting efforts for Capella University's enrollment / ops, academics, learner support, and financial aid functions. Apply at <https://strayer.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/SEL/job/Minneapolis-MN/Associate-Manager--Enterprise-Analytics---Insights-R23248>, Req. R23248. Must have legal authority to work in the US. EOE.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Honoring Courageous Soldiers

FROM PAGE 11

7.2 million by 1944. U.S. factories had doubled their capacity between 1939 and 1944, manufacturing airplanes, boats, ships, tanks and weapons, Ambrose wrote.

Museum Events

At an exhibit titled “D-Day: Freedom from Above,” visitors can make airborne landings behind enemy lines through interactive “HistoPad” technology, virtual simulations, and through the true stories of U.S. Army paratroopers who were loaded with gear. Their backpacks typically carried, for example, a bazooka, a knife, an automatic rifle or a machine gun, grenades, a medical kit and radio equipment.

The invasion and future World War II battles involved 13,000 paratroopers and 4,000 glider infantry men. The paratroopers jumped from airplanes behind enemy lines just after midnight. Their mission was to prepare for the invasion force that would arrive at dawn. Throughout the war, the paratroopers captured roads, created river crossings, blew up bridges, destroyed communications and cut off supplies and reinforcements.

SYMPOSIUM

The 2024 Symposium – D-Day 1944 will take place on Friday April 5, with an exhibit “sneak peek” that afternoon, but appears to be fully booked. The Special Exhibit – D-DAY: FREEDOM FROM ABOVE will open to the public on Saturday April 6. Visit the Opening Weekend event page at <https://www.thenmusa.org/dday80/>

Museum-goers will learn the stories of individual soldiers’ landings and actions on the ground after they landed, including efforts of French villagers who provided food and medical aid to the paratroopers.

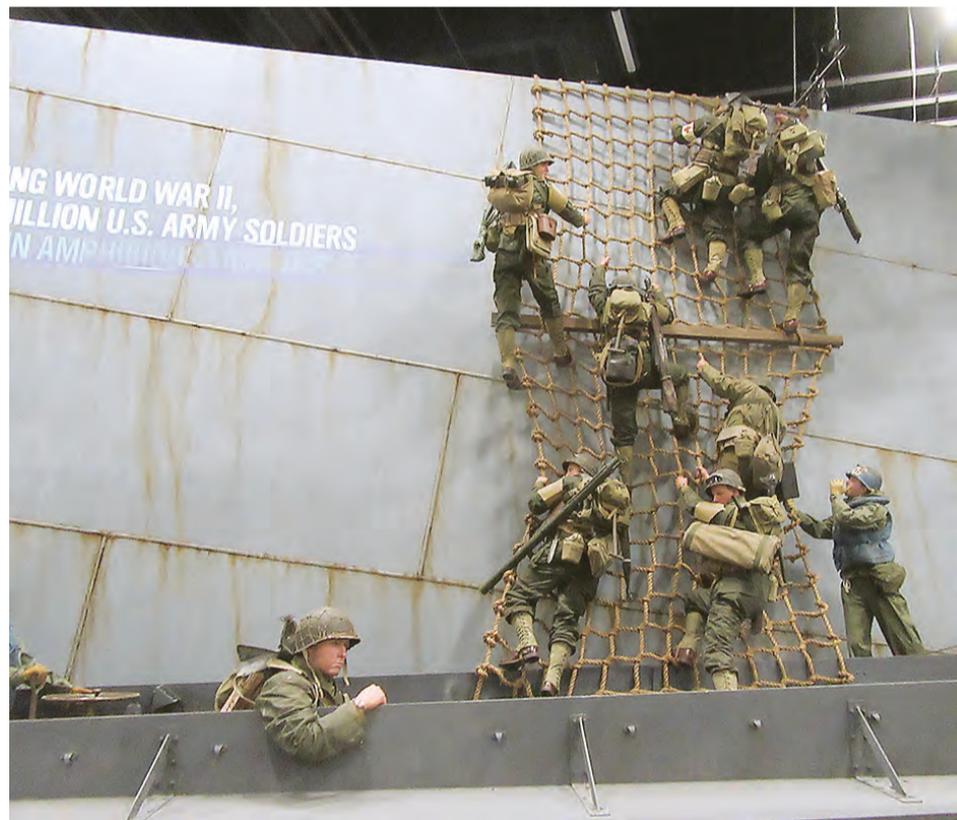
The museum will also display four medals of honor awarded to soldiers for actions performed on D-Day, medals never before displayed together.

The museum’s Global War Gallery has permanent exhibits including World War II artifacts like a parachutist’s steel helmet, an M4 Sherman Cobra King tank, a landing craft called a Higgins Boat, a soldier’s pocket Bible and the story of the development of the atomic bomb.

At an April 5 symposium, (with some virtual seats available on March 26) Mitchell A. Yockelson, a former U.S. Naval Academy professor, will describe the paratroopers’ airborne operations, from leaping from airplanes to landing.

At the April 5 all-day, free, public symposium, held both in-person and virtually, historians and military experts will discuss the invasion’s planning, execution and significance.

Register here: <https://www.thenmusa.org/2024-dday-symposium/>. The opening weekend will also feature an



American soldiers coming off a ship and onto a Higgins boat, a World War II landing craft. (Part of the permanent collection.)

“So much of the progress that would define the 20th century, on both sides of the Atlantic, came down to the battle for a slice of beach only six miles long and two miles wide.”

— President Barack Obama, on the 65th anniversary of D-Day

equipment and parachute-packing demonstration by U.S. Army Aerial Delivery Unit soldiers. In the next few months, the museum will have documentary screenings, hands-on demonstrations, author presenta-

tions and history talks. Topics include the WASPs of World War II, tactical intelligence for D-Day and the African American Experience in the war.

Information: www.thenmusa.org/dday80/

Dad, I Need Your Help



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I started writing this column on Sat. March 9, but stopped. I have already written/published three time-sensitive columns (“Rocky Road Ahead,” “Not Great News,” and “The Shoe Has Dropped”) on the immediate (and I mean immediate) subject at hand: living with both stage IV chronic kidney disease and stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. Rather than put the figurative cart before the horse, I’m going to hold this column in abeyance (to use one of my late father’s favorite words) and wait instead until we’ve seen the nephrologist (kidney doctor) on March 14. I imagine I’ll be a bit clearer about my prospects – and expectations, after I’ve met – and spoke with this specialist, the likely point doctor of my care, especially if dialysis becomes my only option. (Side bar: I wish there’ was more/regular communication between my oncologist and this recently referred-to nephrologist. They each seem to defer/refer to one another on the patient portal when I ask electronically about “this, that and the other” (to invoke Elaine Benes from Seinfeld), but I wish there was more togetherness. After all, it is my life at stake here. I am stopping now. I don’t want to speak too much without thinking (a la Oscar Madison in “The Odd Couple” television show).

I am now restarting this column on Thurs., March 21. I can now write, with some knowledge of my medical situation since I’ve met the nephrologist and heard her recommendations: stop all the supplements, especially vitamins “d” and “k”, stay hydrated but not to exceed 68 ounces per day, no colas or any dark liquids (ice tea is out), be aware of sodium, phosphorus and potassium as they stress out the kidneys. In summary, kidneys don’t get better once they’re damaged, as mine are (down to 25% of their normal function), and most importantly: no restart of my thyroid cancer medicine, as the damage to my kidneys is a direct side-effect-result of it (the graph of my levels shows a steady drop from stage III – where it had been the previous 10 years, to stage IV corresponding to the time three-plus years ago when I began my thyroid cancer treatment). Moreover, I should try to eat healthier, what they call a “renal diet.” Lastly, she said that there is no medicine which is appropriate, given the cancer and chronic kidney disease and I’m not eligible for a kidney transplant. Other than that . . .

Where that leaves me is in “trouble with a capital t,” to quote Robert Preston from “The Music Man,” (1962) with “A Rocky Road Ahead” now that “A Shoe Has Dropped.” Most of what I heard from the nephrologist is “Not Great News.” So, my last three cancer-centric columns, as listed above have been the precursor to this reality check: what kidney damage has been caused by my thyroid cancer medicine is irreparable and after visiting (I use that word lightly) the nephrologist, I now know some of what she knows and all of what she feels: I am indeed between a rock and hard place. To quote my late mother (and many others I’m sure) concerning this kind of predicament: “Nobody gets out of this life alive.” And that’s what I’m afraid of. During my early cancer days I used to wonder if I was further from the beginning or closer to the end. I no longer wonder. A damaged kidney that prevents treatment for the underlying disease: that’s what I call my thyroid cancer now (that’s some “underlying disease”) may be a bridge too far, unfortunately, to overcome.

I’m not down in the dumps, by any means. But hardly am I jumping for joy. Having faced similar obstacles previously, like being “prognosed” with “11 months to two years” to live - back in Feb. 09, (as I sit and type in year 16): I have certainly been down this road a time or two before. Nevertheless, two competing diseases where treatment for one damages the other and where no treatment at all damages the one may very well be, even for a positive thinker like me a bit of an emotional climb. For the moment though, my immediate focus is to stay off dialysis (just like Chris Rock would joke about his daughters “staying off the pole.”) and see if the health chips fall in my favor again. I don’t want to sound naïve and say since the chips very often have fallen in my way during the previous 15-plus years - from when I was originally given that terminal diagnosis, that they are like to fall again in my direction. Not. But who knows? Literally. Who does know? No one knows. As my father used to joke about similar conundrums: “I’m very seldom wrong but this time I’m right.” That’s my fear. Unable to get a straight answer. However, I don’t think there will be anything funny about it.

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



JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD

Direct: (703) 606-7901 | (703) 712-1757
 JDCallander@gmail.com
 Ed@NewNovaHome.com
 www.NewNovaHome.com

#1 Agent Companywide
 Top 1% Realtors Nationwide
 NVAR 90+ Million Dollar Sales Club

#1 Virginia Agent 2020 - NEWSWEEK



JD and ED Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

Per MLS

Unwanted furniture or junk CLUTTERING up your home?

No problem! Bring it all to our annual Community Clean-Up Day!



Pack up your car or truck and bring over your unwanted items and we will dispose of them all *** FREE OF CHARGE! ***

WHEN: Saturday, April 13th, 2024
 9:00 am – 11:00 am

WHERE: Chesterbrook Elementary
 1753 Kirby Road
 McLean, VA 22101



Types of items you CAN bring:

- Appliances (fridges, stoves, washers, etc.)
- Furniture, TVs and computers
- File cabinets, printers and copiers
- Lawn mowers (gas/oil removed)
- Charitable donations for Habitat for Humanity

PLEASE DO NOT BRING: Paint, chemicals, gas/oils, propane, dirt, rocks, concrete, tires

For questions and information about what and what NOT to drop off, please call us at:

(703)821-1025

JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD Office (703) 821-1025 Direct (703) 606-7901

#1 Agent, Companywide ~ WEICHERT REALTORS
 NVAR 90+ Million Dollar Sales Club

jdcallander@gmail.com
 www.newNOVAhome.com

BROUGHT to you by JD Callander and Associates *AND* 123 JUNK!
 PLUS, feel free to bring donations for Habitat for Humanity!

1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard
 McLean, VA 22101

ELITE PRODUCER
BEST
 WASHINGTONIAN
2023



2049 Rockingham Street
 McLean, 22101
 \$4,695,000
NEW CONSTRUCTION!



201 W. Cameron Road
 Falls Church City, 22046
 \$1,400,000



Offered for...\$2,599,000

6813 Tennyson Drive, McLean
 SPECTACULAR 8BR/5.5BA Craftsman, just a few blocks from the center of McLean. Boasting over 8000 finished square feet, this finely detailed and expansive home features 3 finished levels of naturally bright open floor plan design with 10 ft. ceilings and a beautiful 2-story foyer. Stunning family room with coffered ceiling and a wall of windows that opens to the gourmet kitchen with high-end appliances, oversized kitchen island, and custom cabinetry. Sprawling owner's suite on the upper lvl with expansive lux. spa like bathroom. LL w/ large rec, media, and 2 BRs. Franklin Sherman, Longfellow, McLean Schools!



6709 Pine Creek Court
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,200,000



1562 Forest Villa Ln
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,550,000



2336 N. Oak Street
 Falls Church, 22046
 \$2,000,000



1639 Macon Street
 McLean, 22101
 \$2,215,000



1313 Merrie Ridge Rd
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,637,500

Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!