FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

WWW.FAIRFAXTIMES.COM | VOL. 134, ISSUE NO. 24 | JUNE 11 - 13, 2021

ae

ART: JAMMIN JAVA WELCOMES ALT ROCKER COURTNEY KING

Page B1

Friday - Showers *High:* 68° *Low:* 60° | *Saturday* - Partly Cloudy *High:* 83° *Low:* 63° | *Sunday* - PM Thunderstorms *High:* 86° *Low:* 64°

THIS WEEK INSIDE:

COURTESY PHOTO

FCPD asks for help identifying man exposing himself at apartment complex

SEE PAGE A2

COURTESY PHOTO

The arts are in Fairfax

SEE PAGE B1

COURTESY PHOTO

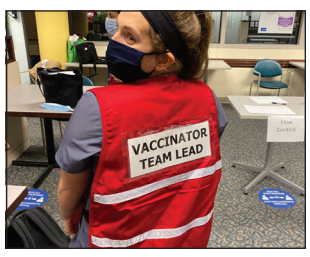
PIVOT Program offers relief for small businesses

SEE PAGE A5

BRAND POINT MEDIA

Are virtual festivals the future?

SEE PAGE B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Fairfax County Health Department's role during COVID

SEE PAGE A6

INDEX

Public Safety	A2
People and Places	A3
Health & Wellness	A6
Opinion	A7
Sports	A8
Food	A10
Arts & Entertainment	B1
Pets	B3
Home & Garden	B4
Arts Calendar	B5
Community Calendar	B5
Classifieds	B6

25¢ NEWSSTAND PRICE

0 70628 24100 0

McAuliffe will face off with Youngkin in November

Results are in from the June 8 Virginia primary election

By Noelle Riddle
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Democrats selected candidates to represent their party in the November general election. Republicans nominated their top three choices during a convention last month, and voted for House of Delegates candidates this week.

Terry McAuliffe won the Democratic bid in a landslide against an array of other candidates, sweeping up 62 percent of the votes. He will face the Republican candidate, Glenn Youngkin, in November. McAuliffe previously served as Virginia governor from 2014 to 2018. Virginia governors are not allowed to serve consecutive terms.

Celebrating his win with a tweet attacking his opponent, McAuliffe said: "I'm running for Governor to move Virginia forward. My opponent is an extreme Republican who wants to buy the Governor's office. We need to get our message out there and build the biggest grassroots team Virginia's ever seen."

COURTESY PHOTO

Terry McAuliffe

Youngkin is from Richmond and is a former investment group leader, basketball player and coach and father of four. Youngkin is heavily focused on election integrity.

After McAuliffe won the Democratic bid, Youngkin also took to Twitter. He tweeted: "While we differ mightily as to how to best serve Virginians, I want to thank the five contenders in today's primary for running. I welcome Terry McAuliffe to the race and look forward to presenting our competing ideas for Virginia's future."

COURTESY PHOTO

Glenn Youngkin

In the race for lieutenant governor, Hala Ayala beat out runner up Sam Rasoul for the bid. Ayala won 37 percent of the votes, Rasoul trailed with 24 percent of the votes. She will face Republican candidate Winsome Sears in November.

Sears was the first Black Republican woman, first female veteran, and first legal immigrant woman elected to the House of Delegates. Her platform includes being pro-life, protecting the Second Amendment, parental school choice, ballot box integrity, and reopening the economy.

The attorney general bid saw incumbent Mark Herring securing the nomination with 56 percent of the votes. Opponent Jerrauld Jones received with 43 percent. Herring will face off against Republican candidate Jason Miyares in the general election.

Miyares of Virginia Beach is the former delegate for District 82. His platform includes punishing criminals and protecting victims, creating a pro-business Virginia, standing with the police, restore law and order, election reform, fight human trafficking, opposing illegal immigration, fighting for the next generation and looking out for the vulnerable.

House of Delegates races saw many delegates who are running for reelection win their bids, such as Kathleen Murphy, Ken Plum, Kaye Kory and Alfonso Lopez.

District 45 saw Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennet-Parker secure the bid with 59 percent of the votes over former delegate Mark Levine. District 50 saw political newcomer Michelle Lopes-Maldonado garner 44 percent of votes over current district Delegate Lee Carter. And District 86 saw Irene Shin narrowly upset current Delegate Ibraheem Samirah for the bid. Shin won with 51 percent of the votes in a tight race as Samirah trailed with 49 percent.

The Republican ballot saw mostly candidates running who

See ELECTION, Page A4

CONSCIOUSDISCIPLINE.COM

Parents express concerns about School Board's use of ESSER funds

By Rick Horner
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The Fairfax County School Board made a decision to use federal funds to fix their long-suffering HVAC systems, but parents aren't thrilled with that decision since some of those funds were to be used to help disabled students in the area.

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, many students have had to resort to online learning so as not to fall behind. While some have been able to keep up, others particularly students who are considered disabled have had a much harder time at it.

In order to try to alleviate the issue, the Fairfax County Public Schools received a grant from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund otherwise known as an ESSER III grant. The use of these funds is to help safely reopen and sustain the operations of schools as well as address the emotional, social, academic, and health needs of the students brought on by the recent pandemic.

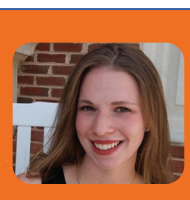
"Maintenance of equity provisions will help ensure that schools and LEAs [Local Education Agencies] serving large proportions of historically underserved groups of students – including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness – receive an equitable share of state and local funds as the nation continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact," according to a document released by the U. S. Department of Education released a document June 9.

In an effort to fulfill the requirements, the school board made the decision to put much of that grant money into fixing the school's HVAC systems. Several public-school systems such as Stafford County have in recent months upgraded their HVAC systems with items such as bi-polarizing filters to keep the potential intrusion of the virus in schools to a minimum.

But many parents, especially those who have special education students, are concerned with the fact that little of the ESSER grant funds have been used to help their kids. One parent, Eileen Chollet, sent a letter to the editor at the Washington Post May 25 in response to a story run by the Post two days earlier regarding the state of education for disabled children in the nation. In her letter, Chollet noted that of the nearly $350 million that Fairfax County Public Schools have gotten in federal relief funding including ESSER, only 0.2 percent of that money had been allocated for use in special education

See ESSER, Page A4

POSITIVE Vibes



BY NOELLE RIDDLE • Special to the Fairfax County Times

Teenager combats erosion and competes in the "Olympics of Science"

COURTESY PHOTO

Chelsea Hu is a rising high school sophomore at the BASIS Independent McLean school on a scholarship. At just 15, Hu has a long resume of successes. Most recently, she presented her research about combating bank erosion at multiple high level science competitions locally and globally.

Hu's research on combatting bank erosion focuses on one plant- Eastern Skunk cabbages. Her fascination with the plant arose from her love of hiking and constantly seeing the plant in nature. After seeing the cabbages survive a snowy day on her hike by a stream, Hu set her sights on research about the plant. "Eastern Skunk Cabbages have unique characteristics that make them suitable for combating bank erosion. They are obligate wetland indicators which means that they are extremely

See OLYMPICS, Page A4

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

COURTESY PHOTO

A doorbell camera captured pictures of the suspect, who has not yet been identified.

FCPD asks for help identifying man exposing himself at apartment complex

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau are asking for the community's help identifying a man believed to be responsible for multiple incidents of exposing himself in an Annandale apartment complex.

The first incident was reported May 17 when a man was seen masturbating in an apartment building's vestibule in the 4400 block of Island Place. A woman saw the man and quickly entered a storage room, locking the door behind her. The man was seen on a doorbell camera peering into the storage room through a hole in the door. He left the area prior to officer's arrival.

Detectives later learned that earlier in that day, a woman encountered the man in the vestibule of an apartment building in the 7900 block of Dassett Court in Annandale. The woman locked herself into a storage closet after the man refused to let her leave the building. The woman was not physically harmed in that incident.

The man was again observed May 18 in a stairwell in the 7800 block of Dassett Court. A woman encountered the man who lunged at her and grabbed her before running from the area.

On June 1, the man was seen in the 4400 block of Briarwood Court masturbating behind a building while looking into an apartment window. Police were summoned by a neighbor, but the man left the area prior to police's arrival.

Officers from the West Springfield Police District have saturated the area attempting to identify the man responsible for these incidents.

The suspect has been described as a black man in his late teens to early 20s. He is approximately 6' with a slim build. The suspect was wearing blue pajama pants pictured above in each case. Detectives are asking anyone with information about this suspect to please call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of $100 to $1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest. If you would like to be contacted by a detective, please provide your contact information.

Victim specialists from the Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to ensure that the victims are receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

Alexandria bicyclist killed in accident on Telegraph Road

A 24-year-old cyclist has died following a crash that occurred June 3 just after 11 a.m. at the intersection of Telegraph and Franconia roads in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Fatima Del Carmen Alvarez Romero, of Alexandria, was on her bicycle and entered the crosswalk to cross Telegraph Road on the south side of the Franconia Road intersection. Alvarez Romero proceeded east through the intersection in front of a 2020 GMC Savanna which was traveling north on Telegraph Road and had a green traffic signal which resulted in the crash. Alvarez Romero was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver of the GMC Savanna remained at the scene. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol are not factors in the crash. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the second fatality involving a bicyclist in the county to date in 2021.

Alexandria man dead after being struck in Beacon Hill

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash that occurred June 3 at 1:13 p.m. at the intersection of South Kings Highway and Southgate Drive.

Preliminarily, detectives determined Reynaldo Quinteros Alfaro, 54, of Alexandria, was crossing South Kings Highway from the east to west side of the roadway. At this intersection, there is no traffic signal or stop signs for vehicles traveling on South Kings Highway and there is no crosswalk.

The driver of a 2017 Dodge Journey was traveling southbound on South Kings Highway, a posted 35 mile per hour roadway, and struck him. Virginia law, §46.2-924, requires drivers to stop for pedestrians at any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway where the speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour. The driver remained at the scene of the crash. Quinteros Alfaro was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors for the driver. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

This is the 6th pedestrian fatality in the County to date in 2021.

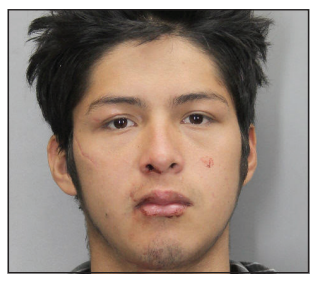
COURTESY PHOTO

Luis Melendez-Villalobos.

Man arrested after Alexandria break-in

A business owner notified police someone was attempting to break into Hans Electronics at 8514 Richmond Highway May 28 at 12:44 a.m.

Officers found a rear door open and Luis Melendez-Villalobos, 20, of no fixed address, hiding in the business. Melendez-Villalobos was arrested and charged with burglary.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jose Vides.

Annandale man arrested after assault

Jose Vides, 19, of Annandale, approached the victim in the 4200 block of Annandale Road May 29 at 4:16 p.m., asking for money . When the victim refused, Vides assaulted him.

The victim was taken to the hospital with injuries that were not life threatening. Vides was charged with malicious wounding, assault and robbery.

COURTESY PHOTO

Daymion Frantz.

COURTESY PHOTO

Darryn Frantz.

Springfield men arrested in Gloucester County after Springfield shooting

Two victims were in an argument with known associates in the 7700 block of Spring Garden Drive June 2 at 7:24 p.m., when one of the men displayed a handgun and shot the two victims. Both victims, adult men, were taken to the hospital and remain hospitalized.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau determined Daymion Frantz, 21, and Darryn Frantz, 20, both of Springfield, were involved in the shooting and obtained warrants. A lookout was provided throughout the Commonwealth for the suspects.

Deputies with the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office located the men and took them into custody. Both men were charged with two counts of aggravated malicious wounding. Daymion was also charged with use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. The men were held without bond in Gloucester County.

Memorial Day crashes claim 14 lives across Virginia

The 2021 Memorial Day weekend not only saw an increase in overall traffic volumes on Virginia's highways, but also an increase in traffic deaths.

Preliminary reports indicate 14 people lost their lives during the four-day, holiday statistical counting period. During the same statistical counting period in 2020, traffic crashes on Virginia highways resulted in eight deaths.

Of the 14 individuals killed this year on Virginia highways, two were riding on motorcycles and eight were not wearing a seat belt. The statistical counting period began at 12:01 a.m. May 28 and ended at midnight May 31.

The fatal crashes occurred in the cities of Richmond and Virginia Beach, and the counties of Botetourt, Bedford, Northampton, Cumberland, Chesterfield, Prince George, Tazewell, Amherst, Fairfax and Albemarle. The two fatal motorcycle crashes occurred in the city of Virginia Beach and Tazewell County.

"I understand that most Virginians have been driving less in the past year. They may be feeling a bit green in the driver seat and their patience may be a bit short," said Colonel Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police superintendent. "But the rules of the road haven't changed and safety on the roadways should be of paramount concern to everyone. This holiday weekend, as well as the entire year so far, have seen far too many people lose their lives on Virginia's highways. Speeding, reckless driving and distractions are leading to tragedy. Every one of these actions is a choice, a choice that has left too many families in mourning. In addition, eight people made the choice not to buckle up, a simple action that could have saved their lives and kept a family whole. Virginia State Police urge all Virginia drivers to step up and make safe decisions when they get into their vehicles. You have the opportunity to break this devastating streak."

This year, the Memorial Day Operation C.A.R.E. Initiative fell within the annual "Click It or Ticket" campaign. During the entire statistical counting period for "Click It or Ticket" and the Memorial Day weekend which ran from 12:01 a.m. May 24 through midnight May 31, Virginia Troopers cited 5,553 speeders and 1,818 reckless drivers and arrested 79 impaired drivers. In addition, 740 individuals were cited for seat belt violations and 281 felony arrests were made. Virginia State Police also assisted 2,302 disabled motorists.

Funds generated from summonses issued by Virginia State Police go directly to court fees and the state's Literary Fund, which benefits public school construction, technology funding and teacher retirement.

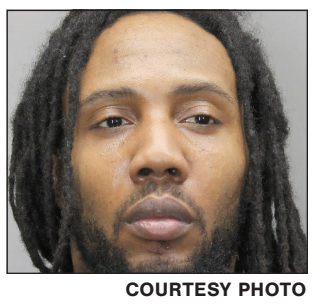
Toddler dies after driveway accident

A 2-year-old boy died after being struck by a vehicle in the driveway of his home.

Officers responded June 7 at 6:43 p.m. to a home in the 10900 block of Roma Street and located the boy suffering from serious injuries, he was pronounced deceased by rescue personnel. Detectives determined the boy's father was backing his 2005 Ford F350 out of the driveway when he discovered his son was struck by the truck.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the crash, but do not suspect foul play. Alcohol was not a factor.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dijohn Bailey.

Alexandria man arrested after vehicle pursuit

An officer saw a 2020 Toyota Camry speeding in the 1700 block of Anderson Road at 10:22 p.m. May 31 and attempted a traffic stop, but the driver refused, resulting in a pursuit.

The driver was eventually stopped by officers and Dijohn Bailey, 31, of Alexandria, was taken into custody. Bailey was charged with possession of schedule I/II drug, eluding police, reckless driving and driving on a revoked license.

Man dies after accident in Annandale

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash that occurred June 4 at 2:13 a.m. on Maple Place near the intersection of Martin Avenue in Annandale.

Preliminarily, detectives determined a 45-year-old man was crossing Maple Place from the north to south side of the roadway, not at an intersection. The driver of a 2015 Cadillac Escalade was traveling west on Maple Place and struck him. The driver remained at the scene. The pedestrian was taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries June 5. Next of kin has not been notified. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors for the driver. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the 7th pedestrian fatality in the County to date in 2021.

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES
Established 1965
fairfaxtimes.com

P.O. Box 8791
Reston, VA 20195
Main Phone: 703-437-5400
Fax: 703-437-6019

Publisher
Rich Whippen, 703-439-1867
rwhippen@wspnet.com

Editor
Heather Zwicker, 571-233-6244
heather@fairfaxtimes.com

Arts & Entertainment
Jennifer Starr, 571-393-2933
jennifer@fairfaxtimes.com

Calendar Submissions
Heather Zwicker
ffxtimesevents@gmail.com

News Reporter
571-393-6910
news@fairfaxtimes.com

Rick Horner
rshorner2012@gmail.com

Positive Vibes Column
Noelle Riddle
Nriddle@fairfaxtimes.com

Production Administration
Melissa Turqman, 703-439-1767
mturqman@wspnet.com

National Advertising
Simmy Murdock, 703-463-9228
simmym@wspnet.com

Local Advertising
Marcia Patch, 703-994-4940
marcia@wspnet.com

Simmy Murdock, 703-463-9228
simmym@wspnet.com

Classified Advertising
Marcia Patch, 703-994-4940
marcia@wspnet.com

Creative Services
Becky Sullivan, Creative Director
bsullivan@wspnet.com

Angie Wyatt, Creative Designer
angiew@wspnet.com

Circulation & Delivery
Mary Ellen Pearson, 571-323-6203
mpearson@fairfaxtimes.com

Customer Service
Mary Ellen Pearson, 571-323-6203
mpearson@fairfaxtimes.com

Send letters to the Editor to:
rwhippen@wspnet.com

Send event information to:
ffxtimesevents@gmail.com

PEOPLE AND PLACES

COURTESY PHOTO

A Kings Glen student works on her nomination for a historical marker.

Kings Glen Elementary students and staff making history, one marker at a time

Earlier this year, during a meeting of the Kings Glen Elementary School History Hunters and History Makers Club, young members shared their disbelief as they uncovered the lives of remarkable Virginians whose stories, they felt, deserved much greater recognition.

"How is it possible that we have not heard of Mary Bowser?" sixth grader **Allison McKenzie** remarked about a woman born enslaved in Richmond who later became a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War.

Step forward **Maura Keaney**, the Springfield school's school-based technology specialist, resident history buff and founder of the after-school club for fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Keaney, who has been with FCPS for 10 years, is on a mission to shine a light on the lives of those extraordinary characters in our state's past that have been either overlooked or misrepresented.

Late last month, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam paid tribute to the FCPS school's time-traveling detective work which resulted in the announcement of new historical roadside markers across the state.

Out of five markers up for grabs in the Black History Month Historical Marker Contest in 2021, the Kings Glen students' suggestions were chosen for three of them.

During a virtual ceremony to celebrate the winners, Northam thanked Keaney specifically for being a champion of the historical marker contest, working with more than 95 participating students during the first two years of the contest.

"Thank you all for taking the time to participate in this contest and for your efforts to educate the public about Black Virginians who have transformed the commonwealth into a more compassionate, culturally rich place to live, work and learn," added Northam.

Christine Ritter, assistant principal at Kings Glen, spoke about the significance of Kings Glen's virtual clubs during COVID-19 and how meaningful it was for students to work together to uncover and highlight overlooked stories from Black history in Virginia.

The History Hunters and History Makers club met on asynchronous Mondays and occasionally during the school's "Gator Block," intervention and enrichment period weekday afternoons. Students submitted 23 nominations to the contest for eight different individuals.

Winning nominations written by Kings Glen students were for Mary Elizabeth Bowser, Dangerfield and Harriet Newby, and Dr. Edwin B. Henderson. Students researched and made their cases, writing their own unique marker submissions.

Multiple students got behind the nomination for Bowser, a woman who was born enslaved, educated in a free state, served as a missionary in Liberia, and returned to Virginia just before the outset of the Civil War, eventually working as a spy for the Union from Richmond.

"I was amazed to learn about the courage of Mary Elizabeth Bowser - a true hero," said fourth grader Hailey Solar. "By participating in this contest, I didn't just learn about heroes from history, what I learned was that anything is possible and that I can make history."

The marker will be placed in Richmond.

Fourth grader **Valia Anderson** was one of the students that nominated the Newbys, writing separate marker nominations for Dangerfield Newby and his wife Harriet.

Daingerfield and Harriet Newby were held in slavery by different enslavers. When Daingerfield was able to live in the free state of Ohio, he worked heroically to save the money to purchase the freedom of his wife and children. When his attempts to buy his wife and children's freedom were thwarted, he joined John Brown's fateful raid on Harpers Ferry where he was killed on the first day of fighting. Love letters from Harriet, begging him to buy her and their children before they were sold further south, were found on his body.

"I have learned so much this year about Virginia history from different perspectives and noticing whose perspectives might be missing from what we read," said Anderson. "The story of Daingerfield and Harriet Newby meant a lot to me and most students don't learn about them when they learn about John Brown's Raid. They are Virginians who are important in history and it's sad that so many people have never heard of them. I am proud that I was able to do something to try to change that."

The marker will be placed in Culpeper County.

Fourth grader **Sullivan Massaro** joined the club with a determination to discover a little known sports hero from Virginia history. A basketball fan, Sullivan, aged 9, found a winner when he came upon former Falls Church resident Dr. Edwin B. Henderson, known as the "father of Black basketball''. Sullivan discovered that Henderson, an educator in D.C. Public Schools, introduced the sport to African Americans in D.C. and that he also played a pivotal role as a civil rights pioneer in Virginia, establishing the first rural chapter of the NAACP, serving as a leader in the effort to desegregate schools, and eventually serving as president of the NAACP's Virginia Council.

"Dr. Henderson spent his whole life trying to make things better not just for African Americans but for all," he said. "He wanted everyone to have equal opportunities to learn, play sports and just live."

The marker will be installed in Falls Church.

Virginia's historical highway marker program, which began in 1927 with installation of the first markers along U.S. 1, is the oldest historical marker program in the nation. This program recognizes and chronicles events, accomplishments, sacrifices, and personalities of historic importance to Virginia's story. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Historic Resources manage the program.

There are more than 2,600 historical markers along Virginia's roadways, but only 370 markers honor African Americans. Next year there will be five more.

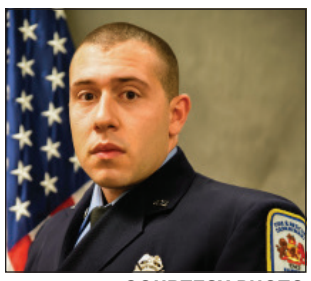
Kings Glen students who wrote winning nominations for Mary Elizabeth Bowser were **Allison McKenzie** (6th grade), **Larissa Chambers** (5th grade), **Hailey Solar** (4th grade), and **Sonia Alam** (4th grade). **Sullivan Massaro**, a fourth grader, wrote the only nomination for Dr. Edwin B. Henderson. **Valia Anderson** wrote the only nomination for Harriet Newby, and 4th graders **Sofia Rodriguez** and Anderson and 5th grader **Michael Burgess** wrote nominations for Dangerfield Newby.

"Our little club is an example of the kind of meaningful, deeper learning that has happened in FCPS during COVID, said Keaney, the History Hunters and History Makers Club sponsor. "In fact, due to the fact that elementary schools don't have late buses for after school clubs, asynchronous Mondays were a unique opportunity to host a cross-grade collaborative student interest club like this. Students who love history were able to connect with each other virtually even when school buildings were closed, and we are hoping to leverage technology next year to be able to continue this kind of learning beyond the school day."

The winning historical markers are currently being manufactured and will be erected next year. Students hope to be able to take a field trip to see the results of their hard work.

COURTESY PHOTO

Fire Chief John Butler.



COURTESY PHOTO

Firefighter Christopher Puzzanghero.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue honored by governor

Governor Ralph Northam announced the recipients of the 2020 Governor's Fire Service Awards June 4.

Established in 2002, the Governor's Fire Service Awards honor excellence in Virginia's Fire Service and are facilitated by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, in partnership with the Virginia Fire Services Board.

Fire Chief **John Butler** was honored alongside Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Chief **Keith Johnson** with the Excellence in Virginia Fire Services Award for the implementation of its Field Available Component Transfusion Response (FACT R) program, which delivers blood via 911 resources to entrapped trauma patients.

Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System and Fairfax County Fire Rescue Department, in conjunction with the Northern Virginia EMS Council, Inova Health System, Inova Trauma and Blood Donor Service, launched a novel prehospital blood program called the Field Available Component Transfusion Response (FACT R) program. FACT R is a groundbreaking program that offers lifesaving training and supplies to first responders, enabling a dramatic increase in the level of care they can provide in the field. The idea of this program came after answering a joint response requiring on the scene blood transfusion to be administered, which ultimately saved the lives of the trapped victims. This innovative program is the first of its kind with this level of capability nationwide.

Additionally, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Firefighter **Christopher Puzzanghero** was honored as Virginia Career Firefighter of the Year. Puzzanghero's connection to the department dates back to high school when he spent time as an explorer and volunteer. Now with more than a decade under his belt in the fire service, Puzzanghero actively seeks out training locally and nationally, using his own time and money to perfect his craft. In addition, he is always eager to share his knowledge and experience with his crew, battalion, department, and the rest of the fire service. As an adjunct instructor for Recruit and Field training in Fairfax County, the Department of Fire Programs, and a private fire services training company, he strives to go above and beyond from the newest recruit to the most tenured firefighter to provide the best service possible. He has shown on many occasions to make tactful decisions under pressure and his department is better and safer for his dedication. His valiant response efforts were on display June 7, 2017, when he took quick action to save a fellow firefighter who had fallen into an interior basement on a structure fire.

COURTESY PHOTO

Donnie Scott.

IDEMIA appoints CEO for Identity and Security North America

IDEMA recently named **Donnie Scott** as CEO for its Identity and Security North America business effective June 1.

A 20-year veteran of the public security and IT solutions industry, Scott was elevated from his current position as senior vice president and general manager of IDEMIA's North America Public Security division. While in this role he successfully expanded IDEMIA's TSA Pre Check enrollment program for the Department of Homeland Security, and established IDEMIA as the market leading provider of biometric technologies for law enforcement agencies across the U.S.

Reporting directly to Pierre Barrial, IDEMIA group president and CEO, Scott will oversee all businesses for IDEMIA I&S North America.

"I am very pleased to appoint Donnie as CEO of IDEMIA Identity and Security North America and welcome him to IDEMIA's global executive team," said Pierre Barrial, president and CEO of IDEMIA. "I have worked closely with Donnie for a number of years and know that he is the right leader at the right time to lead our efforts in such an important market for the group."

Based out of the I&S North America headquarters in Reston, Scott is known as a collaborative leader of teams that enable clients to achieve their mission and business objectives. Prior to his work at DXC Technology, he was a sales leader at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, HP, and Electronic Data Systems. Donnie has BA in economics from the University of Virginia and currently serves as the treasurer of the International Biometrics Industry Association (IBIA).

County park facilities slated to return to normal operations

Facilities throughout the Fairfax County park system are returning to nearly normal operations after a series of closures and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we ramp up and reopen, some sites may operate on limited schedules or require preregistration for activities, so we strongly urge park visitors to call sites in advance or check our website to ensure access and availability.

The Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole at Lake Fairfax Park, Our Special Harbor sprayground at the Lee District Family Recreation Area, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Pool in Alexandria have reopened, with some new COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Limited schedules and reduced capacity are currently in place at these locations.

The Park Authority's seven nature and interpretive centers will again reopen their doors June 14. Visitors can stop in to see exhibits and talk with experts on the county's rich natural and cultural resources at Hidden Oaks Nature Center and Hidden Pond Nature Center and at the visitor centers at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Frying Pan Farm Park, Green Spring Gardens, Huntley Meadows Park and Riverbend Park. Find details about each park's unique features, programs and hours of operation by visiting their websites.

In honor of the nation's Independence Day, Lake Fairfax will once again host a fireworks display. The event will take place July 3. Preregistration and capacity limits will be in place. Details will be posted as they become available on the Lake Fairfax Park website.

The county's nine RECenters and seven golf course facilities continue to welcome visitors and are offering a host of programs throughout the summer.

At all these facilities, masks will no longer be required for those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Visitors who are not vaccinated are asked to continue wearing a mask for everyone's safety.

Fairfax County Parents Association aims to empower parents

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Putting Children First in Fairfax

By Noelle Riddle
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The "Open FCPS" movement formed when the Covid-19 pandemic struck in early 2020, and parents no longer had the option to send their children to their public-school classrooms.

Recently, the Open FCPS movement has renamed and branded itself into the Fairfax County Parents Association (FCPA). OpenFCPS realized that one day the school system would open back up and when that happens, they do not want their group and its hard work to disappear. This was the reason they decided to rebrand.

"We are a nonpartisan group of volunteer parents who are making sure kids are priority number one in Fairfax County Public Schools," said Christy Hudson, a FCPA member and FCPS parent. "Students are the most important stake holder in any school system, and we need to make sure they are prioritized amongst FCPS."

"The FCPA was born out of Open FCPS when families lost the choice to send their children to school," said Hudson. "We had learned that families and students have little voice amongst FCPS decision makers. So we learned about the FCPS inner workings and wanted to keep the momentum going, and it molded into the FCPA."

The Fairfax County Parents Association also is made up of smaller subcommittees which are focused on particular issues. "Our subcommittees focus on specific issues of concern. When a parent has questions or concerns about things like special education, English as a second language, military, athletics or curriculum, we help them reach the correct person," Hudson explained. "We connect people with concerns to the right person. FCPS is a massive school system, it can be overwhelming and hard to find support. We know where to go with issues since we have members who have dealt with similar problems before."

The group is made up of parents to serve parents, but the FCPA wants the community to know they are not just another PTA group. "We are different from the PTA. What if a parent has an issue and it isn't a minor problem that can be solved in the school? Issues within special education, for example, are bigger than the school, PTA, teacher or principal," Hudson said. "So where do they go then for answers? We can help. We know how to contact decision makers and the right people."

Hudson joined the cause when she felt her own kids were being disregarded by the school system. She has a recently graduated FCPS student, a rising sophomore, and an eighth grader she moved to private school last year so her child could attend class in person. "There needs to be accountability within the school board," Hudson said. "FCPS leadership has disregarded the needs of students over the past year. They put politics over students."

The FCPA now has their sights set on helping empower parents to advocate for their students. "The FCPA was founded by parents for parents. Over the past year we have amassed knowledge of the inner workings of the school system, and we want to share that information," said Hudson. "We don't want parents to be caught off guard like we were." The FCPA also encourages people other than parents to get involved if they are interested. "Anyone can join us. Residents, taxpayers, students, parents. Check out our website (https://www.fairfaxparents.org/) to get involved."

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

were unchallenged in their district for the House of Delegates positions.

Regions such as Hampton Roads, Charlottesville, southwestern Virginia and Richmond reported low voter turnout for the day. While WTOP reported that an estimated half of the ballots cast June 8 in Fairfax County were done early or by mail.

The general election will take place November 2.

Democratic Winners (percentages as of June 9 from the Virginia Department of Elections. Some precincts have not yet turned in results at the time of this article.)

Governor: Terry McAuliffe, 62.17 percent of votes

Lieutenant Governor: Hala Ayala, 37.14 percent of votes

Attorney General: Mark Herring, 56.67 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 34: Kathleen Murphy, 74.48 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 36: Ken Plum, 77.37 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 38: L. Kaye Kory, 61.46 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 45: Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, 59.25 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 49: Alfonso Lopez, 70.55 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 50: Michelle Lopes-Maldonado, 44.06 percent of votes

House of Delegates District 86: Irene Shin, 51.74 percent of votes

Republicans that will be on the ballot on November 2:

Governor: Glenn Youngkin

Lieutenant Governor: Winsome Sears

Attorney General: Jason Miyares

House of Delegates District 34: Gary Pan

House of Delegates District 35: Kevin McGrath

House of Delegates District 36: Matt Lang

House of Delegates District 37: Kenny Meteiver

House of Delegates District 38: Tom Pafford

House of Delegates District 39: Maureen Brody

House of Delegates District 40: Harold Pyon

House of Delegates District 42: Ed McGovern

House of Delegates District 43: Brenton Hammond

House of Delegates District 44: Richard Hayden

House of Delegates District 45: JD Maddox

House of Delegates District 48: Ed Monroe

House of Delegates District 53: Sarah White

House of Delegates District 67: Bob Frizelle

House of Delegates District 86: Julie Perry

OLYMPICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

common in North American wetlands and are suitable for them," Hu explained. "They have tall stalks and strong, broad-oblong shaped leaves which can help buffer the speed of runoff water. They are thermogenic, producing their own heat up to 70-90 degrees Fahrenheit. They can survive in anaerobic soil conditions. And they have large contractile roots systems which can grow to be multiple feet long."

Hu ran a variety of tests, checking the soil composition and compression with and without the skunk cabbages, checking to make sure the plants had no negative runoff, and even making a large model to understand if the plants really prevented erosion. "I hypothesized that due to the perennial contraction of Eastern Skunk cabbages, the soil around the roots would also be compacted and strengthened, and ultimately help decrease bank erosion," Hu said.

After Hu proved the positive impact of the plants, she was ready to share her findings. "I presented my research at the Regional Science and Engineer Fair where I won the grand prize. Then I competed at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. I won first place in the Environmental Science category and first place for the special awards under Systems Sciences and Applications. Then, I presented my research at the Virginia State Science Fair where I was awarded second place in the Environmental Science Category. Then at the International Science and Engineer Fair, which is considered 'the Olympics of Science', I was awarded the third-place grand award in my category Earth and Environmental Sciences," Hu said.

Hu is passionate about fighting bank erosion around waterways. But why does bank erosion matter? "Bank erosion is a big problem because of human activity. Specifically, the increased development and urbanization taking place in areas near these streams and banks," Hu said. "It also has extremely damaging effects on ecosystems and wildlife. I believe that it is up to us as human beings to concentrate on solutions as we caused it."

Armed with her research and passion, Hu was ready to share her findings about the negative effects of erosion and the solution which the plants provide but remained humble. "My main goal at ISEF was just to enjoy the fair, share my scientific findings and meet new like-minded people. Hearing my name get called at the International Science Fair was probably one of the best moments of my life. I was already so happy with the fact that I was selected as a freshman out of millions of high schoolers to compete," Hu recalled.

With her award-winning research, Hu hopes people can learn more about bank erosion and why it is detrimental to the environment. "I am currently working with the Virginia Department of Forestry to start implementing Eastern Skunk cabbages into stream banks and riparian zone areas," she said. "I hope that my research brings more attention to the problem of bank erosion and sheds new light on using environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions to problems that are caused by humans."

Hu's accomplishments do not stop at science fairs, however. She also has an internship at Georgetown University, which she has been completing virtually within the Physics Department. Hu is also the captain of the Metro D.C. Virginia Cardinals debate team and competes on her school debate team as well. And to round it all off, Hu is a dedicated fencer. Last year, she was the USA Fencing bronze winner in Women's Youth Epee in Region 6. She now has her eyes set on the Junior Olympic Championships.

ESSER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

and support services which in terms of spending only amounts to about $27 per student.

Chollet also spoke to Fairfax County Times regarding the FCPS' decision to use that money on the HVAC system. She said that the school board justified their spending in this area as something that can be taken care of now as opposed to the having to negotiate with teachers' unions in regards to funds being spent in the classroom. In a recent school board meeting video, the matter is considered low hanging fruit.

"ESSER funds came with a list of 12 allowable uses, five of which mention special education supports or services and supports to other disadvantaged groups including homeless, ESL and foster care," said Chollet. "It's a standard bureaucratic maneuver to take windfalls like this and use them against long-standing wish lists."

During the FCPS School Board's hearing regarding the use of ESSER funds June 7, many residents spoke up about how to use the funds, some of those speakers discussed using those funds for classes and services for disabled children. One speaker, Lauren McCoughey who is a mother of three children, two of those being special education students, spoke about using the money to invest in Adaptive Technology Services and hiring and training staff in the use of these technologies in order to help disabled students.

"Nothing is as magical as helping a student to communicate more fully to read previously inaccessible text, to interact with their teachers and peers in ways that were not accessible without new technologies," said McCoughey during the meeting.

Another parent of a disabled student, Wilda Smith Ferguson, expressed concerns about the schools' decisions that she claims don't take her child's needs into consideration. Smith-Ferguson suggested that the most vulnerable students who rely heavily on teachers and support staff such as her daughter take priority since they cannot speak for themselves. "The money should trickle up rather than trickle down to the disabled students who are the most vulnerable, those with medical and cognitive disabilities" said Smith-Ferguson.

However, the ESSER funds aren't just meant for students disabled or otherwise. Kimberly Adam, President of the Fairfax Education Association also spoke at the meeting and asked that the money be used towards health care costs so that school staff's 2 percent raise wouldn't be in jeopardy. Adam also asked that back pay be given to all employees who continued working during the pandemic, and an additional bonus to those that continued to work in the schools during the pandemic before vaccines were available. They also want increased pay for substitute teachers who can cover for teachers when they get sick or need time off.

While HVAC repairs would fall under one of the allowable uses for the funds according to U.S. Department of Education policy, namely in activities necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services in local education agencies, it does fall at the bottom of the list of 12 priorities while providing material and support for disabled students ranks much higher.

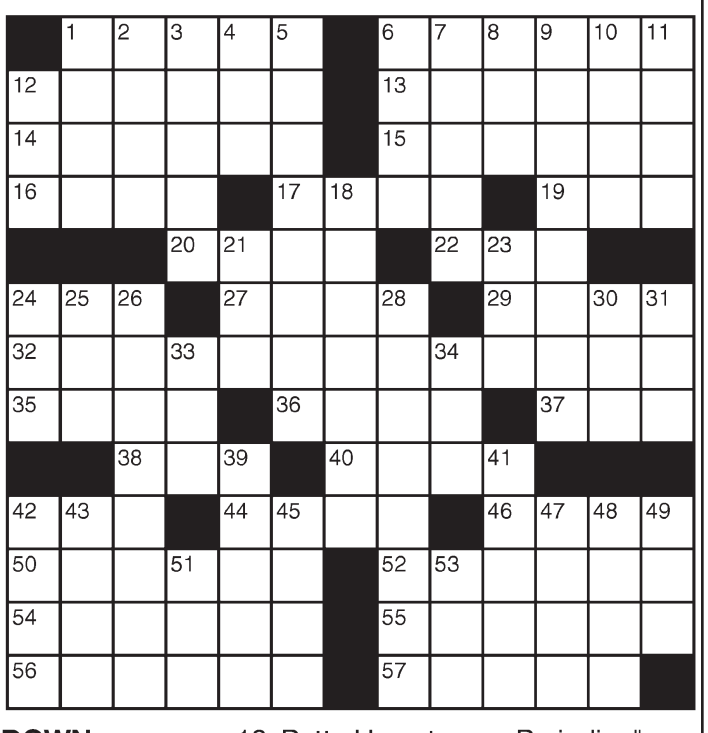
Fairfax County Public Schools are currently under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education due to reports of the use of these funds being used sparingly on disabled students.

"OCR is concerned that the district has failed to provide a "free appropriate public education" to each qualified student with a disability as required by federal law and denied students with disabilities equal access to education." Stated by Kimberly Richey, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in a letter to FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand.

The investigation into FCPS began in late 2020 under the Trump administration, other large school systems such as the Indiana Department of Education, the Seattle Public School System, and the Los Angeles Unified School District are also under investigation for reports of similar actions taken.

King Crossword

ANSWERS ON B3



ACROSS
1 Lingo
6 Slopes regular
12 Tenant
13 Sheathe
14 Schedules
15 Pumpkin relatives
16 Appointment
17 Spring meltdown
19 Cooking fuel
20 Libertine
22 Poseidon's home
24 Satisfied sigh
27 La Scala solo
29 Fine spray
32 Fruity rum cocktail
35 Author Wiesel
36 Eve's third son
37 That girl
38 "Awesome, dude!"
40 Pop
42 Trojans' sch.
44 Org.
46 Forget-me- — (flowers)
50 Paris art museum
52 Athlete's woe
54 Tempt
55 Point maker
56 Op-ed pieces
57 Dwelling

DOWN
1 Actress Ward
2 Aspiring atty.'s exam
3 Fall bloom
4 Formerly called
5 Hand signals
6 Video game giant
7 Recognizes
8 Hosp. section
9 Haggles
10 Fed. food inspector
11 GI dining hall
12 Leary's drug
18 Patty Hearst, for one
21 Feed-bag morsel
23 Outback bird
24 Mimic
25 100 percent
26 Barber's offerings
28 Flabbergast
30 Learning ctr.
31 Common title start
33 Museum-funding org.
34 Prof's degree
39 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
41 Pear variety
42 Peter Fonda's beekeeper role
43 Male deliveries?
45 Beholds
47 Partially mine
48 Genealogy chart
49 Neighbor of Leb.
51 By way of
53 Sgt., e.g.

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

Fairfax County establishes PIVOT grant program for small businesses

By Rick Horner
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the creation of the PIVOT Business Grant Recovery Program. The aim of the program is to offer monetary relief to small business and non-profit organizations that had been greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

This decision comes after research was done to find how the pandemic affected small businesses in the county. The framework from which the county worked includes specific businesses in markets of food service, lodging and hotels, retail, services, amusement, arts organizations, museums, and historical sites. Also, the non-profits that would be under consideration would be those that have filed as 501©(3) organizations under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Through that framework the county estimated that about 48,200 jobs were through December 2020. Many of the jobs lost in these particular markets were specifically concentrated in food service, hospitality, and retail sectors. Combined with other business types listed in the framework, these sectors accounted for 50 percent of total job losses in the county in 2020.

Data from other organizations within those sectors added to the dire report of how Fairfax County and Northern Virginia as a whole had been affected by the pandemic. Such examples included a report by the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association that 77 percent of all restaurant operators reported lower sales in January 2021 than a year earlier.

Another statistic provided by global hospitality firm STR found that Virginia lodging businesses experienced a monthly average decrease of more than 50 percent in 2020 when compared to the prior year. This percentage in real money comes out to a total of $2.2 billion in lost revenue.

PIVOT has been designed with three particular desired outcomes in mind: to help the small businesses and non-profits most negatively affected by

COURTESY PHOTO

the pandemic, to sustain sectors that employ a disproportionate number of low-income and minority workers, and assist those who are impacted by mitigating financial hardship, funding implementation of Coronavirus prevention, or both.

One potential concern of the program was brought up by Mason District Supervisor Penelope Gross who brought up the plight of Vietnamese businesses who have a language barrier and may have issues accessing PIVOT due to lack of English language skills. Gross also acknowledged that this issue may also extend to other business owners for whom English may not be their first language. She acknowledged an effort must be made to find ways to help those businesses access the program.

In order to fund the program, the Board authorized $25 million in funds to be appropriated from the money received by the county from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. The bill which was signed by President Joe R. Biden, in March is designed to provide relief to address the continued impact of the coronavirus on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

Panhandling issues in Fairfax County continue to rise

By Bonnibelle Bishop
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

A video of a man pretending to play the violin outside of a Giant in Clifton was revealed by a post on the social media site, NextDoor, May 13.

The poster said that they had given money to the man before realizing that the man was playing music from a speaker and not actually playing his violin. The post said that the man was known to do this across the county.

NEXTDOOR

This tactic is one of the many ways to solicit money that has occurred in Fairfax County.

Asking for money in front of stores or out in public does not violate Virginia law, according to the Fairfax County Police Department. It is protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Those who solicit money on private property can be asked to leave. However, they have the right to ask for money on public property, such as outside of grocery stores or by road medians, Tom Barnett, deputy director of the Office to Prevent Homelessness in Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development said.

Law enforcement will only engage when panhandling escalates into a situation where criminal activity or traffic offenses occur, according to the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

"We cannot prohibit people giving money or people soliciting money as panhandlers," said Barnett.

Although individuals are legally allowed to ask for money in public, the Office to End and Prevent Homelessness advises individuals to not give money to panhandlers. Donating money will not solve the larger issue at hand, they said.

"We think that the money is better used to support local nonprofits," said Barnett.

There are currently 1,222 individuals experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County, increasing from years prior, according to the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. There are also 57 individuals completely unsheltered.

African Americans make up 51 percent of the homeless population despite making up 10 percent of the Fairfax County population, Barnett said.

"That speaks to a lot of the legacy history and current discrimination that happens around jobs and housing across the US," he explained.

"Our department remains committed to enforcing laws, but it is equally important for us to provide adequate resources to those in need," the Fairfax County Police Department said in a released statement. They declined an interview for this story.

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness provides outreach teams to connect with individuals experiencing homelessness and help them find a shelter.

"One of the best ways people can help is using information that we have and a handout like published on our website," Barnett said.

Enjoy summer gazpacho

KEYS TO BETTER HEALTH
CINDY SANTA ANA

I love a fresh, cold soup in the summer. Gazpacho is one of those soups that people love or they hate. If you're a cold soup fan, this soup is for you! It tastes best when you can get fresh summer tomatoes and cucumbers from your garden or the local farmer's market. Make a big batch to share with friends on a hot summer day. And the best part is there is no cooking, just chopping, blending and eating!

Ingredients
3–4 Roma tomatoes
1 sweet or Vidalia onion
1 small red onion
1 red bell pepper
2 cucumbers
1–2 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons fresh basil
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro
1 seeded, diced jalapeno
4 cups tomato juice (read the label to make sure it's free of preservatives)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
Dash of hot pepper sauce
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
Celtic sea salt and fresh ground pepper

Directions
1. Bring a large pot of water to boil. Place an "X" on the bottom of your tomatoes with a sharp knife. Drop into boiling water for 30 seconds. Take out and place into a large bowl of cold, icy water. The skin will peel off very easily now.
2. Set out two large bowls. One bowl will be for your toppings, one will be for the items that go into a blender.
3. Dice tomatoes, removing most of the seeds. Place all but one into a large bowl. Save one, small, diced tomato for the toppings bowl.
4. Dice one cucumber small for the toppings bowl, one larger for the blender.
5. Dice the peppers, onions, cilantro and basil. Larger pieces for the blender bowl and the smaller dices for the toppings bowl.
6. In a separate bowl, mix the vinegar, lemon juice, tomato juice, olive oil, salt, pepper and hot sauce with a small whisk.
7. Place the larger cut vegetables, garlic and jalapeno into a blender or Vitamix and pulse for just a few seconds (not too long) to get everything blended.
8. Pour this mixture into your toppings bowl. Then pour the vinegar mixture on top and stir. Adjust your seasonings and let chill for 2 to 3 hours.
9. Serve with a squeeze of lemon juice and more diced cucumber on top.

Notes: Make it fancy and serve chopped crab or chilled shrimp on top! Makes 6-8 servings.

Credit: Unprocessed Living, by Cindy Santa Ana, NTP

SARA DUBLER / UNSPLASH

7x the earnings[1] for those who save lives and those who save.

Premium Online Savings

PENFED CREDIT UNION

PenFed.org®

Federally Insured by NCUA. To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed Credit Union. © 2021 Pentagon Federal Credit Union. 1. Sourced directly from: www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/rates. Rates are accurate as of May 17, 2021. APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is accurate as of June 1, 2021 and is subject to change at any time. Fees may reduce earnings. Government regulations restrict certain types of withdrawals from your Pentagon Federal Savings Account up to six times per monthly dividend cycle. If you exceed the permitted number of withdrawals, a fee will be assessed which may affect your earnings. $5 minimum to open the account. Premium Online Savings account holders must agree to electronic delivery of account opening disclosures and monthly statements.

Fairfax County Health Department takes on new roles during COVID

By Sravan Gannavarapu
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Each year, the Fairfax County Health Department inspects close to 3,300 food service establishments within the county and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

The past year, however, has been different. Following the emergence of COVID in March 2020, the Health Department discontinued routine in-person inspections of food establishments. The policy, according to Environmental Health Director Adrian Joye, was implemented to minimize possible COVID transmission between Health Department staff and restaurant employees.

Instead, a virtual inspection process was developed to survey restaurant operations during this period. The virtual inspection process enlisted technology such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams, so that inspectors could direct restaurant staff through the facility with a camera-enabled device.

While a handful of field staff were retained in the food safety program to investigate complaints of suspected foodborne illness, several others within the department including school nurses and health aides, took on new responsibilities, from working call centers to being part of an environmental health staff working vaccination clinics.

Aimee Simons was initially a public-school nurse and had been in that role for five years in the Falls Church area before moving to a public health role. Her assignments included responding to evening calls and call centers. Simons served almost five different roles upon shifting from public schools.

"My first assignment was responding to calls in the evening and the night shift," Simons said. "Doctors and nurses needed to find out if somebody met criteria for public health testing, so I was representing the Health Department on those calls."

Simons also said that with her new role, she informed patients if they indeed tested positive. She currently manages the wellness team within the department, checking in with those who are in isolation and quarantine to confirm that they have the necessary essentials. If someone becomes symptomatic, Simons says the department will make sure they have all the essentials to get tested, with use of a Sara Alert. A Sara Alert is a secure messaging service that sends a daily email or text message to you so you can report your symptoms to the Health Department while self-isolating or quarantining.

The transition wasn't easy and Simons said the hours were long, almost a 12-hour shift and working on a staggered schedule.

"There was definitely some adjustment to schedule, and it's just different," Simons said. "It's definitely different work, altogether different work, than the school nursing."

Like Simons, Mariah Eichelberger was also working as a public-school nurse at the time of the pandemic's emergence. Eichelberger became the deputy supervisor of the call center and has been in that role for the past eight months until recently, when schools started to open up. Her transition was also far from smooth.

"I went from working a 9 to 5 kind of job to working 12-to-13-hour shifts, two days on two days off. So that was definitely an adjustment," Eichelberger said.

Eichelberger also said the hardest part of the job was not knowing how long this would last and when they would be going back to their normal jobs. Like with any new job, came the task of adapting to a new skill set. For Eichelberger, that wasn't necessarily the case.

"We're just doing a lot of research and a lot of consultation with other experts in the health department to make sure that the information we were giving out to the public was up to date, because things were changing by the minute," Eichelberger said. "Not necessarily a whole new skill set, but definitely very different from my normal job."

If anything has come out of this pandemic, it's that everyone who worked in the health departments or any role in helping prevent the spread of COVID deserves gratitude and a standing ovation.

FCPS forces virtual students to be in-person come fall

Dear Editor,

With vaccines not currently available to children under 12, FCPS staff not required to get vaccinated (which is legal to do so), and COVID cases in students regularly. FCPS is now requiring students must have a Medical Diagnosis to continue to stay virtual next year. What? As a mother of three, I have had to leave my job and be home to support my kid's virtual learning. I do this because I know FCPS hasn't done what it can to keep our kids safe. In fact, among all the other mothers I know outside of FCPS much higher safety standards are implemented. FCPS continues to be ok with 3 feet and masks even though continual COVID cases in students occur regularly. FCPS is forcing Virtual Students to come in person or Leave their home school and all the friends they have made. I don't know any other district doing this. If no COVID cases in students then this would be reasonable but this is the opposite of the truth and Virtual parents have had no say in the safety protocols or this option being taken away. How can virtual students come back when they have lost family members to COVID and know that COVID still comes into their schools on a regular basis with little protection against it. Our kids haven't even visited with unvaccinated family members but I am supposed to send them to school with teachers who aren't vaccinated? FCPS keeps virtual parents silent.

Amanda Cottone
Fairfax, VA

Governor nominees

Dear Editor,

The Democratic Party makes the point consistently and often that white males have enjoyed privileged and power for too long, and now, that must change.

The outcome of the recent Virginia primary for governor casts doubt on whether or not the Party is so committed. Two black females ran for the nomination for governor, and one would think ideal candidates—not white and not male.

But who got the endorsement of Governor Northam? The white male, Mr. McAuliffe, who has already served one term as governor. And who won the primary with 62% of the vote? The white male, Mr. McAuliffe, who has already served one term as governor.

It might be true that Governor Northam and the voters believe that Mr. McAuliffe is the best qualified, and so, their choice would be wise.

From here on though, it is not expected the Party will again speak of embracing diversity and inclusion, but will be guided by qualification.

Steve Brown
Springfield, VA

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?
Share your OPINION at
FairfaxCountyTimes.com

In response to op-ed attacking Abrar Omeish

Dear Editor,

Last month, a Fairfax County School Board member tweeted criticism of the policies of a foreign government, echoing language which has been used by Human Rights Watch, two of the foreign country's most prominent human rights organizations, and at least ten former officials of that foreign government.

Unfortunately, however, the School Board member has since become the target of a slew of baseless accusations and calls for her resignation or removal. It is hard to overlook the fact that there has been such a backlash for oft-stated human rights-based comments--particularly because the School Board member at issue, Abrar Omeish, is Arab American, and the foreign entity in question is the Israeli government.

Targeting Arab Americans with accusations of bigotry or deadly antisemitism simply because of political criticisms of the Israeli government is a form of Arab baiting—a decades-old tactic used to exclude Arab American voices from civic spaces and to silence advocacy for Palestinian human rights.

Much of the criticism of Ms. Omeish's comments focus on the words she chose, such as "colonization" and "apartheid", to describe the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians. But both the first and second Bush administrations and the Reagan administration used the term "occupation," which differs from colonization in only the length of time of the activity. The word "apartheid" as been used for decades to describe Israeli policies by politicians from Desond Tutu to Yitzhak Rabin, from Jimmy Carter to Ehud Olmert. Note that Ms. Omeish's critics most often use loaded buzzwords without actually addressing the accuracy of her statement.

Indeed, the bad faith outrage toward Ms. Omeish is not because what she said is factually incorrect, but because of who she is. The day before Ms. Omeish's tweet, U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly also rightly criticized Israeli policies, using the word "occupation" in a letter condemning the same illegal land grab in Sheikh Jarrah that Ms. Omeish decried. Since then, the Fairfax GOP has tweeted about Omeish three dozen times. They have not yet mentioned Representative Connolly at all.

Perhaps the worst result of these attacks on Abrar Omeish is not her victimization, but what it represents and the shifted focus away from the grueling reality of Palestinians, and Palestinian children in particular. Since 2006, the Israeli government displaced an average of 370 Palestinian children each year as a result of on going home demolitions. The Israeli military also detains between 500 and 700 Palestian children each year. And during last month's violence, Israeli attacks killed 200 Palestinians, including 59 children. As a Fairfax County parent, I applaud any school board member who will join the chorus against such injustice wherever it is found. Palestinian children are just as deserving of a future as our children, and any policy based on justice must not ignore their plight.

Ryan J. Suto
Policy Counsel,
Arab American Institute

INOVA®

When's the last time you saw your doctor?

From routine physicals to regular screenings such as cholesterol checks, colonoscopies, and mammography, the need to maintain your health hasn't stopped, and neither has our care.

Schedule a check-up today at inova.org/YourHealthFirst.

#SafeAtInova

‘Did that just go in?’

11-year-old female golfer sinks a hole-in-one

By Grant Johnson
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Last summer, COVID-19 grounded a summer staple, the community swim team, to a halt across the country. With the Virginia Run Riptide, a community swim team in Centreville, it had socially-distanced practices five days a week last year with no meets. This summer, however, the Riptide is back in full force and is ready to make the most of an imperfect situation the pandemic dealt.

On May 22, Falls Church native and 11-year-old Delaney Raptis sunk the shot many golfers aspire to make and never do in a lifetime: a hole-in-one.

Raptis, a rising 7th grader at Longfellow Middle School in McLean, said it was a hot and sunny day at TCP Potomac at Avenel Farm in Potomac, Md., and said she wasn’t playing well. That was, of course, until she made the shot.

“I was super surprised because I saw it going towards the hole, like rolling towards the hole, and I didn’t think it’d go in the hole but then it did,” Raptis said. “I was so shocked.”

Raptis said she didn’t know exactly how far away it was, but her and her dad, Steve Raptis, estimated 120 yards. For the entirety of the round, Raptis said she shot somewhere around a 95.

Raptis plays on a recreational team in Maryland called the Avenel Aces on Team 3. The Aces participate in the PGA Junior League, and play teams across Maryland against golfers ages 11-13.

The tournaments that the Aces play in are 9-hole scramble style, meaning that on each two- or three-person teams, the golfer who shoots the best shot is the ball the team plays from. Raptis said she plays with her older brother, Andy (12), frequently in these tournaments.

“They both have their strengths,” Steve Raptis said. “Delaney’s a great driver of the ball and a great chipper. Andy’s really good around the greens [and bunkers, added Delaney] … they compliment each other well.”

The Raptis’ kids just completed a tournament June 6 against Bretton Woods — the match was very close and came down to the end, but the Aces lost 2-1. Andy and Delaney are both seasoned veterans for their age, considering when they started playing relative to many other golfers across the country.

“When I was little, maybe 5 or 6, my dad started to take my brother and I out to the course,” Raptis said. “We would kind of just putt and chip until a few years ago — three years ago maybe — we started getting lessons and then we both got better at golf.”

The elder Raptis said before Delaney and Andy got lessons from trainers, he would have them start 30 yards behind the green and just putt onto the green and putt out. He said that length moved to 50 yards and he’d then have the two chip. This early putting and chipping hasn’t prevented Raptis from having a great driver for her age — her father said she can drive 160 yards and play from the ladies’ tees.

If she could improve anything, Raptis said she wants to work on her mid-irons, fairway woods and hybrids because she said she’s really inconsistent with them. However, if there’s a work ethic that can overcome those weaknesses, it’s hers.

“She’s about the hardest working kid I know,” said her father. “She’s a straight ‘A’ student … When we get out on the golf course, she puts a lot of pressure on herself, more than her golf teacher probably likes, but that’s just her nature. She’s a bit of a perfectionist and I think it just drives her to work really hard.”

One might think that this kind of work ethic was needed for Raptis to keep her form

COURTESY PHOTO

in limited time on the course during COVID-19. Contrarily, Raptis only played once a week before the pandemic compared to three times a week when her league started the first week of April this year. Golf is one of the few sports that had the capability to ramp up play during COVID-19 because the sport is naturally socially distanced.

As we look into the horizon past the pandemic, Raptis’ horizon envisions herself either helping animals — even just bugs, she said — or playing golf in college. She said it would just be “the best” to go to college while playing golf.

And if there’s anyone that can make that goal happen, it’s the 11-year-old that already has a hole-in-one in her back pocket.

The indoor pickleball facility that’s taken Fairfax County by storm: Pickleballerz

By Grant Johnson
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Looking for a way to escape the summer heat or the perpetual drone of cicadas while staying physically active? Give Pickleballerz a try.

Pickleballerz — opened Sept. 2020 in Chantilly — is an indoor, climate controlled, six-court pickleball complex with a café and player’s lounge that serves food, beer and wine. It also hosts men’s, women’s and mixed doubles leagues on Monday’s Tuesday’s and Wednesdays, respectively, along with clinics and academies run by some of the sport’s top-ranked players, including one by Ben and Colin Johns last October — the world’s first- and fourth-ranked players.

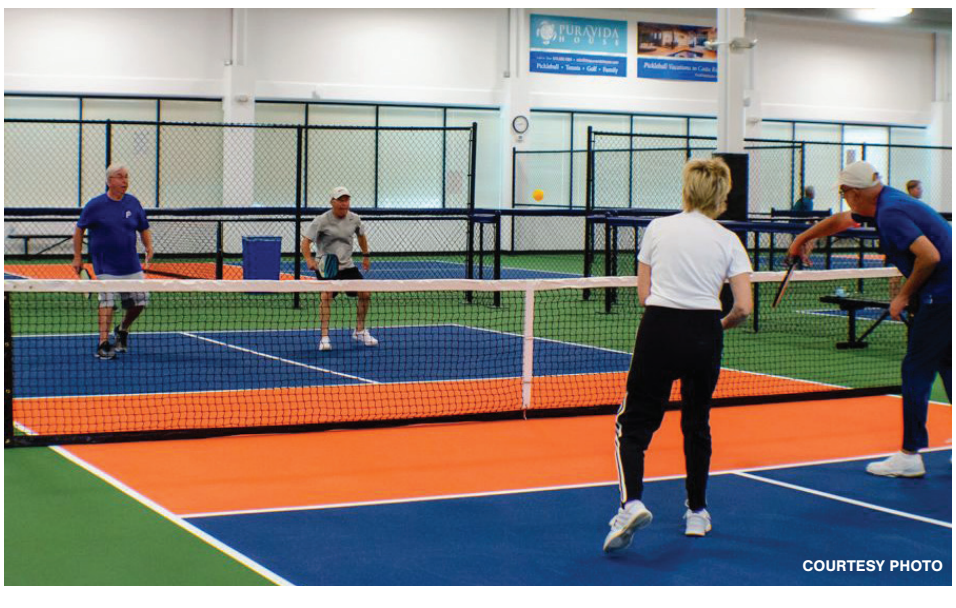
Pickleball is a sport that’s quickly gaining popularity across the country — it already has a foothold in a few regions, predominately in the South, where it can more easily be played year-round. For starters, the sport is similar to tennis, but it’s played with a ping pong-esque paddle instead of a racket and is played on a court half the size of a tennis court.

Pickleballerz Chief Operating Officer Beverly Raelson said they pride themselves on being a place where experienced and novice racket-ball players alike can have fun and find a niche playing pickleball. Along with running pickleball leagues, Raelson said Pickleballerz has been a hub for birthday parties and employer get-togethers as many haven’t seen each other in person during the pandemic.

Without Pickleballerz, however, these functions wouldn’t have been at an indoor pickleball facility, period. Greg Raelson, husband of Beverly and head of Pickleballerz’s marketing department, said the idea of Pickleballerz was conceived when his parents came up from Florida -- a pickleball hotbed -- to visit.

“It was in the wintertime, and [Greg’s father] said, ‘Let’s play some pickleball,’ Beverly said. “Greg and I were like, ‘OK, fine, let’s go find an indoor place to play.’ And it turned out there were no indoor places to play. So, that’s really how we got this idea of [having] a place to play all year round. … Nothing was 100 percent dedicated to pickleball.”

Popularity of pickleball in Fairfax County — in part because of the new ability to play the sport year-round thanks to Pickleballerz — has increased. In Centreville’s Virginia Run community, three tennis courts were converted into six pickleball courts in 2019.



COURTESY PHOTO

With the increase in popularity and a place to play year-round, Northern Virginia pickleball is appealing to a wide generational audience. Beverly said she’s seen people on a pickleball court ranging upwards of 50 years apart. She also said opposite genders play together more in pickleball than most other sports — a testament to pickleball’s universal playability.

“It’s definitely a sport where you can play very recreationally or very competitively,” Greg said. “It’s something that’s very easy to learn, the rules are simple [and] children can pick up the sport very easily.”

The easy learning curve is something Beverly also attested to. A singles and doubles tennis player, she said pickleball is easier to pick up than tennis because to have fun in that racket-sport, she said it’s harder because it takes more work to learn how to get a rally going, among other skills.

Murri Serbu is a player who’s made the transition from tennis to pickleball. The 64-year-old said she’s been playing pickleball for three years ever since she saw a Facebook post from someone in the Virginia Run neighborhood asking if people wanted to try it out. She hasn’t looked back since.

“It was so much fun from the first time I played,” Serbu said. “It’s a much faster pace than tennis.”

Serbu — who nowadays plays three to four times a week, predominately at Pickleballerz — said she enjoys the faster pace of play; in pickleball, the ball must go over the net in one serve versus two in tennis. She said she also likes the way the scoring is in pickleball more so than in tennis. Beverly said many former tennis players transition to pickleball as they get older or if they’re coming off a knee injury, which she said a lot of tennis players get.

Murri’s son, Nick (25), also attests to the notion of a preference over pickleball than tennis. He said he wasn’t that good at first at pickleball, but now he said he’s almost a 4.0 player.

In pickleball, a ratings system is used to determine one’s skill level that ranges from a 2.0 to 5.0 and increases in .5 increments. Four point zero is considered the start of the “really competitive stage,” Nick said, while most beginner players are 2.0s.

The ratings are both unofficial and official, Nick said, as one can look at a player and say, “that guy’s a 4.5” based off how they grip the paddle or their consistency and accuracy. However, Nick said tournaments are played and divided up into regions by skill levels.

Nick said he has competed in pickleball tournaments in the past, most notably at the Pickleballerz Fall Fling last October. He said in pickleball, he prefers the “tactfulness” that’s required to win over raw athletic ability — size, speed and strength — that are emphasized in tennis to a greater extent.

“It’s more like a game of chess instead of weightlifting,” Nick said. “I think that’s why people like it from all walks of athleticism.”

This sentiment was paralleled by Beverly as a reason for pickleball’s wide appeal. She said she’s seen firsthand many who’ve tried pickleball for the first time and concluded, “Finally, I found something,” or, “Wow, I have something I can play.”

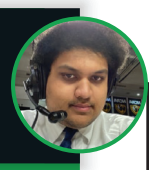
The inclusivity of pickleball is something that Nick said gives it more of a “community atmosphere” than tennis. At Pickleballerz, the community allows for fair and competitive pickleball within its leagues.

Greg said Pickleballerz’s leagues are started with a draft night, where team captains volunteer to select their teams. To ensure equal play, the assistant program director, Lance Martin, is responsible for making sure the teams are even. Also, in the mixed doubles league, Martin helps ensure everyone has a partner, even if one wants to play and doesn’t.

From all walks of life and skill levels, pickleball has you covered. Come beat the heat and see firsthand at Pickleballerz why pickleball is experiencing tremendous growth in Fairfax County and beyond.

FARIFAX COUNTY

BREAKING FREE



BY SRAVAN GANNAVARAPU
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Remote work offers opportunities for travel

COURTESY PHOTO

Grace Erard lives on the west coast in Truckee, Calif.. Meanwhile, her colleagues live here on the east coast. At first glance, it seems like there could be some issues with communication, until the power of telecommunication comes into the equation.

The Reston native and University of Virginia graduate was in the Outer Banks at the time of the pandemic's emergence. Prior to that, she was doing a mixture of working remotely and commuting to offices in D.C. and Maryland.

"I went there (Outer Banks) for a weekend and ended up being locked down there for many months," Erard said.

Though the pandemic made her transition to full-time remote work, she welcomed the opportunity to not commute. After all, most of her work involved using virtual and telecommunication. As a result, the change, while certainly a big one, was relatively smooth.

"Transitioning to full-time remote work was relatively easy for me because a lot of my meetings were already over Zoom," Erard said. "But I have missed the opportunity for in-person interaction in an office."

Erard recognizes that the ability to work remotely is a privilege amidst a pandemic that has taken a disproportionate toll on frontline workers. It has been well documented how they put a lot on the line while providing us with as much comfort as possible.

"I'm grateful for my health, and I feel fortunate to not only have a job during the pandemic, but to have a job that enables me to work remotely," Erard said.

Don't we all wish we could be afforded the same luxury? Unfortunately, it's been a tough time for several families, many of whom have lost their jobs. Additionally, under COVID restrictions, several people are being forced to stay home.

As a result, most of us have not been able to enjoy our ordinary daily lives of going out, eating in a restaurant, attending a sporting event, or just seeing friends on weekends like we used to. While things are getting better with a more significant number of vaccines being distributed, it's still going to take additional time.

In the meantime, the opportunity to work from anywhere has been a silver lining for some people during the pandemic. In Erard's case, she used the time to travel domestically, albeit while following public health guidelines. She has worked from several different places, including a six-month stop in Denver, during which she has embraced outdoor activities, such as skiing, hiking, and visiting state and national parks

"I think those activities are really good for your mental and physical health, and they're things I enjoy, but they're also relatively safe activities (in terms of COVID-19 risk)," Erard said.

Outside of traveling, Erard has worked on health and human services projects in addition to health equity issues. She also volunteered at a vaccine clinic. As it pertains to her current job, she's had to become more of a morning person to get up with her colleagues who are operating in a different time zone than her. Still, with that, there are a few perks.

"There is still some flexibility in terms of when I do the work given that we're in different time zones as long as I get the work done, attend meetings, and am responsive to emails and messages," Erard said.

Balancing remote work has been more of a challenge for other individuals and families. Many people have a fixed time frame where they have to work, and leniency isn't part of the package. Additionally, some families have kids, which can be a challenge with keeping them entertained or doing remote learning while also managing work from home.

Moreover, working remotely can sometimes result in connectivity problems and unreliable WiFi, and more significant internet inequality problems. For example, Erard mentioned that while visiting Maine, she and her mother had to work from the town library's parking lot some days to use WiFi.

Erard also mentioned that increased screen time and constantly being online can be draining. However, telecommunications have helped her stay connected with her friends and family in addition to her colleagues.

"I think it has created new forms of communication or communication standards, which have allowed me to keep in touch with my family and friends, both in the United States and abroad," Erard said. "So even if I'm far away, I still feel close to them in some ways because of virtual communication."

While the prospect of leaving our virtual worlds from home and returning to our offices looms, Erard is enjoying the flexibility that comes with remote work while she can.

"I don't know if I'll be traveling to client sites, working from an office, or working remotely come September; however, I'm enjoying the opportunity to work from anywhere for now," Erard said.

In this day and age, it's about making do with what you have instead of waiting for something good to happen. So don't wait for the opportunity; create one for yourself.

JAKOB OWENS / UNSPLASH

Fairfax County schools take prizes in VHSL film festival

By Rick Horner
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Two Fairfax County high schools took top honors in in the Virginia High School League's 2020-2021 Film Festival. While VHSL is know by many as the organization that regulates and promotes high school sports in the Commonwealth, they're also known for putting together academic events such as debates, esports, and this film festival.

This year films by students at Robinson Secondary School and Washington-Liberty High School took top honors at the event.

Robinson's offering, "Fate on a Plate", won for best film as well as the audience choice award for best narrative film. "Fate", tells the story of a young aspiring musician who one day gets an unexpected delivery of a fortune cookie that will change his life. The musician at first resists and tries to dispose of the cookie but is unable to reminiscent to a classic episode of the Twilight Zone.

Every time the musician opens the cookie, he's taken to a new aspiration such as becoming a star baseball player, a successful writer, and finally a successful musician. The film was starred and directed by Harry MacInnis who also wrote the story with Ryan Faddis.

Washington-Liberty's offering, "Tub", won the audience choice award for best experimental film. Written and directed by, and starring Maya Koenig, the film is about a woman who attempts to use a bathtub as a sensory deprivation tank in order to drown out the sounds of clicking pens, cracking knuckles, and the ever wince-inducing nails on a chalk board.

Washington-Liberty also had offerings in other categories such as "No One But Us" in animation and "The Gift" in the narrative category.

Portfolio Loan Programs

Customized and Flexible Loan Options with **NO POINTS FEE*!**

- 1 year Tax Returns
- Profit and Loss Statement Program
- 6 or 12 Month Bank statement Program
- Loan amounts up to $5,000,000
- Cash out up to $3,000,000
- Up to 80% LTV
- Debt-to-Income (DTI) up to 55%
- Minimum FICO 680 and up

*Loan origination fee is $1,495.

5% Down Payment Program**

Low Down Payment to Make Buying a House More **Affordable!**

- First-time home buyers are welcome
- Full down payments can be gifted from a family member
- Homeownership Education is not required
- Seller can contribute 3% towards closing costs.

Please visit your nearest branch to meet our Mortgage Loan Officer or call 855-448-8989 today!

Bank of Hope®
Bankers. Experts. Neighbors.

© Bank of Hope, NMLS #794513. **5% Down Payment Program is limited to the purchase of 1-unit principal residences and is subject to borrower-paid private mortgage insurance, credit and collateral approvals. Other terms and conditions apply. Not all borrowers will qualify. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

Deliciously easy sustainable eating

Courtesy of Brand Point Media

Today, consumers are beginning to use one more guideline to determine how to spend their food dollars: sustainability. The public is increasingly curious about where and how their food is produced and what impact it has on the environment - and for good reason. The world's population is rapidly expanding and it's estimated there will be over 9 billion people on the planet by 2050.

A healthy diet should include food choices that respect future accessibility to nutritious food and overall global health. Over the past several years, the interest in plant-based foods has skyrocketed, and it's not just from vegans and vegetarians. A new crop of consumers, dubbed Flexitarians, have emerged and are changing the way newer generations are eating.

From meatless meals to plant-centric plates, there are many ways to eat more sustainably without loss of flavor. Gone are the days of tasteless vegetarian offerings; instead, both professional chefs and home cooks are experimenting with adding more fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains to traditional meat-centric dishes. One example is that of The Blend, a cooking technique that blends finely chopped mushrooms with ground meat. This is a culinary trend that appeals to health professionals and conservationists alike. It's sustainable, nutritious and delicious, making it healthier on the plate and gentler on the planet.

If it seems like mushrooms are everywhere, it's because they are. In addition to popular cooking techniques like The Blend, mushrooms are seemingly the star of almost every new food product from jerky and chips to tea and coffee. And it's not just an ingredient in new products. In 2020, few produce items surpassed the popularity of mushrooms. Their taste, accessibility and health benefits have made them popular with Generations X, Y and Z as well as a top seller at grocery stores across the country.

So why is it that mushrooms are the poster child for sustainable nutrition? It starts on the farm. Mushrooms have a unique growing process unlike any other produce item where they require zero light, require merely 1.8 gallons of water and generate only .7 pounds of carbon dioxide per pound for production. In addition, the annual average yield of mushrooms is 7.1 pounds per square foot - meaning up to 1 million pounds of mushrooms can be produced on just one acre.

Often grouped with vegetables, mushrooms provide many of the nutrient attributes of produce, as well as attributes more commonly found in meat, beans or grains. According to the USDA's FoodData Central, one serving (5 medium/90g) of white, raw mushrooms contains 20 calories, 0g fat, 3g protein and is very low in sodium (0mg/<1% recommended daily value). Few foods naturally contain vitamin D, and mushrooms are unique in that they are the only food in the produce aisle that contain vitamin D. Specifically, one serving of raw, UV-exposed, white (90g) and crimini (80g) mushrooms contains 23.6mcg (118% RDA) and 25.52mcg (128% RDA) of vitamin D, respectively.

For more sustainably delicious and nutritious recipes, like the Classic Blended Burger, visit MushroomCouncil.com.

CLASSIC BLENDED BURGER

INGREDIENTS:
8 ounces white button mushrooms, finely chopped
1 pound lean ground beef • 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil • 4-6 buns

Add chopped mushrooms, ground beef and salt into a large bowl and mix until combined. Form into 4 large patties or 6 slider-size patties. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the burger patties approximately 4 minutes per side, or to your preferred level of doneness. Remove burger patties from heat and toast buns in the same skillet. Assemble burgers with your favorite toppings and condiments.

The Blend Hot Tip: For extra flavor, saute the chopped mushrooms first with 1 tablespoon olive oil, chopped garlic, salt and pepper. Let briefly cool before blending with meat and forming into patties.

A simple guide to finding the best grill for you

Courtesy of Brand Point Media

The sound of the sizzle, the smell of foods cooking outdoors, the undeniable taste - it's time to get back to the barbecue. For many people, a grill becomes a second kitchen. For others, it's their primary way of cooking all year long.

"We need it more than ever after a year like this," says Steven Raichlen, grilling authority, author and host of television's "Project Fire." "Grilling brings joy. Unleashing your inner pyromaniac is fun. Building a fire is fun. Waltzing the food from hot spots to cool spots is fun. Grilling is an interactive sport. Every grill session is different and that alone makes it joyful."

More than just cooking good food, Raichlen says grilling is a bonding activity that focuses on a simple pleasure that everyone enjoys.

"It's fun and uncanny how grilling brings people together. No one gathers around the stove to watch a pot of stew simmer. Light your grill, people congregate and you, the grill master, become master of ceremonies," he says.

DANNY GALLEGOS / UNSPLASH

The appeal of grilling transcends generations, and many people are now shopping for new grills so they can enjoy cooking outdoors. The problem is there are many types of grills, different sizes and varying price points, so it's difficult to know which is right for your needs.

If you are looking to buy a new grill, the experts at the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association share some important things to keep in mind:

Types of grills to consider

Gas: For people who want convenience. Just like your kitchen stove, it can be ready to cook in 10 minutes, and it's easy to regulate cooking temps.

Charcoal: For those who love being hands-on with the nuances of outdoor grilling. Some say charcoal provides the best flavor experience. Good for low and slow cooking and high heat searing.

Pellet: For people who want the most in flavor. Wood pellet grills are among the most energy efficient and burn clean. Pellets come in varieties such as hickory, mesquite and oak, providing a truly flavorful cooking experience.

Electric: For people who love simplicity. Electric grills are designed to produce constant heat and operate without an open flame. Ideal for apartment or condo dwellers since they don't require charcoal or propane.

Kamado: For people who love cooking all styles and seasons. Kamado grills' excellent insulation is ideal for both grilling and smoking. They can use wood and charcoal and are ideal for roasting and baking.

Questions to ask before buying a grill

What do you love to cook? Many grills come with extra features ideal for certain foods, like rotisseries if you love a roasted chicken, side burners if you love soups and stews, or ample space for pizza stones if you frequently crave the 'za.

How much time will you have to cook? If you're hard pressed for free cooking time, consider the convenience of gas or electric grills. Love to pass the time cooking? A charcoal, smoker or kamado grill may be best for you.

How much space do you have? If you have a big backyard, consider a larger grill perhaps with a kitchen island to create a focal point for relaxation and entertaining. Premium portable or more compact grills are ideal for condos and apartments.

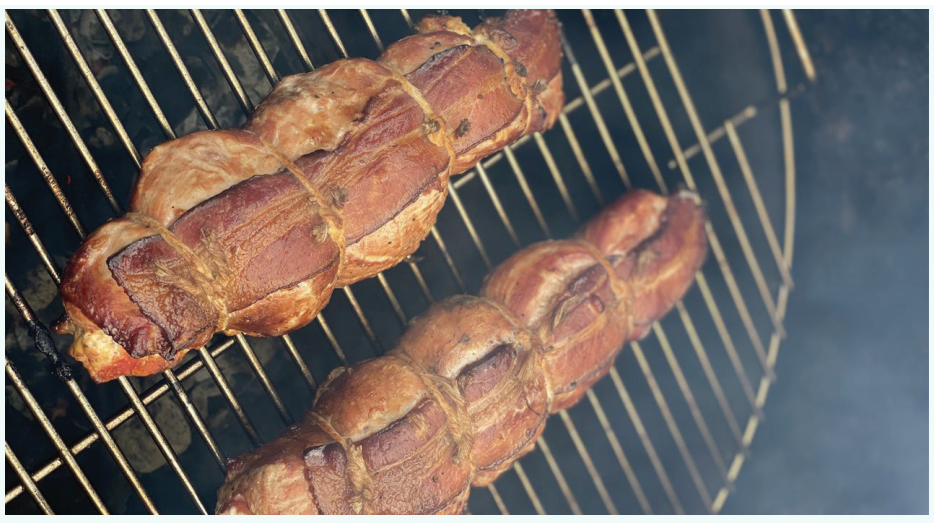
Once you have your grill at home and ready to go, it's time to get cooking. Raichlen shares one of his favorite grill recipes below. Find more recipes, cooking tips and pledge to grill out at www.whyigrill.org.

PAMPLONA OF PORK

INGREDIENTS:
2 pork tenderloins, each 1 to 1-1/4 pounds • Coarse salt - sea or kosher
Freshly ground black pepper • 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard • 1 roasted red bell pepper, stemmed, peeled, seeded and sliced into 1/4-inch strips (see note below) • 3 ounces thinly sliced smoked ham, slivered • One 5.2-ounce package Boursin cheese or other soft garlic and herb cheese, crumbled • 4 strips thin-cut bacon • Vegetable oil for oiling the grate

YOU'LL ALSO NEED: Butcher's string • 1 or 2 hardwood chunks or 1-1/2 cups hardwood smoking chips. If using the latter, soak in water to cover for 30 minutes, then drain.

DIRECTIONS:
1. Set up your grill for indirect grilling and heat to medium-high, about 400 degrees.
2. Meanwhile, cut a deep pocket in the side of each pork tenderloin. Season the inside of the pocket with salt and pepper and paint with mustard. Stuff the peppers, ham and cheese into the pocket. Season the outside of the tenderloins with salt and pepper.
3. Lay four 10-inch pieces of kitchen string on and parallel to your work surface. Lay a strip of bacon on and perpendicular to the strings. Top with one of the tenderloins. Lay a second strip of bacon on top of the tenderloin. Bring up the ends of the strings and tie. Trim the ends close to the knots. Repeat with the remaining tenderloin.
4. Brush or scrape the grill grate clean and oil it well with vegetable oil. If using a charcoal grill, add the wood chunks or chips to the coals. On a gas grill, place in the smoker box or under the grate directly over the burners.



5. Indirectly grill the tenderloins until nicely browned and the meat is cooked through to 145-155 degrees or as needed, about 40 minutes.
6. Let the meat rest for 5 minutes. Remove the strings, then, using a sharp knife, preferably with a serrated blade, slice the tenderloin crosswise into 1/2-inch medallions. Transfer to a platter or plates.

Note: The pepper can be prepared at a previous grill session. Heat the grill to high then roast the pepper until the skin is blackened and charred, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Alternatively, roast the pepper over an open flame on your gas stove or the side burner of your grill. Cover and refrigerate for up to a day if not using immediately.

Fairfax County Times' Guide to
Arts & Entertainment

PETS:
ADOPT-A-CAT MONTH!
Page B3

Jammin Java welcomes alt rocker Courtney King

The singer/flutist will play songs off her debut album

By Keith Loria
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Thanks to a blend of powerful, sultry vocals with an Ian Anderson-esque rock flute sound, alt rocker Courtney King is becoming the next big thing in the music world.

King's debut album, "Feel Good Swiller," boasts a collection of songs reminiscent of early Heart with influences of Led Zeppelin and Jethro Tull shining through.

Her interest in the flute dates back to middle school, and though she wanted to play the trumpet, her dad convinced her to take up the flute instead.

"He shared with me classic rock and there was always music on in my house growing up," King said. "He would show me how much flute was integrated into some of the songs and it was cool. So, I got into it and just kept playing."

Hailing from the Chicago suburbs, King studied music at DePaul University and was a student of leading flutists Mary Stolper and Donald Peck, former principal flute of the Chicago Symphony.

In 2001, she became a member of the Air Force Band of Flight in Dayton, Ohio, playing flute in front of presidents, foreign dignitaries and veterans.

"I attended basic military training and learned to shoot an M-16 – just so I could play music for a living, that's how much I love music," she said. "As a classically trained musician, you don't have a whole lot of options when you graduate, unless you're in the top, top percent, that's going to actually get you a job that will support you. This was a great way to do that."

Her husband, trumpeter Gene King, was also in the band. After the couple had their first child, King decided not to re-enlist, and two more children followed while she stayed at home and worked on her music, teaching music classes and working as a local singer and flutist for a band.

When King's husband was stationed in Germany, she moved there and started concentrating more on a solo career. It's there that she wrote most of what's on her first solo album. The family moved back to the U.S. in 2019, settling down in Northern Virginia, and King decided it was time to release her album.

On June 10, King will play Jammin Java as part of the venue's 20th anniversary of outdoor concerts. She plans on other shows in the Washington, D.C. area throughout the summer.

"I was planning on playing the album out, and then COVID hit, so this will be the first time I'll be playing with a full band since its release," King said. "I'm pretty excited about that. We'll be playing a lot of the songs from the album. And I will also be playing some tunes that I co-wrote with my band from St. Louis."

She'll also be doing some new stuff that she's written over the last year, playing acoustic at the show. Her guitarist, Josh Byrd, was another former Air Force band musician and she's looking forward to playing with him.

Singing and playing flute at the same

See KING, Page B2

The arts are in Fairfax

COURTESY PHOTO

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Lou Sica.

By Manuela Quintero Fehr
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

June is here, and it is officially time to kick off the summer! The arts are everywhere in Fairfax. You can take an art class on the lawn, attend summer camps, and don't forget to check your local theatre listings for upcoming shows.

However you chose to live, work and play in Fairfax, take time to visit artsfairfax.org and immerse yourself in the arts this summer.

Reston Pride: June marks the 51st celebration of Pride Month. Reston invites the community to the Reston Pride festival featuring D.C. band Wicked Jezabel June 19. The festival will also commemorate Juneteenth, with a dance performance by Yauri Dalencour and opening remarks from Washington Plaza Baptist Church Rev. Michelle Nickens. Proceeds from this year's festival will go to future Reston Pride events and programs along with the nonprofit Rainbow Families, which provides education and support to LGBTQ families and prospective parents. Visit restonpride.org to learn more. The festival takes place in person from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza.

New ArtsFairfax grant opportunity: ArtsFairfax invites the community to apply for the Arts Ignite Recovery Grants (AIR). The grant supports eligible nonprofit arts organizations in providing activities that engage diverse audiences and create arts opportunities in underserved areas of the county. Visit ArtsFairfax.org to learn more or apply. Grant application closes on July 21.

Cicada-Themed Activities: Love is in the air! After 17 years, the Brood X Cicadas have arrived in Fairfax County and they're here to stay - at least until the beginning of July. Fairfax County is hosting several activities to learn more about these interesting creatures and document this natural wonder in some of our county's most iconic settings. Visit https://bit.ly/3uYzp96 for more information.

Enjoy Gardens and Music: The Virginia Chamber Orchestra will be returning to the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna for ensemble concerts on selected Sunday afternoons. Concerts are free with admission to the Gardens ($3 to $6). Visit https://www.vco.events/ for more information.

2021 Arts For Life Artist Residences: The Virtual Center for Active Adults and ArtsFairfax have partnered to offer virtual Artist Residencies on the VCAA. Four teaching artists representing a range of disciplines will lead weekly interactive sessions and programs on the VCAA. Visit https://bit.ly/3v2vjNi for more information.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

Hollywood questions answered

By Dana Jackson
KING FEATURES

DEPOSITPHOTOS

Woody Harrelson

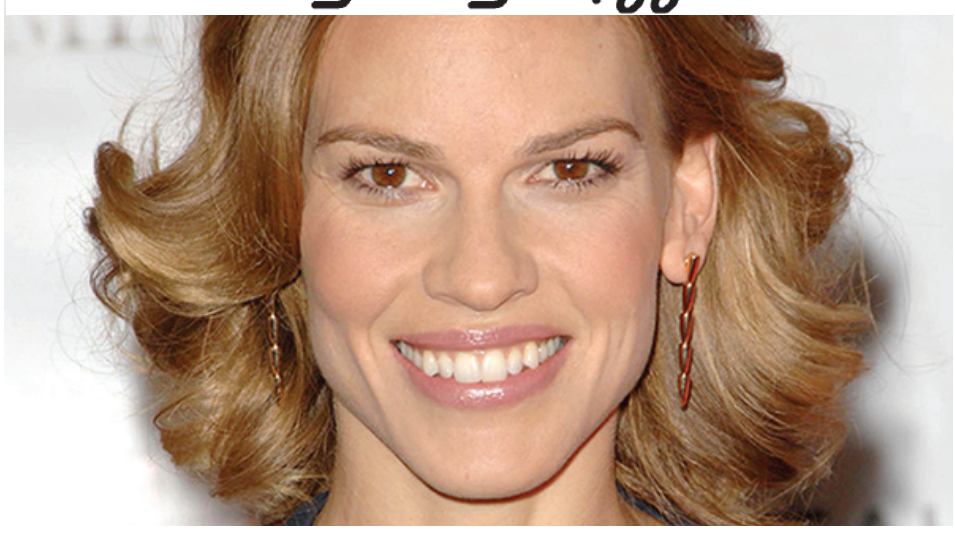
Q: I just finished watching the first installment of "True Detective" with Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey. I've heard that the subsequent seasons with a different cast and mystery are not as good, so I might just skip those. Will there be a fourth season, and is there any chance that Harrelson and McConaughey will return for it? – E.O.

A: When the anthology series "True Detective" premiered on HBO in 2014, I remember being surprised that two big

See CELEBRITY EXTRA, Page B2

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo



Hilary Swank [DEPOSITPHOTOS]

Superstar stand-up comic Sebastian Maniscalco, who made his film debut in the Oscar-winning picture "The Green Book" (as Johnny Venere) and then played "Crazy Joe" Gallo opposite Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci in Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman," will now STAR opposite De Niro in "**About My Father**." The script, written by Maniscalco and based on his relationship with his real father, starts shooting later this year. When Maniscalco asked his father who should play him, his answer was, "De Niro, who else?!" De Niro, picky about what he acts in, obviously loved the script because he immediately said "Yes."

***

Chris Rock, a huge fan of the "Saw" franchise, approached Lionsgate with his ideas on how to extend the franchise from "Jigsaw" ("Saw 8") to a ninth film, which opened May 14 to favorable reviews. Rock had a dramatic role in 2020 in 10 episodes of "Fargo" (as Loy Cannon), and he enjoyed it so much that he wrote the starring role (with touches of comedy) in "**Spiral: From the Book of Saw**" for himself.

With Rock on board, Lionsgate was able to sign Samuel L. Jackson and Max Minghella to join him. It started shooting July 2019 and wrapped that August. Originally scheduled for release in October 2020, it was rushed to release May 2020, then delayed due to the pandemic. A sequel, "**Saw X**," is already in the works, along with a possible TV series.

***

Sequels, sequels, sequels! "**Knives Out 2**" will again star Daniel Craig, as well as Edward Norton and Dave Bautista, when it begins shooting in Greece. Netflix has allotted $400 million, aiming at a December 2022 release for "KO2," followed by "Knives Out 3," being shot back-to-back. And "Venom," which grossed $855 million in 2018, has the sequel "**Venom 2, Let There Be Carnage**" already shooting with Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams and Reid Scott returning, adding Woody Harrelson and J.K. Simmons to the mix.

***

Two-time Academy Award-winner Hilary Swank (best supporting actress for "Boys Don't Cry" in 1999, and best actress for "Million Dollar Baby" in 2004) seemed to disappear during the pandemic, but she was in Australia in June 2019 making the sci-fi thriller "**I Am Mother**," with Rose Byrne; the horror/thriller "**The Hunt**," with Betty Gilpin, Amy Madigan and Emma Roberts (in New Orleans); as well as "**Fatale**," with Michael Ealy and Mike Colter (shot in L.A.). She also starred in the Netflix series "**Away**."

But she'll return in a blaze of glory playing racing pioneer Janet Guthrie, the first woman to compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500, in "Speed Girl." If that doesn't get her career racing again, nothing will!

KING

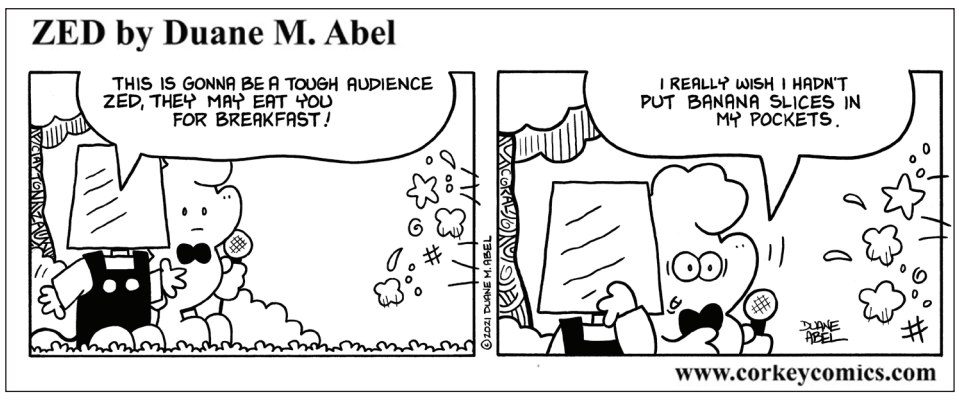
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

time isn't as challenging as one might thing. King explained there are distortion techniques for flute players that allows them to do both, and she thinks of her flute as a lead guitar voice.

"I actually run my flute mic through a pedal board and I can add distortion and have fun with it," she said. "It's not just your traditional flute and I can do a lot of effects with it."

Since the early days of the pandemic, King has hosted a weekly live stream every Tuesday at 10 p.m., where she plays solo stuff. Sometimes she brings on other musicians, and she likes introducing those watching to local musicians in the area.

"It's just basically me playing some, learning covers, and trying to connect with people online," King said. "It's been a lot of fun and having new people come in and join me. I'll continue to do that for as long as I can."



CELEBRITY EXTRA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

movie stars were doing a TV series together. Nowadays, television and streaming services have so many quality projects, it's easy to see why stars cross over often without a second thought.

The third installment of "True Detective" did seem to win back fans and critics alike with lead actor Mahershala Ali taking home an Emmy. According to Deadline.com, a fourth season is in the works, with Casey Bloys, chief content officer at HBO/HBO Max, "working with a couple of writers to find the right tone and take."

McConaughey seems to have shifted away from acting, at least for now. He taught a film production class at the University of Texas and recently expressed interest in running for governor of the Lone Star state. Harrelson will play Timothy Leary in an upcoming limited series "The Most Dangerous Man in America," but it's not known yet when or where that show will air.

***

Q: Is Jake Tapper the novelist the same man who is on CNN? – R.E.

A: Yes, the multitalented Tapper hosts a weekday news program along with other on-screen duties at CNN. He has published both nonfiction and novels, and also is a political cartoonist. His latest book, "The Devil May Dance," is set during the Rat Pack world of Hollywood in the early 1960s. Tapper, 52, has said in interviews he's fascinated with that era. Right now he seems to be at ease juggling his many hats. Let's hope it continues.

***

Q: I saw a preview a while back for another musical by the man who created "Hamilton." I thought it was going to be in movie theaters, but then the pandemic hit. Did they ever finish it? – S.T.

A: You're thinking of "In the Heights," which Lin-Manuel Miranda created for the stage long before "Hamilton" became a Broadway sensation. The film adaptation was due out a year ago, but COVID-19 put a halt to that. Fortunately, it'll be in theaters and available to stream on HBO Max beginning June 18.

"In the Heights" the film is directed by Jon M. Chu ("Crazy Rich Asians") and stars Anthony Ramos and Leslie Grace. It's set in the largely Dominican, Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Ramos reprises his lead role of Usnavi, a bodega owner who dreams of winning the lottery and the heart of a young woman who works at a beauty salon. Jimmy Smits ("NYPD Blue"), Stephanie Beatriz ("Brooklyn Nine-Nine") and Lin-Manuel Miranda himself round out the talented cast.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Are virtual festivals the future?

Courtesy of Brand Point Media

After a year of being locked away at home, the world is eager to reopen and experience the things we love again, like going to restaurants, on playdates and even sharing the social dynamics of the office. One unexpected revelation during this time is that many of the activities that took us away from our homes are now seen as inconvenient, with some labeling them as unnecessary.

Would you be surprised to hear that throngs of people have not only embraced but also discovered they prefer virtual entertainment to the real thing? It's true. Live music and performances, as well as conferences and festivals, have found a new lease on life by going virtual.

Producing a virtual event is standard fare for many large, medium and small corporate marketing teams, but big, consumer events had yet to realize virtual success until well into the pandemic era. Moment House produced a virtual Justin Bieber show from a hotel in Beverly Hills on New Year's Eve, and stand-up comedians like Kevin Fredericks are hosting larger audiences than ever virtually. But a virtual festival? Is that even possible? Popular film festival SXSW went virtual this year and mega media company OZY just wrapped their annual OZY Fest with performances from H.E.R., Marc Rebillet, Sevyn Streeter, Tig Notaro and Big Freedia, and conversations with Malcolm Gladwell, Katty Kay, Stephen A. Smith, Mark Cuban, Condoleezza Rice, Rep. Maxine Waters, Jim Cramer, Matt James, Sophia Chang, Marcus Scribner and Dr. Anthony Fauci.

"We were stunned when the festival began as the millennial and Gen Z audience poured in," said OZY COO and co-founder Samir Rao. "This year's festival broke every expectation we had. OZY Fest is now the fastest-growing festival in history. Malcolm Gladwell even called it 'the best festival of the year.'" A nice feather in the cap for the young and successful media company. With over 25 million newsletter subscribers, OZY beats all of its competition - combined.

Virtual event attendees relayed some of their favorite aspects of virtual partying, including the ability to drink without worrying about transportation, dancing like nobody's watching (because they aren't) and feeling free to experience emotional moments as they occur. They also note that A-list talent is getting comfortable with virtual performances and conversations because they are beginning to break news. At OZY Fest, Dr. Fauci revealed that we are just a few years away from an HIV vaccine, Mark Cuban set the record straight that he will not be running for office, Condoleezza Rice surprised the crowd when she disclosed that Trump got more things right than many people realize, and H.E.R. divulged that she, Zendaya and Kehlani almost formed a supergroup years ago.

"We at OZY have always been passionate about up-and-comers, we call them New + Next," stated OZY CEO and co-founder, and host of The Carlos Watson Show, Carlos Watson. "That said, we are hosting the biggest celebrities on the planet. Matthew McConaughey, Saweetie, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Priyanka Chopra, Reggie Watts, Andrew Yang, Ava DuVernay, Finneas and so many more have graciously agreed to join me for great, virtual conversation."

Are virtual festivals here to stay? Many say yes, but only time will tell. Perhaps a hybrid solution is ahead of us when the world reopens and we can attend live events in person again. With virtual audiences showing up en masse, it is hard to imagine live events abandoning all virtual plans.

FROM THE DOG'S PAW

Adopt-a-cat month!

By Samson
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Meows! Paws, June is Adopt-A-Cat Month, so I pawed the computer away from Noah and Abby to write this week's article. MEOWS! Those two don't know the best reasons to adopt a cat, so I shall paw them, hoping you will consider adopting an adorable cat for your companion.

Reason #1: Because I said so. Enough said! When the mostest bestest extraordinary great cat in the ENTIRE universe, says something it is always right, accurate, and trustworthy. MEOWS! MEOWS! Purr… purr! Go forth and adopt a cat.

Reason #2: Cats make great companions. We know when to allow you to pet us, when it is a good time to cuddle or snuggle and when we are done allowing you to be delighted by our pawnderful selves and all-around cuteness. We know when just to sit quietly and allow you to enjoy us being there.

Reason #3: Cats don't require as much attention as dogs. You can leave us food, water, and a few toys while you go to work, and we'll be fine. We cats wouldn't put up with the indignity of being taken for walks to do our business or have those embarrassing backyard pawlay times with all the neighbors gawking at the craziness of your dog. Paws, we do require some pawlaytime every day as it's healthy for you and us, but all pawlaying can be done indoors.

Reason #4: Meows, cats are good for your health. Purrs! Recent studies have shown that allowing a cat to own you may lead to a reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease and stroke. Purrs, this is pawsome since strokes are the third cause of death in women and fourth for men. Pawingly, petting a cat frequently can reduce your blood pressure. Purrs, other research found that early exposure to cats in the home can reduce a mini-humans chance of developing allergies. Having a cat can help reduce your chances of health issues. My human says he has noticed a reduction in stress and anxiety with me around meowing and purring all the time.

Reason #5: Cats bring joy into the home. Just having a cat nearby as cute, adorable, pawlayful, and pawnderful as I am will make you smile and laugh your day away. MEOWS! Paws, adopting a cat can be very entertaining too. Our antics pawlaying and pouncing on our toys can be pretty hilarious- purrs, but dignified, you know.

Reason #6: Having a cat in the home can teach mini-humans responsibility and care for animals. The cats need to be fed, exercised by pawlaying, and their litter boxes cleaned regularly. These chores increase a mini-humans awareness of the impawtance of following through in responsibility. Pawingly, it can teach them an understanding of nature and caring for other animals.

Reason #7: You can have a great hunter living in your home. Cats are generally very good at keeping pests away from your home! They always pounce on whatever moves, or we like to go after it and attack. MEOWS! Purrs!

Reason #8: Read Reason #1! Go forth, humans, and adopt thyself a cat.

Purringly, when you adopt a cat from a rescue or shelter, you are making space available for another cat who might be in dire need of it. Meet a few friends from rescues needing "Forever Homes."

Jaylon and Parker, brother and sister duo, around 8-months-old, are dog- and cat-friendly, and good with older, calm mini-humans. They are sweet, fun-loving kitties who will keep you laughing with their antics. Contact Homeless Animals Rescue Team, www.hart90.org, 703-691-HART, hart90office@hart90.org.

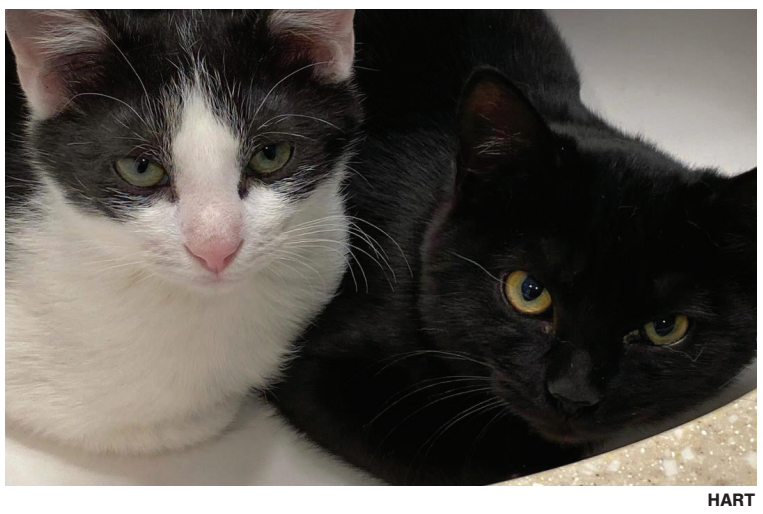
My friend Cleo is a little shy at first. Purrs, she is a friendly, affectionate girl who loves being pet. She is around 15-years-old and will do best in a quiet home. She does have early-stage kidney disease, which is well managed with prescription food. Other than that, meows, she's a healthy girl and will make a great companion. Contact PetConnect Rescue, www.petconnectrescue.org, email: info@petconnectrescue.org, 1-877-838-9171.

Meows, sweet Eiti is a gorgeous Calico. She is a shy girl, but once she gets to know you, she likes to come out of her hiding place and show you her gorgeous self! Purringly, she is around 3-years-old. Contact Operation Paws for Homes, www.ophrescue.org, or email: adopt@ophrescue.org.

About Us: Noah, Samson, and Abby are Pawthors at www.fromthedogspaw.com! We paw about dog/cat care tips using facts and humor, and entertaining stories about their lives with humans. Pawlease follow by email to enjoy our adventures. Our human, Allen Pearson, is a Dog Photographer and Writer. Find us all at: www.allenpearsonphotography.com, www.allenpearsonphotographyjournal.com www.facebook.com/AllenPearsonPhotography, www.instagram.com/allen_pearson_photography www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw, www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw.

OPERATION PAWS FOR HOMES

Eiti



HART

Jaylon and Parker

PETCONNECT RESCUE

Cleo

PAW'S CORNER

Fight dander allergies on multiple fronts

By Sam Mazzotta
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I love my two fluffy cats, "Jake" and "Manny," even though I am allergic to the dander in their fur. Antihistamines help, but not completely. Would an air purifier help keep the air clear? -- Jemma G. in Kansas City, Missouri

DEAR JEMMA: An allergy to pet dander can be tough to keep under control -- so much so that some pet owners give up their pets. I'm so glad you've kept your family together.

Pet dander is generally underneath a dog or cat's coat, near the skin. They shed fluffy bits of fur almost constantly, and dander is carried off with that fluff. Because dander can be tiny -- 75 microns or smaller, which isn't visible to the naked eye -- it's hard to isolate and get rid of.

An air purifier may help, but only if it's the right one to trap dander. Get an air purifier with a HEPA filter -- one that can be changed easily. HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters trap particles as small as 0.5 microns. Avoid "ionizing" air purifiers as these don't trap as many dander particles; plus they can be expensive. The size depends on how much of your home you'd like the air purifier to work in; for example, desktop-sized units have a range of less than 200 square feet, which makes them ideal for desks or next to your bed.

UNSPLASH

No single strategy will reduce dander or other allergens. Tackle the issue from multiple angles. Dusting and vacuuming the house frequently can reduce dander, and brushing your cats' hair daily will reduce extra shedding. If these activities trigger allergies, consider wearing a filter mask and goggles to hopefully reduce the reaction.

Send your comments, tips or questions to ask@pawscorner.com

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	L	A	N	G		S	K	I	B	U	M	
L	E	S	S	E		E	N	C	A	S	E	
S	L	A	T	E		S	O	U	R	D	S	
D	A	T	E		T	H	A	W		G	A	S
				R	O	U	E		S	E		
A	A	H		A	R	I	A		M	I	S	T
P	L	A	N	T	E	R	S	P	U	N	C	H
E	L	I	E		S	E	T	H		S	H	E
L	O	U	V	E	R	J	U	R	Y			
E	N	T	I	C	E		S	C	O	R	E	R
E	S	S	A	Y	S		H	O	U	S	E	

Get more from your outdoor space with one of these backyard structures

COURTESY PHOTOS

By Julio Cardona

Are you a new homeowner? Or have you owned your home for a few years? Either way, what happens when you have some free time and you look out your window or out your back door? Do you feel like something is missing? What about the last time you hosted a get-together? Did you tell yourself, I wish I had a deck or gazebo, to have some extra shade or space. If this is you, well we wrote this article with you in mind. We are going to chat a little bit about, decks, gazebos, sunrooms, pergolas, and fire pits.

So outdoor buildings and structures can help transform your landscape and garden, they can actually make it look more magical, and yes, I said magical. We want you to enjoy your outdoor living spaces to the fullest. If you like to spend a lot of time outdoors relaxing or entertaining guests, these constructions will help you make the most of your lovely environment. They will also improve the curb appeal as a side note. There is a financial benefit to many types of outdoor buildings — some, like a new patio or deck, can increase the value of your home, allowing you to recoup much of your investment in their construction should you choose to sell your property. What backyard structure is ideal for you? If you wish to find out, I highly suggest you keep on reading!

Decks

Decks come in a wide range of sizes and styles. From ground-level decks to elaborate multi-tiered structures, decks provide you with a place to lounge in comfy outdoor furnishings or grill out with friends. Constructing a deck requires some careful planning that begins with material selection. Today, you can build your deck out of wood, aluminum, composite, or other materials. Although wood remains the most popular material for decks, it does require proper preparation. All of the wood you use for your deck's construction should be treated to reduce the risk of rot or insect infestation. Decks a perfect fit if you have a pool or are thinking about adding a pool for your summer fun!

Pros of Building a Deck

There are many benefits associated with a newly constructed deck. In addition to elevating your home's value—especially a larger deck that boasts high-quality construction and visual appeal—you can also customize your deck's design so that you can use it the way you envision. You can design your deck to complement your swimming pool, construct a tall deck with stairs to provide you with an expansive view of your landscape or build multiple deck levels designed for different purposes, like grilling, working, or lounging.

Cons of a Backyard Deck

Unlike patios that tend to require less maintenance because of their stone or concrete construction, most decks, especially wood decks, require more maintenance. Each year, you should inspect your deck for signs of wear and tear. The deck's foundation also needs to be inspected to ensure it's providing optimum support for the structure.

Maintaining a Deck

Decks periodically require resealing, typically every few years. That can be off-putting to some homeowners who are looking for a low-maintenance backyard structure. While composite decks require less routine maintenance than wood decks, they do need to be repainted, resealed, and inspected, too. Since most decks are elevated, it's important to inspect safety features like railings often to ensure that they're secure.

Gazebos

Gazebos come in many different styles and can be purchased as easy-to-build kits. Gazebos are open-sided structures that feature a hard roof made from wood, composite, or even PVC. Purchasing a canopy-style gazebo comes with a less costly price tag than building a more ornate model yourself, but a permanent, custom-designed gazebo could add value to your home. You'll want to consider how you intend to use this feature when choosing a size and style. Gazebos provide comfortable shade from the sun and the elements. If you have children, this is a great structure to have since it can be used creatively by them. It is the perfect stage for tea parties or a birdwatching station.

Pros of Gazebos

Gazebos can be constructed anywhere in your landscape. Moreover, some styles are portable, so you can move them around as you choose. These structures provide shelter from the sun's harmful UV rays with their overhead shade and will help you create a comfortable outdoor living space where you and guests can relax. Since there are many styles to choose from, you'll be able to find or design a model that suits your needs and budget.

Cons of Gazebos

If you construct your gazebo from wood, it will require routine maintenance just as your deck would. You'll need to inspect it for signs of moisture damage and rot and make necessary repairs. Routine maintenance typically includes power washing, painting, and resealing. If you opt for a temporary gazebo with metal poles, make sure it's properly staked. As non-permanent features, temporary gazebos may necessitate disassembly and reassembly as needed.

Sunrooms

A sunroom is an enjoyable home feature that helps you bridge the gap between your home's indoor and outdoor living space. As a permanent feature, a sunroom—even one that's unheated—can add considerable value to your home. When constructing one, you can opt for a screened room, a three- or four-season room, a solarium, or a custom design that's fully integrated with your home's heating and air conditioning system and boasts windows of any size or shape you choose. Whether you're interested in constructing an enclosed patio or an integrated room addition lined with windows or screens, you can design your sunroom to suit your needs and budget. Sunrooms are perfect environments for reading your new series or even enjoying a movie at night. For the kiddos, it is a great place to do homework and play board games.

Pros of Sunrooms

A sunroom allows people to enjoy the outdoor setting while staying protected from insects and direct sunlight. Sunrooms are great places to entertain, and because they're protected from insect pests and other critters, they're ideal for setting out drinks and snacks for guests to enjoy. Many people build solariums or small conservatories to provide protection for their tender plants.

Cons of Sunrooms

The cost of building a sunroom is the chief con of this type of construction. A formal room addition typically requires a building contractor, permits, and disruption of the household. Generally speaking, sunroom construction is not a do-it-yourself type of project as a temporary gazebo. It requires advanced construction expertise, which also adds to its more costly price tag.

Fire Pits

We thought you might be interested in one of our personal favorites. While a fire pit doesn't provide backyard shelter, it's a structure that provides warmth. It is the perfect place to create those special memories with friends and loved ones! A fire pit makes a wonderful focal point for a yard. It can be used for cooking outdoors and can be designed in various sizes and styles. When considering the addition of a fire pit to your outdoor living space, you can choose a portable one with a fire bowl or design your own brick or stone pit.

Pros of Fire Pits

One of the benefits of constructing a stone fire pit is the ability to customize its design. For example, you can build a large hearth-style fire pit that enhances your patio's privacy and even serves as a windbreak, allowing household residents and guests to enjoy the patio well into cool fall evenings. Fire pits provide light for your outdoor living space so you can spend more time outside at night if you choose. A custom stone fire pit may also enhance your home's value.

Cons of a Backyard Fire Pit

A fire pit can be a safety risk, especially if you have young children. So we recommend taking the proper safety measures and safety talks with the entire family. Take steps to screen or otherwise guard it when it's in use. Although fire pits are necessarily constructed from durable materials like stone or brick, they can develop serious cracks that impede their use. You'll want to inspect your fire pit routinely and hire a contractor to repair it if it begins to crack from wear and tear.

Pergolas

Pergolas are permanent structures that feature columns supporting an open roof of beams or rafters. Pergolas can be stand-alone features or partially attached to your home or garage. Pergolas help provide shade, but their open-framed roofs allow light into the sheltered space. Many people design their pergolas as supports for climbing vines, and these can provide additional shade when they cover the structure's rooftop. Pergolas are perfect for plant lovers so if that's you this is a perfect structure to use that green thumb of yours!

Pros of Pergolas

Pergolas can be built in many different styles, so it's easy to construct one in the style of your home. Pergolas make excellent backyard privacy features and provide a comfortable, shady space for watching children play or entertaining backyard guests. You can also add lighting features to your pergola or install hanging baskets of plants to customize its look. A well-constructed pergola can enhance your home's value, too. These structures can be custom-built or purchased as a kit. You can even find louvered pergolas or kits made with low-maintenance materials like PVC.

Cons of Pergolas

Pergolas, with their open-framed roofs, provide less shelter from sun and rain than a structure like a gazebo. If your pergola is made from wood, it will require routine inspection and maintenance. Each season, you'll have to inspect your structure and make any necessary repairs. Every few years, plan to reseal your pergola to guard against wood rot.

Final Thoughts

Finally, be sure to think about protecting your outdoor living space or entire backyard with fencing if you don't have it yet. Today, fencing options include materials like a chain link, iron, wrought iron, wood, bamboo, ecostone, and vinyl. A tall wood or vinyl fence can help you enclose your space, it provides extra privacy. You may also want to choose a model that suits the style of your house as well as your budget.

Many of the outdoor structures discussed here can add value to your home and enhance your enjoyment of your outdoor living space. When selecting an outdoor structure, weigh the pros and cons of each type, and learn about their maintenance needs so you're not surprised down the road.

We hope you found what you are looking for. If you are still in doubt, we suggest you do some extra research. We invite you to make that lovely home of yours perfect and magical!

**Originally posted on Porch.com*

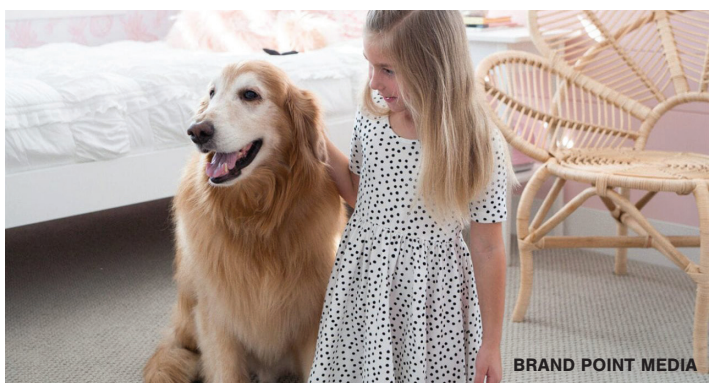
Fairfax County Times
Baby Boomers
Summer Edition

Coming July 23, 2021
CIRCULATION 330,000
Reston I Herndon I McLean I Vienna I Burke I Centreville
Chantilly I Fairfax I Fairfax Station I Clifton I Great Falls
Oakton I Falls Church I Alexandria I Springfield I Lorton

Call for Details
Simmy Murdock • (703) 463-9228 or email simmym@wspnet.com
Marcia Patch • (703) 904-1004 or email marcia@wspnet.com
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Carpet helps you create a healthy, stylish, comfortable home

Courtesy of Brand Point Media


BRAND POINT MEDIA

Being at home more often has inspired many people to make changes in their favorite spaces that focus on health and comfort. You might be surprised to learn that carpeting a room supports both these goals, plus offers near endless style possibilities.

Carpet is a popular flooring option, accounting for 48% of the total U.S. flooring market, according to the Carpet and Rug Institute. Adding carpet or refreshing the carpet you already have in your home has many benefits, from helping you breathe easier to keeping loved ones safe. Here are the top reasons people are opting for carpet:

Health and indoor air quality

Carpet can help support a healthy home, even for people with asthma and allergies. The updated asthma management guidelines from the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute do not include recommendations to remove carpet as a way to treat asthma and allergies.

"Scientific research shows that carpet does not negatively impact allergies or asthma. In fact, carpet can improve your home's air quality by trapping allergens, keeping them out of the breathing zone and making them easy to vacuum," said Dr. Michael Halwig, allergy specialist on the clinical faculty of Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. "All too often patients have been advised to remove carpeting in the home to deal with environmental allergies. This is often expensive and impractical for many families. Current knowledge shows that the use of vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters and other environmental control measures are much more effective in reducing allergens in the home."

Many people are installing additional carpet in their homes to help improve air quality. Fortunately, the vast majority of carpet sold in the U.S. is certified through CRI's Green Label Plus program, a third-party certification that demonstrates products are among the lowest emission emitting carpet, adhesive and cushion products on the market.

Safety and noise reduction

With people spending more time at home, indoor noise pollution is becoming a big problem. Carpet and carpet pads help absorb excessive sounds to soften noises within a room while serving as a sound barrier between floors. This is especially important in rooms with large TVs, sound systems or speaker phones, as well as in hallways and on stairs to soften foot traffic. Whether you're working, studying or relaxing, carpet reduces noise so you can focus.

is also a safe choice, particularly in multigenerational homes. In addition to added comfort in cushioning footsteps, carpet can help reduce slips and falls that may occur more easily on hard surface flooring. Carpet is safe for the whole family, but especially for toddlers and older individuals who are more prone to falls. If a fall does happen, carpet can help minimize injury.

Fashion and functionality

Carpet can serve as a neutral foundation, in popular tones of gray, cream or beige, or it can be a focal point featuring vibrant colors and bold patterns. With thousands of carpet styles, colors, textures and designs, you can select an option that suits your personal taste and complements your home's aesthetic.

Beyond beauty, carpet provides a great place to sit and is comfortable underfoot. Because carpet provides thermal insulation, it helps maintain a room's optimum temperature; for example, in cooler months it retains warm air for longer. It feels good and looks good, helping create an inviting feeling in any room.

How to protect your home from costly water damage

Courtesy of Brand Point Media

BRAND POINT MEDIA

There's nothing quite like owning a home. You feel the pride of achieving a financial goal and the comfort of having a sanctuary and space of your own in which to build a lifetime of memories.

Occasionally, there's also the element of surprise when things suddenly break - like appliances, the furnace or water heater - and need to be fixed or replaced. Water damage is the most common - and unwanted - surprise for homeowners. According to Mercury Insurance, water-related damages accounted for more than 45% of its homeowners insurance claims in 2020, resulting in $160 million in property damage.

"A water leak can happen at any time, so it's important for homeowners to routinely check for potential sources to help combat this," said Christopher O'Rourke, vice president of property claims at Mercury Insurance. "It's also important to address the cause of brown spots on the ceiling or bulges in the walls immediately - these usually indicate a leak or water build-up and most homeowners insurance policies don't cover long-term leaks. Left untreated, this can lead to extensive damage."

Show your home a little TLC to protect against water damage by inspecting these three areas in and around it.

1. The bathroom

Periodically check the pipes underneath the bathroom sink for cracks or leaks. A leaky pipe can be a sign of a larger issue that might eventually cause your pipes to burst, like high water pressure or corrosion. Regardless of the cause, consult with a professional to have them assess and fix it.

The seal created by the caulk around your sink, tub and shower helps prevent water from seeping into spaces where it doesn't belong, but it won't last forever. Ensure the caulk isn't worn or cracked and apply a new layer if needed.

If water leaks from the base of your toilet, or it wobbles when you sit, it's time to replace the wax ring. Wax rings help form a watertight seal between the bottom of a toilet and the sewer pipe. The ring usually lasts the life of the toilet, but it's possible for it to dry out and fail so pay attention to malfunction signs.

"Once a week, make a point of turning faucets on and off, and flushing toilets to ensure water continues flowing through the pipes properly," O'Rourke adds.

2. The kitchen

Just like in the bathroom, the pipes beneath the kitchen sink need to be checked regularly for leaks and cracks.

Kitchen appliances with hoses that connect to your water supply - refrigerators with icemakers or water dispensers, and dishwashers - are another potential source for leaks. Rubber hoses can wear out, blister or crack, and will need to be replaced over time. Consider replacing this type of hose with a steel-braided version as these are less likely to fail.

Your washing machine probably isn't in your kitchen but be sure to inspect its hose as well. The hose connection can loosen during wash cycle vibrations, so check to ensure it's tight.

3. The home's exterior and roof

Be sure to keep rain gutters and downspouts free of debris to prevent clogs, and position downspouts to direct water away from the house.

Holes, cracks and gaps can be entry points for unwelcome water, which can cause rot or structural damage. Walk the perimeter of your home to look for imperfections in its facade. Inspect the condition of the weather stripping on your windows and doors to ensure they are properly sealed to keep out the elements. Also, look for damaged, missing or loose roof shingles, which can be seen from proper vantage points on the ground.

If you note any damage to your home's exterior walls or your roof, consult with a professional to determine next steps to fix the spots where water can potentially enter.

O'Rourke also recommends that homeowners consider installing a water leak detection system. "Smart home devices like water leak detection or shutoff systems can monitor for leaks around the clock, and some can automatically shut off the main water supply if a leak or burst pipe is identified. These types of devices can offer peace of mind and might even qualify you for an insurance discount."

Art News

Elikeh Enjoy Afro Pop in this free outdoor concert 7 p.m. June 11. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage with validation. Reston Station, 1901 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3uYdMpd.

Salon Series Join Wolf Trap Opera for Intimate Evenings of Song streamed online. Each program is curated by the artists, providing a unique glimpse into how they interpret art songs and the world around them. 7 to 9 p.m. June 11, 17 and 25, July 9 and 15. Free. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3gioxO4.

Ancient Plants Sketch Hike Huntley's forests are home to certain plants whose ancestors have been with us since dinosaur times. Learn about and sketch ferns, moss and their allies on a 1.5-mile walk. Sketch book and material are included. 10 a.m. June 12. Cost is $15. Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34YeVCW.

Origem Enjoy this free concert June 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3w341r9.

Ellington Caravan Members of the Shenandoah Conservatory Jazz faculty pay tribute to Duke Ellington and his band, performing recognizable favorites and some lesser-known treasures. 7 p.m. June 13. Free. Reston Town Square Park, Corner of Market and Explorer streets, Reston. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3geOj5G.

Country and Western Line Dancing Singles and couples are welcome. 6 p.m. Weekly June 16 through August 4. Cost is $93 for the series. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Rd., Herndon. For more information visit https://bit.ly/2SkMJXU.

We, Too, Sing America is a solo exhibition by artist Omolara Williams McCallister and will include visual, sound, and interactive elements including durational performance. The exhibit ends July 18. A virtual reception will be held June 11 at 7 p.m. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34nLGsB.

Highest Honor Returns to the atrium this season and will be on display through Nov. 14. Inspired by the building's industrial founding, artist Andy Yoder designed the 25-foot triangular banner as an oversized version of the Army-Navy "E Award," which was presented to workers during WWII for excellence in production of war equipment. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34gh8sP.

Behold! The Beauty of the Earth showcases the art of Ava and Richard Neff and reflects their skills in working with colors and compositions. Ava creates artistic wall hangings and takes her inspiration from photographs, her husband's oil paintings or her observations of nature. Scenes of nature by plein aire painting has been a central theme in Richard's art. The exhibit is daily from through June 30. Free. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3xBGX40.

Duck Harbor is a 12-episode romantic comedy about rediscovering joy and figuring out where you're supposed to be in the world. Every Tuesday through August 17 at 8 p.m. Free. Or get Duck Harbor All Access for $15. 1st Stage Tysons. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3vkHjKQ.

Community Arts Collection was introduced by Fairfax County Public Library in late 2020. It's a virtual public gallery of art. Discover the creative talents of your neighbors and share your own. As the collection grows it will showcase work in a variety of categories including illustration, sketch, painting, graphic design, art and craft creations in various formats and materials, photography, poetry and more. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3bVJU6u.

Ellen Reid Soundwalk is a GPS-enabled work of free public art that uses music to illuminate the natural environment. Continues through Sept. 6. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3cSyZLw.

Arcadia Enjoy a public sound and light installation created by artist Sam Nester offered in partnership with Murals at Mason and Mason Exhibitions initiatives. This will be accessible through December via Twitch livestream as well as in person. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3sEUJAn.

Community Information

Please check the event and attraction websites to confirm operating status.

Farmers' Markets Visit a variety of vendors to purchase produce, pastries, bread, meat and more. 8 a.m. to noon. Fridays through Nov. 12. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3fK9H2t. 3 to 7 p.m. Fridays through Oct. 29. 5844-5862 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34lWuHG.

Twilight by Kayak Watch the sun set on Lake Fairfax as the wildlife settles in for the night and return to the dock by the light of the moon. Single kayaks and equipment provided. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. June 11. Cost is $42. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Dr., Reston. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34XHfFi.

Community Market includes themed activities including vendors, artist demos, food, entertainment, and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 12. Free. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3hTCNiO.

Slavery at a Mill Enslavement occurred in homes, shops, farming fields and places of work. Learn how the work might have looked in each of these spaces and how that changed as news of emancipation spread. 11 a.m. June 12. Cost is $60 per family. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd., Great Falls. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3w1Apuq.

Virtual Global Dance Party Join Recovery Solutions of Virginia for this virtual party via Zoom. 7 p.m. June 12. Free. Registration is required. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3ytP9UF.

Run of the Mill Class Learn about the milling process from beginning to end in this hands-on program. 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. June 13. Cost is $60 per family. Registered groups get to take home a sample of the ground grain. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd., Great Falls. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3x3ZJ38.

The Victorian Seaside Learn how the proper Victorian lady preserved respectability at the bean in this virtual afternoon tea. 2 p.m. June 13. Lecture only $12. Optional tea box $24. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34UzEaH.

Geocaching Workshop Students learn to use hand-held GPS units to locate hidden treasure caches within the park. Bring your own GPS. 11:30 a.m. June 13. Cost is $22. Lake Accotink, 7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3geLZM0.

Greendale Short Game Clinic Practice, learn and improve your short game. Registration begins 10 days out from event. 9 a.m. June 15. Free. Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. For more information call 703-971-6170.

Genetic Privacy and the Law When you share your DNA profile with a consumer genetic service do you understand how your data may be used? Learn about the legal landscape in this Zoom meeting. 1 to 3 p.m. June 15. Free. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3cpbUPQ.

The U.S. Army and the Making of America Join Professor Robert Wooster on Zoom as he discusses his new book on the role the Army played in securing the expanding American empire and shaping the nation. 7 p.m. June 17. Free. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3w2Tw7d.

ONGOING

Forgotten Road Tours in commemoration of Juneteenth, these outside walking tours of the original outbuildings and representative slave quarters focus on the lives and stories of the enslaved who were at Sully more than 200 years ago. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily except Tuesday June 14 to 19. Cost is $20 to $40. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. For more information visit https://bit.ly/34WkvFN.

Virtual Mental Help Events and Support Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia holds a variety of free online events and support groups each week. Meet new friends, stay healthy and fit, participate in art therapy and more. For more information visit https://bit.ly/3vokjut.

Senior Womens Softball Join a league with games on Saturday and Wednesday mornings in Vienna. Ages 40+. For more information visit goldengirls.org.

Help Needy Children through volunteer work with Assistance League. Learn more at https://bit.ly/305C3ge.

Volunteer Fairfax has volunteer opportunities and donation needs. Please visit https://bit.ly/3b169oZ for more information.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers, coordinators, and co-coordinators. Apply at http://bit.ly/2DGfhme.

Tips to give bugs the boot this summer

Courtesy of State Point Media

Warm and wet spring and summer conditions predicted for much of the country are going to make for an extra buggy season, according to the biannual Bug Barometer forecast from the National Pest Management Association.

What's more, ants, roaches and stinging insects are well-equipped at finding food and shelter in and around your home, and they are smarter than you may think. However, you can take steps to prepare for their arrival. For a safe, healthy and comfortable season at home, follow these pest management tips:

• **Don't feed the insects:** Without proper precautions, your home could inadvertently be the most popular insect buffet in town. To ensure you're feeding just your family and not a parade of bugs, keep surfaces free of crumbs and residue. Regularly sweep around areas where food is prepared and consumed. Wipe up spills immediately and close food containers securely. Be sure your kitchen garbage has a tightly-fitting lid.

• **Drain the swamp:** Standing water can quickly become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other bugs (and lead to a host of other issues). It's important to know that the problem may take some diagnosing, and could require such actions as changing the soil composition of your lawn or grading the land to encourage proper drainage. However, managing this issue is well worth the effort involved.

• **Blast bugs without harsh chemicals.** Killing bugs doesn't need to put you out of house and home for hours or even minutes. Today, there are effective ways to kill bugs using friendly ingredients. For example, Zevo Ant, Roach and Fly Multi-Insect Trigger Spray works on a broad range of household bugs using lemongrass oil and geraniol as active ingredients. Zevo sprays are deadly to bugs and safe for use around people and pets when used as directed, making them a year-round household essential. For more information, visit www.zevoinsect.com.

• **Safeguard entry points:** Pests enter the home most typically through windows, doors and the garage. To that end, patch any holes or tears in screen doors and windows, or better yet, replace them entirely. Keep doors, windows and the garage otherwise closed.

While outwitting bugs is a bit more challenging during summer, with a few tricks up your sleeve, you can keep your home safe and more comfortable with fewer uninvited guests.

SARAHGTUCKER

Business & Services Directory

Contact Marcia Patch for all your Classified section needs • Phone: 703-904-1004 • Email: marcia@wspnet.com

North's Custom Masonry
Retaining & Decorative Walls
Stonework • Patios and Walkways
Fire pits, Fireplaces & Chimneys
Repointing Brick
Concrete and Paver Driveways
Angie's List member
Call Brian 540-533-8092
Free estimates, BBB, Lic./Ins.

ELECTRICAL

• Install Ceiling Fans
• Recessed Lights
• Under Cabinet Lights
• Change Light Fixtures
No Job is too small!
Licensed & Insured | We accept all major credit cards!
Edwin C. Colque - Master Electrician
703-898-0797

UNLIMITED CAPITAL AVAILABLE
for any Business Purpose & Commercial Loan Arranged. $50,000+
CALL 571-524-2705
between 11 am - 9 pm, or write to Josefina H. Fronsack; Financial Consultant; 46625 Stonehelm ct; Sterling VA 20165
This offer is only good in the USA.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FAIRFAX COUNTY NEWS
FREE DIGITAL E-DIGEST
FAIRFAXTIMES.COM/EEDITION

North's Tree Service & Landscaping
Family Owned & Operated for over 30 Years
Quality Work Guaranteed
Complete Tree Service
All Phases of Landscaping
Winter Discounts Save 25%!
Gravel Driveways
Honest & Dependable
Brian North, Owner
(540) 533-8092
Free Estimates Lic/Ins

DODSON'S TREE & LANDSCAPING, LLC
TRIMMING & TOPPING, SPRAYING, TREE REMOVAL, STUMP GRINDING, MULCHING, PRUNING, CABLING, FEEDING, LOT CLEARING, FENCING, PAINTING, POWERWASHING, PLANTING, GRADING, SEEDING, RETAINING WALLS, PATIOS, WALKWAYS, *TOPSOIL AND GRAVEL.*
WE PROUDLY ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.
LICENSED/INSURED OFFICE - (540) 923-4087
FREE ESTIMATES CELL - (540)214-8407
Residential and Commercial

Spring Specials
Family Owned Since 1970
CHARLES JENKINS TREE SERVICES
Mulch Special Sale
FREE ESTIMATES • REASONABLE RATES
Cell: 540.422.9721
Office: 703.830.2654
INSURED - BONDED - LICENSED

Classified

Contact Marcia Patch for all your Classified section needs • Phone: 703-904-1004 • Email: marcia@wspnet.com

Help Wanted

Homecare Agency in Montgomery County, MD is searching for Caregivers who can speak Farsi, Bengali and/or Spanish. Contact Thomas Woehner at cwhealthcareservicesllc@gmail.com or (301) 364-6699.

Adaequare, Inc. has openings for Software Engineers & Systems Analysts. Includes Senior positions. Must be proficient in one of these areas: (1) Java/J2EE/Mulesoft/Phython/Data Scientist & related; (2) Microsoft.NET & related; (3) Data Stage/Datawarehousing/Bus. Intelligence; (4) SharePoint; (5) Salesforce; (6) Dev Ops; (7) IOS/Android; (8) Big Data and related. The positions report to our Chantilly, VA office & require ability to travel to & relocate at various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. to work on short-term & long-term projects. Email resume to openjobs@adaequare.com & in the subject field put JOB CODE 202105.

ScienceLogic, Inc. has an opening for a Director, Cloud Operations in Reston, VA to manage & lead a team of talented Cloud Engineers & operators, motivated to deliver the leading AIOps platform to The World. Deploy new SaaS hosted customers & provide customer triage in partnership with the Technical Support & Professional Services team. Pls send resume or CV to mmelder@sciencelogic.com. Must reference job code 20513.11.5.

Engineering: Manager – Quality Engineering – Alarm.com Incorporated – McLean, VA – Dsgn & implmnt key perf indicators. Review reqs & tech specs. Reqs: Bach or frgn equiv in Comp Sci, Comp Eng'g or Electronic Eng'g + 7y exp in Info Tech occ. Must have 2y exp w/: team lead role; implmnt'tn & admin of QE metrics such as defect profiles & entry/exit criteria; SW Dvlpmt life cycles (waterfall, Agile) & QE processes & automation tools; home automation using Web Portal, iOS & Android; test products for release in intl markets. Send CV to hr@alarm.com and ref MQERD.

TECHNOLOGY
DXC Technology Services LLC. is accepting resumes for the position of Advisor Delivery Specialist in Tysons, VA (Ref. # 5152550). Oversee functional areas or department account leads on small to medium sized accounts to ensure that business solution objectives are met. Develop demand forecasts with account teams on small to medium sized projects to assist functional areas or departments in planning and delivering end-to-end services. Will work at unanticipated client sites throughout the U.S. Telecommuting is permissible. Mail resume to DXC Technology Services LLC., 6901 Windcrest Drive Plano Texas 75024. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE

Help Wanted

Legal Analyst: Legal rsrch. for info. relating to company's programs for US DOS, Foreign Military Sales & commercial proj. Draft legal briefs & memos. Communicate w/ supervising or outside atty. Keep up to date w/ changes in law, new precedent cases, & local contract laws in Middle East & UAE countries. Min. rqmts: Bachelor's or foreign equ. in legal studies or rel. 6 mon. exp. in job offered, Legal Analyst/Advisor or rel. Knowledge of or exp. in providing legal rsrch., advice & legislative drafting, in preparing guidance manuals for drafting legislation, and in Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian & international law. Resumes to Job Loc: US21, Inc., 2721 Prosperity Ave., Ste. 300, Fairfax, VA 22031. ATTN: M. Darwish

IT Professionals:
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl Sftwr Engnrs, Prgmr Anlysts, Sftwr Dvlprs, Sys. Admins, DBAs, QA Anlysts are needed for our Herndon, VA office. May req. traveling. Send resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. req. to Nantez Inc at 503 Carlisle Dr., Ste 175A, Herndon, VA 20170

Accountant: Prepare payroll, corporate tax return, property & sales tax. Prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit & loss, tax liability, and/or other financial activities within an organization. Perform month-end accounting close, including journal entries & bank reconciliation. F/T, $59,946/yr, BA in Accounting, Resume to L&B Universal, 3852 Dulles South Ct. #G, Chantilly, VA 20151

Accountant (Herndon, VA). Prep, examine, & analyze acctg records & other fin'l reports. Dvlp, maintain, & analyze budgets. Advise & report to mgmt. Bachelor's Deg. in Acct., Fin., Stats., or Econ req'd. 1 yr exp req'd. M-F, 40 hrs/wk. Send resume to Mr. Erhan Turk, CEO, My Kitchen and Bath Inc., 285 Sunset Park Dr, Ste 16, Herndon, VA 20170.

Rogers & Company CPAs PLLC, dba Rogers & Company PLLC in Vienna, VA seeks Auditor. Using USA GAAP, conduct financial statement audits of non-profits; compile & review financial data. USA Bachelor's in Accountancy or higher degree + 6 months auditor exp. + VA, MD, or DC CPA license req'd. Send resume to Regina Golinski, 8300 Boone Blvd. #600, Vienna, VA 22182.

Legal Notice

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

[(Full name(s) of owner(s)]: Mint Nail Lounge, LLC

Trading as:
Mint Nail Lounge
2985 District Ave Ste 135
Fairfax, Fairfax, VA 22031-1568

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a marketplace license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Ve Nu Kieu Nguyen, President

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.

3008427 (06-04-21, 06-11-21)

[(Full name(s) of owner(s)]: Tysons Nail Lounge, LLC

Trading as:
Tysons Nail Lounge
1640 Boro Pl Ste 205
McLean, Fairfax, VA 22102-3627

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a marketplace license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Ve Nu Kieu Nguyen, President

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.

3008428 (06-04-21, 06-11-21)

[(Full name(s) of owner(s)]: Top Coat Nail Bar, LLC

Trading as:
Top Coat Nail Bar
11944 Grand Commons Ave
Fairfax, Fairfax, VA 22030-8613

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a marketplace license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Ve Nu Kieu Nguyen, President

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.

3008426 (06-04-21, 06-11-21)

[(Full name(s) of owner(s)]: SHB McLean LLC

Trading as:
Starr Hill Biergarten
1800 Capital One Dr. Ste 1100
Tysons, Fairfax, VA 22031-3404

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a wine and beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Josh Cromwell

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.

3008451 (06-11-21, 06-18-21)

[(Full name(s) of owner(s)]: 7-Eleven Inc and Gurjas Inc

Trading as:
7-Eleven 10643B
10008 Main Street
Fairfax, Fairfax, VA 22031-3404

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a wine and beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

David Seltzer, VP

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.

3008443 (06-11-21, 06-18-21)

Legal Notice

TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **Planning Commission** of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, will hold a work session on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. and a public hearing on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2, as amended; the Governor's Executive Orders, as amended; and in accordance with Ordinance 20-O-23, Continuity of Governmental Operations during Pandemic Disaster (COVID-19), as amended and readopted by the Herndon Town Council on September 8, 2020, which superseded previously adopted amendments, the work sessions and public hearings may be by electronic means.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. If the meetings are by electronic means, people having an interest in the item are invited to register to join the WebEx to state their opinions or to submit comments for the record to planning.commission@herndon-va.gov.

Electronic meetings will be broadcast through Cisco WebEx and details for the meetings will be made available to the public on **Wednesday**, prior to the meeting dates.

ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT, ZOTA #21-02, to allow for an increase in permitted density up to 28 dwelling units per acre in the PD-UR, Planned Development Urban Residential, zoning district when a zoning map amendment includes adaptive reuse of existing buildings for residential dwelling units. This zoning ordinance text amendment is being considered pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2204, 15.2-2285, 15.2-2286, and an Initiating Resolution adopted by the Town Council on May 25, 2021. Notice is hereby given to consider zoning text amendments to establish new, and clarify, revise, and/or delete, existing regulations and definitions in order to increase the maximum density up to 28 dwelling units per acre in PD-UR. The proposed amendments under consideration include, without limitation: Chapter 78 (ZONING), Article V (Planned Development Districts), Section 78-51.1 (Planned Development Urban Residential), and Section 78-180 (Definitions).

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website www.herndon-va.gov beginning June 11, 2021, after 3:00 p.m.

The Town of Herndon supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, so that they may participate in services, programs, or activities, offered by the Town. Please call (703) 435-6804 to arrange for any accommodation that may be necessary to allow for participation.

Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish June 11 and June 18, 2021