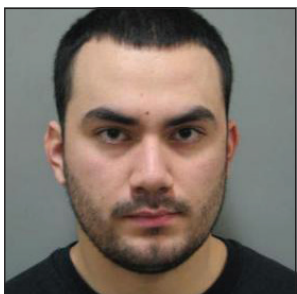




THIS WEEK INSIDE:



Man arrested after fatal hit and run crash in Reston SEE PAGE A2



Virginia Employment Commission updates system amid ongoing litigation SEE PAGE A5



Community-wide event held in Annandale for neighborhood youth SEE PAGE A5



"A Child's Christmas in Wales" brings holiday cheer SEE PAGE B1

| INDEX                |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Public Safety        | A2 |
| People & Places      | A3 |
| Sports               | A6 |
| Health & Wellness    | A7 |
| Home & Garden        | A8 |
| Opinion              | A9 |
| Arts & Entertainment | B1 |
| Pets                 | B3 |
| Arts Calendar        | B4 |
| Community Calendar   | B4 |
| Classifieds          | B6 |

25¢ NEWSSTAND PRICE

Confederate Names Task Force votes to change highway names Claims community responses are statistically insignificant

By Heather Zwicker FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Last week the Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF) voted to rename two highways in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) established CNTF back in July to review the names of Lee Highway (U.S. Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (U.S. Route 50), and to make recommendations to the Board on whether to change the names of one or both roadways.

After months of meetings and public input, the task force voted 20-6 in favor of changing the name of Lee Highway and 19-6 on a name change for Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway. At-large member Tim Thompson abstained on the vote to change Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway.

"I'm pleased to see the task force's recommendation, and believe it is aligned with the community support I've heard for removing Confederate names from our public spaces," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff

McKay. "Obviously, however, there are still many steps that must be taken before any final decision is made."

Task Force Member Ed Wenzel said he thought the issue should have been on the ballot in November. He speculated that it would have been defeated by "common sense voters". "No 26 people on any task force should recommend changes to primary highway names while the county's 1.2 million voters have no say whatsoever," said Wenzel, of the Springfield District. He voted against renaming the roads.

McKay said that a referendum on this subject would have required authority from the General Assembly. "It's important to note that this was an open and public process in which all residents were invited to express feedback," he said. "Ultimately, the state, through the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the General Assembly may make the final decision."

Although the task force conducted multiple listening sessions, distributed surveys and mailed out postcards, those responses were deemed

"not statistically significant." According to Chairwoman Evelyn Spain, the survey was only meant to obtain a 'pulse' of what people were thinking about the potential to rename the highways.

"Out of the county of more than a million people, only an estimated 23,000 or 1 percent responded," said Spain. "While this response was great, it did not represent the entire county because there was no sampling associated with this survey. A survey that was designed to provide statistically significant political polling data would have had purposeful sampling of a small portion of the population based on demographics that would allow extrapolation." She explained that they did not use that tool, but rather a Survey Monkey link which was accessible to anyone who could access the internet.

The survey could have been expanded to an official survey poll if the chairwoman had given the CNTF more time, according to Jenece Lindner, a member representing the Springfield District. "The chair refused to do it because it would take too much time," she explained. "She would not

extend the CNTF ending by a few weeks and refused to ask the BOS for an extension." Another member of the CNTF who asked not to be named said this was the largest county poll on record.

Thompson said he decided to abstain on the vote to change the name of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway because he did not like the suggestion of using proper names for what Lee Highway would be renamed.

"I didn't want to get in on the proper names. I wanted something welcoming, not a personal name and that criteria was the exactly the reason we're looking at changing the names in the first place," said Thompson, an at-large member representing Mount Vernon and the northwestern part of the county. Someone wanted to name the roads after the two Union generals who died at Ox Hill. Other suggestions were to name the roads after Native American tribes, he said.

Thompson suggested naming the roads after the state bird or the state flower. He said the danger of renaming after people is we could end up in a similar situation 20 years down the

road. Thompson also said he thought the task force only considered a narrow time in history. "They don't look at what a person [Lee and Jackson] does from soup to nuts, they only considered the time period from 1861 to 1865." One thing he'd been working on was to possibly have the roads have the same name from their starting point to termination, explaining both roads stretch from one end of the state to the other.

Edwin Henderson, a historian and former Fairfax County history teacher was a member of the CNTF and also served on the task force to rename J.E.B. Stuart High School. A member of the African-American community whose family's history in the county dates back to before the Revolutionary War, he founded the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation in 1997 to preserve African-American and civil rights history in Northern Virginia. He voted to rename the both roads.

"Portions of land for both roads were taken [through eminent domain] from my direct ancestors (Henderson and Foote families)," explained

See HIGHWAY, Page A4

New supply of free COVID tests distributed to area libraries

County officials recommend calling local branch to see if tests are available

By Laura Scudder FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Free COVID-19 testing kits at Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) ran out of supply in the first hour after the branch locations began distributing them December 3.

Another 10,000 test kits were being distributed to libraries December 8, according to a tweet by Fairfax County Library. "10,000 tests may seem like a lot, but a million+ ppl live in #Fairfax," said the tweet. Library officials recommend calling your specific branch to ensure that they have tests available.

The free tests available at FCPL are part of a program developed in November by the Virginia Department of Health, called Supporting Testing Access through Community Collaboration (STACC).

"Libraries are trusted community hubs, and we are pleased to support public health initiatives like this partnership with the Virginia Department of Health," said Fairfax County Public Library Director Jessica Hudson.

The official Fairfax County Government Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery website also offers instructions on how to find and then take the rapid tests. Neither proof of residency nor a library card is required to grab a test.

The website noted that the tests "have



an expiration date of the end of December and are therefore meant to be used immediately."

To take the test, individuals must have an internet connection, a device with camera and microphone capabilities, and a valid photo ID.

"Once completed, rapid antigen tests provide results in 15 minutes. After the test taker completes the test online, eMed will automatically report the results to the Virginia Department of Health," the website states.

Those who receive positive results are encouraged to consult their healthcare provider or the Fairfax County Health Department, as well as to isolate from others.

POSITIVE Vibes By Laura Scudder • FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Fairfax County 11-year-old entrepreneur creates homemade candles with love

The "kidpreneur" works to grow his business and spread the joy of candles this holiday season

For 11-year-old Alejandro, making candles began as a project he could do to give his mother something she could enjoy. Now, he's selling candles at markets and online across the DMV and beyond.

Alejandro created Smell of Love Candles officially in September 2020, according to his mother, Patricia.

"I made a candle for her because she's taught me how to make it over the years ... she really liked it and she suggested [that I] make it into a business since I've always [had] an entrepreneur mind — because my grandma owns a salon, so I would usually give lemonade to her customers, or I would shovel a driveway when it snows, or mow a lawn," Alejandro said.

"That's why he named it Smell of Love, right — it was born out of his love for me because he wanted to make me happy. And we just want to be able to spread that, whether it's your self love, family love, friend love, whatever," Patricia added.

According to the Smell of Love Candles website, Alejandro also has a podcast and a YouTube channel. Part of

See CANDLES, Page A4

**WATER PROOF DECEMBER**

Get Luxury Vinyl Flooring Starting From

**\$0.89** SQ FT

Limited Time Only December 1st - 31st

**HARDWOOD FLOORING**

STARTING FROM

**\$1.99** SQ FT

**TILE FLOORING**

STARTING FROM

**\$0.99** SQ FT

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Professional Installation Revive, Restore & Refinish

**GET MORE FLOOR WITH 0% APR SPECIAL FINANCING**

**DISTRICT FLOOR DEPOT**

Quality Hardwood Discounters

www.districtfloordepot.com

**703-665-7955**

While supplies last. Product prices & availability are subject to change. See store for details. Basic install wood or vinyl only







PEOPLE & PLACES



COURTESY PHOTO

Senator Chap Petersen accepts a Legislator of the Year award from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Fairfax County senator recognized by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce recognized Senator **Chap Petersen**, D-Fairfax, as a 2021 Legislator of the Year for his leadership and continued collaboration with Virginia’s business community at the Virginia Economic Summit and Forum last week.

“Senator Petersen is known for thinking critically about the practical implications of public policy and potential legislation,” said Virginia Chamber President and CEO Barry DuVal. “He has been a fierce advocate for small businesses across the Commonwealth, especially during the ongoing pandemic, and we are honored to recognize him as this year’s Legislator of the Year for the Virginia Senate.

Petersen said in a recent newsletter that the award was unexpected. “I don’t belong to a Fortune 500 company or international law firm. I have no global strategy. I’m a small business guy,” he said. “Nothing wrong in business with being big – it’s the ultimate mark of success – I just related to being small. But the Chamber was very kind in their recognition and you’re damn right I accepted.”

“In my career, I’ve sought to be a voice for small business,” said Petersen. “I’m honored that the Virginia Chamber would recognize my team and our efforts to reopen Virginia and give small businesses a fighting chance.”

In Petersen’s acceptance speech he made three promises: that extraordinary restrictions based on COVID-19 must eventually end, especially restrictions on children; to lessen the tax burden on working families in 2022 and restoring a system of checks on balances on executive power.

“Thanks to my great team Raphael Debraine, Krisin Gleichauf and Kathy Neilson for representing our senate office so well,” he said.

Park Authority captures three Fairfax County GIS Excellence Awards

Teams from the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) were honored with GIS Excellence Awards in three categories during the county’s annual GIS (Geographic Information System) Day competition. The Park Authority was one of 19 government agencies competing for honors in six categories.

**Fariss Agatone, Suzanne Holland and Andrew House** won honors in the Cartographic Product or Presentation Category for “Hidden Oaks Nature Center’s Nature Scorecard.” This category showcases the power of GIS tools in creating accurate, instructive and visually pleasing printed maps. The Nature Scorecard was created for use in fall classes and programming. Students used this specially designed map of the park to learn about the natural and built environment.

**Jasmin Kim and Justin Roberson** received an award in the Data Contributor Category, which honors the

agency that has created or refined the most significant spatial data for the county in the past year. Their entry, “Locating New Public Urban Parks in Reston,” is an interactive web application highlighting publicly accessible urban parks in the Reston Transit Station Areas (TSAs). The application was created to inform the public where current and planned urban parks are located with detailed information of the park typology, construction status and park amenities. **Daniel White**, of the Department of Planning and Development, joined them on the project.

**Andrew DeLuca, Karen Devor, Fariss Agatone and Justin Roberson** were honored in the GIS Integration Category for “GIS Trail Assessments.” This award is presented to the agencies that have integrated GIS into their operations to the greatest degree in the last 12 months. GIS Trail Assessments utilized Esri’s QuickCapture solution, along with a dashboard, to both rapidly collect and report on the quality of trails throughout the FCPA’s parks.

The GIS Excellence Awards recognize individual county employees, teams and departments who have demonstrated exceptional utilization of the county’s GIS in the last year to improve business processes, perform geographic analysis, visualize projects, improve efficiency and communicate with the public. Winners were honored in a virtual ceremony November 17, worldwide GIS Day.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Jeff McKay



COURTESY PHOTO  
Bryan Hill



COURTESY PHOTO  
Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu



COURTESY PHOTO  
Sara Baldwin



COURTESY PHOTO  
Aimee Vosper

Park Board honors five county officials with Chairman’s Choice Awards

Five County leaders have been honored with 2021 Chairman’s Choice Awards by the Fairfax County Park

Authority Board. Two of the honorees were announced in advance of the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards ceremony November 19, but three of the winners were held as a closely guarded surprise until the ceremony itself.

Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeff McKay** and the Park Authority’s two deputy directors, **Sara Baldwin** and **Aimee Vosper** joined County Executive **Bryan Hill** and Fairfax County Director of Health **Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu** as this year’s honorees. All five were chosen for their outstanding long-term support, service to and advocacy on behalf of the Park Authority.

McKay was described as “the leader the Park Authority could count on to muster support for difficult decisions of the Park Authority Board and park staff even as crowds overran our parks, and later when we began to reopen and provide programming, concerts, etc.” He was praised for his financial leadership, help in securing CARES funding, and offering stalwart support for the renewal of the Park Authority’s enabling Ordinance and updated Memorandum of Understanding.

Baldwin, deputy director/chief of Operations, was praised for stepping up not once, but twice in a short span of time to assume the role of acting director when the agency’s former director was asked to temporarily fill a vacancy as county executive and upon the director’s retirement earlier this year. The Board noted she came prepared with a sense of purpose and a dedication to improved internal and external communications. She pushed the agency toward a return to normalcy, while overseeing the search for a new director.

Vosper, deputy director/chief of Business Development, was honored as someone who was adept at resolving problems, innovating and keeping calm in the face of adversity during the daily challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. She addressed the need for virtual governance, working tirelessly to figure out the right way to hold virtual meetings, which were compliant with all rules and regulations. She also was a driving force in completion of the MOU and Park Ordinance approvals.

The Board had previously announced that Hill and Addo-Ayensu were selected as recipients this year because of their outstanding leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. They were praised for taking actions that allowed the Park Authority to continue its mission during pandemic.

The Park Board established the Chairman’s Choice Award in 2019 to honor those whose efforts provide a critical contribution to the agency and help sustain and expand its nationally accredited facilities and programs. Award recipients must also support the One Fairfax policy through their actions.

Community Colleges announce expansion of credits for prior learning

Virginia’s Community Colleges have launched an expanded version of the organization’s **Credits2Careers** portal, allowing more adult learners to be aware they may be eligible for college credit based on their prior learning and experience.

Before the expansion, the Credits2Career portal only served individuals with military experience, translating their service into college credits.

The expansion of the portal, which includes statewide curriculum crosswalking, is made possible due to a generous grant from the Lumina Foundation as part of its All Learning Counts Initiative. In 2019, the Foundation awarded \$3.5 million in grants to nine organizations across the nation committed to building clearer pathways to degrees and other credentials for adults.

Virginia’s Community

Colleges was one of the nine recipients, and the only recipient from Virginia.

“Learning can take place in all kinds of settings, especially today, as many individuals have hybrid work models allowing for increased flexibility,” said Randall Stamper, assistant vice chancellor for grants and workforce programs at the community college system. “Whether it’s in the military, on the job or in an exam, Virginians deserve to be credited for their learning, even the learning taking place outside of a classroom.”

The grant has enabled Virginia’s Community Colleges to correlate military training, professional development, work force and career certifications to courses within its course catalog, allowing all adult learners to jumpstart their paths to a college degree by earning college credit for certain life experiences without having to start the education process at ground zero.

Credits2Careers and the All Learning Counts initiative aim to make the path to a degree more easily obtained. By validating experiences and learning out of the classroom, adult learners will get their degree faster and for less out of pocket, lowering the bar for individuals to seek out and complete a postsecondary education.

“Applying and enrolling in school can be daunting, especially for adults juggling a family and a job, but the launch of the new Credits2Careers portal makes it easier to see how many credits an individual has and what they need to show to cash them in,” said Jenny Carter, director of workforce partnerships and projects. “We’re grateful to the Lumina Foundation for helping make this effort a reality, and we’re even more grateful that Virginia adult learners are one step closer to accessible education.”

Individuals looking to explore the Credits to Careers portal can create an account at Credits2Careers.org.

Global technology and engineering company rebrands

**Smartronix**, a Herndon next-generation cloud, C5ISR, and advanced engineering / IT solutions company, announced the launch of its new brand, **SMX**, in line with the company’s vision of delivering transformative technology solutions to government and commercial customers.

SMX formed in 2019 when Smartronix and Trident Technologies joined forces, followed by the acquisition of Datastrong in 2020 and C2S Consulting Group in 2021. Moving forward, the business will be known as SMX, combining exceptional talent and industry-leading capabilities to differentiate the company, better serve the market and accelerate digital transformation for customers. The leadership team is comprised of executives from the legacy companies, as well as industry veterans who have joined the platform.

“Rebranding as one company is the next logical step in our growth,” said Peter LaMontagne, CEO of SMX. “For the past year we have been hard at work harmonizing our benefits, IT systems, and strategy, empowering our talented team to deliver more value to our clients, who are at the center of everything we do. By bringing together leading capabilities from each component company and making further investments in our platform, we are able to respond to evolving market dynamics and meet the requirements of our customer base.”

SMX will continue to focus on harnessing the power of modern technologies to assist clients across government and the private sector in realizing their digital transformation goals. The company’s approach combines deep domain experience in mission and business areas with technical expertise and next-gen delivery models that ensure a shared vision with clients and

accelerate success.

“While we will be known by a new name, SMX, what will not change is our commitment to our employees and our clients whose missions have a meaningful, positive impact on the world each day,” said LaMontagne. “The company will continue to deliver innovative solutions in three primary service areas: cloud, C5ISR, and advanced engineering / IT.”

SMX was recognized by Gartner as a visionary and leader in the Public Cloud Infrastructure Professional and Managed Services, Worldwide quadrant for four consecutive years and, as a visionary in this year’s 2021 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Public Cloud IT Transformation Services. Additionally, SMX has achieved premier status with Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, Azure and Google Cloud for its cloud platforms.

Fairfax County students earn Shepherd University scholarships

Two students from Fairfax County have been awarded privately-funded scholarships from the Shepherd University Foundation.

**Andrew West** of Annandale was awarded the Burkhart Legacy Scholarship. **Diana Cushing-Spiller** of Springfield was awarded the Moler General Scholarship.

The Foundation will provide more than \$2 million in student, faculty, and program support for the 2021-22 academic year. Located in West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle, Shepherd University is a regional public university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Charles and Jennifer and their incredible donations.

Leno Claus brings cheer to local Ronald McDonald House

Washington Football Team tackle Charles Leno and his wife Jennifer brought their “Leno Claus” campaign of philanthropy to the Ronald McDonald House® of Northern Virginia December 7, making quite the impression on the staff and beneficiaries. The Lenos delivered several items to be added to welcome bags for families checking in to the Ronald McDonald House of Northern Virginia.

“We wanted to come out to the Ronald McDonald House to give back and let people know we’re here to help,” said Charles. “We’re fortunate that we have the

means to give and not everyone has that. We just wanted to put some smiles on some faces today.”

After having their first child, the Lenos created a countdown to Christmas campaign called “Leno Claus” to give back to families and children in their community.

“Having children opened up our hearts and actually helped Leno Claus get started. We were watching a Christmas special on TV with my daughter and we came up with the idea of Leno Claus and celebrating the 25 days of Christmas. That’s what children do, they make you think of other kids and opening up your heart to others.”

Through Beyond the Entertainer, the organization he and his wife Jennifer launched in 2019, the Leno Claus initiative is in its second year of December donations and they selected the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington as one of their 2021 beneficiaries.

No Kid Hungry invests \$125,000 across schools and nonprofits to address food insecurity in Virginia communities

No Kid Hungry recently distributed \$125,000 in grants to Virginia community organizations and school districts to expand and strengthen food access programs for children and families. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the nonprofit has invested more than \$4.1 million to help ensure Virginia’s children stay nourished and ready to learn.

The holiday break can be one of the hungriest times of year for many kids who rely on the meals they typically get at school. This year, that’s exacerbated by the continuing economic impact of the pandemic. Today, as many as one in eight children in Virginia may face hunger.

At the same time, many school districts are facing staffing and supply chain challenges that are making it even more difficult than ever to feed kids.

The latest round of funding will help organizations purchase meal service equipment and navigate rising food costs. Grant recipients include:

- Annandale United Methodist Church – \$5,000
- Community Storehouse – \$5,000
- Northern Virginia Family Services – \$50,000
- Virginia Hospital Center – \$10,000

Thanks in part to the extension of federal waivers, schools across the state continue to offer flexible meal service options such as multiple meal pick-ups and delivery programs to help reach more kids.

Families are encouraged to contact their child’s school or visit their school district’s website for details about meal service.

Protect the ones you love, get your flu shot today.

@vaccinatevirginia



## HIGHWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Henderson. “But more importantly, I voted to change the names because of their [Lee and Jackson] relationship to those who fought to keep my ancestors enslaved. The Civil War was not about state’s rights, but rather about state’s rights to keep people in bondage and exploit them economically for their labor.”

He went on to explain that the highways being re-named for the Confederate generals was associated with the 50th Anniversary of the war. “These highways were named to embolden the ideology of white supremacy and to protect white privilege during Jim Crow segregation and I feel it is time to put this ideology to rest,” he said.

Henderson shared that Route 50 was named Little River Turnpike before becoming Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway around 1918. Interestingly, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors just voted to change the name of Route 50 in Loudoun from John Mosby Highway back to Little River Turnpike.

Susana Marino, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was the lone Hispanic member on the task force. She had no idea who appointed her and didn’t recall receiving an invitation or being asked to reply with a decision to join.

“All of a sudden, I began receiving a great deal of e-mails back and forth with my name included and I quickly became aware the committee was perhaps selected by political affiliation or by the assumption my political tendency would match the ideological mission of Chairman Jeff McKay to purge all visible evidence of Confederate history

and heritage from Fairfax County using the so-called ‘One Fairfax’ misguided political policy,” said Marino.

Marino said she was one of the six who voted in opposition to the name changes. “During a survey done, public feedback was decisive. More than 58 percent of the public responses opposed renaming. We felt it was our duty to represent the public’s interest.” She also explained that she felt the estimated \$1 to \$4 million dollars required to rename the roads would be more effectively used pursuing a community engagement project like a museum, historical markers or an African-American Heritage Trail.

Marino and others also felt that the task force did not have equal representation of all demographic groups. “Asians are 19 percent of Fairfax County population. There should be at least five individuals from the Asian community.” She also said that non-African American and other minorities were underrepresented on the task force and added that the online survey only received 200 responses from non-English speaking minority communities. “Within this sample size, the respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the names,” she said.

A name change will impact approximately 504 private residences and 665 businesses along two segments (14 miles) of Lee Highway, and 50 private residences and 221 businesses along the 8.4 miles of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway under consideration.

The task force dismissed an idea to survey business owners located in the Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway corridor, said Marino. “Marketing is expensive and changing addresses for a business owner may seem like an unimportant task, but in the busy life of an

entrepreneur every minute counts.”

The task force process has been called a charade and a political show in various media accounts. Even some task force members and other government employees alluded to the fact that renaming the roads was already a foregone conclusion and this body just political top cover.

“There is no public outcry or support for changing the names,” said Blake Myers, a CNTF member. “It is a divisive issue that will drive people into separate camps.” He said in all the meetings there was no historically factual reason ever presented that supported the name changes. “The lack of knowledge of U.S. and Virginia history within the CNTF was frankly frightening,” he said. “Flaws in the CNTF process led me to conclude that the recommendations to change the names were preordained, and are a political action advocated by agenda-driven activists.”

Robert Floyd, a member representing the Braddock District, said he accepted the position with an open mind but was never “inflexible in his opinion.” He said there is a growing lack of trust between the citizens of Fairfax and the Board of Supervisors. “Many citizens expressed the opinion the CNTF was a ‘sham’ or ‘façade’ to provide political cover for the BOS to change the names anyway,” he said. “Citizens don’t believe this is the beginning or the end of this current wave of names being expunged from the county. I, too, have my reservations.”

The CNTF will now come up with and vote on a list of two to five names which will be presented in their final recommendation report to the BOS at the end of this month, according to Spain.

## CANDLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

the reason he is selling candles and pursuing life as an entrepreneur is to raise money for college — and Alejandro noted that he wants to go to Duke for civil engineering.

Aside from saving money himself, Alejandro also shares what he has by donating to charity.

Patricia explained that Smell of Love Candles chooses a different organization to donate to every month, noting that a lot of them have been education-based.

“This month, we’re donating to Me and You. And it’s a local charity that gives money to the homeless. And during this time, you know, they come out to markets. So it’s pretty nice to like, support people around the world, and helping the homeless too. So it feels great. It feels real nice,” Alejandro explained.

Smell of Love Candles is a family affair. Alejandro’s mom, Patricia, works with him on the financial aspect of the business — but he is still very much in on the process. His younger sister also assists with operations.

“We spend a lot of time together, which is nice ... it used to be — when they were in school and daycare — used to be a lot of like, okay, we get dinner together. But now we do a lot more. It’s nice,”



Patricia noted.

And sometimes, unexpected things have happened for Alejandro while out doing work for his business. During the D.C. holiday market on November 27, Alejandro got to meet Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff.

But there are challenges to running a business, particularly when it comes to maintaining supplies. But Patricia noted that there are always solutions to problems that may arise.

“It’s hard to find our glass jars, also lids because they’re on shortage. And once they have it in stock, we have to buy a pallet so that we have

enough. Sometimes, with the D.C. holiday market, it runs out quick. And then when we check back, it’s already out of stock. So the shortages do kind of impact our business,” Alejandro explained.

Going forward, Alejandro is excited to continue growing the Smell of Love Candles’ online sales.

“We want to see all of our candles in everyone’s house and ... the candles bringing joy to everyone,” he said.

Next, Alejandro and Smell of Love Candles will be at the City of Fairfax Holiday Market in Old Town Square in Fairfax, December 10-12.

# Following record overdoses, health officials emphasize treatment resources

By Michael Marrow  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Drug overdose deaths topped 100,000 within a year for the first time on record, according to a recent report from the CDC, leading health officials to stress the importance of access to treatment for addiction and substance use and warn of the rise of fentanyl, a leading factor driving overdose deaths.

The figure represents an alarming increase in overdoses and marks a setback in efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Overdose deaths increased nearly 29 percent nationally between April 2019 and the same time in 2020, according to the report from the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics. Overdose deaths in Virginia in that same period increased to slightly above average by about 36 percent.

Synthetic opioids now make up a large majority of overdose deaths — nearly 73 percent, according to the CDC. Of opioid overdoses, 59 percent involve fentanyl as of 2017. Data from the Fairfax County Health Department indicates that opioids are the number one cause of unnatural deaths. Fentanyl use is also associated with most opioid overdose cases: of 94 opioid overdose deaths in 2020, 87 involved fentanyl.

The proportion of overdose deaths that involve opioids has slightly increased in Fairfax County, and non-fatal opioid overdoses have risen as well. There were 163 non-fatal opioid overdoses in Fairfax during the first two quarters of this year, compared to 123 in the same time frame last year, driven in part by increased use of fentanyl.

A powerful painkiller similar to morphine, though 50 to 100 times more potent, fentanyl has recently proliferated in the illicit drug trade. Due to its potency, it can be mixed with other drugs and is often a cheaper and more easily obtainable alternative. More than half of overdose deaths nationally now involve fentanyl used in combination

with another drug, underscoring the dangers created by fentanyl’s increasingly widespread use.

Health officials stress that several factors contribute to the population-level rise in overdose deaths. Health Department Spokesperson Lucy Caldwell wrote in an email that the increase in opioid overdoses “can be attributed to individual, policy, and environmental causes, all exacerbated by the increased availability of fentanyl and its analogues.”

Many illicit drugs become contaminated with stronger opioids like fentanyl, Caldwell wrote, and users of other opioids eventually build a tolerance, leading them to seek out stronger alternatives. Additionally, the pandemic created new pressures or intensified existing ones, prompting some people to begin self-medicating.

Health officials emphasize that properly treating conditions like addiction that contribute to overdose deaths requires a wide-ranging response. “Vulnerability to drug addiction includes several factors such as genetics, environmental, and repeated exposure,” Caldwell wrote. “Addiction is rarely attributed to just one factor. It is important to consider that various factors that may work together to contribute to addiction including isolation, mental health, lack of a support system or drug treatment.”

In Fairfax County, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board offers a range of programs that address underlying causes of addiction, such as outpatient care, peer support, residential detoxification, and other programs. The CSB also coordinates with the Fairfax County Police Department to refer individuals to detoxification or treatment programs in lieu of an arrest. FCPD officers and first responders additionally carry naloxone, a powerful medication that can treat overdoses by counteracting opioids currently in a person’s system.

CSB now offers training for how to respond to over-

doses, such as by administering naloxone. Due to the increasing number of overdose deaths associated with fentanyl, CSB also provides fentanyl testing strips, which can determine if a drug is cut with fentanyl.

Local nonprofits such as the Chris Atwood Foundation partner with organizations like the health department to offer community services to treat substance use issues. Ginny Atwood Lovitt, executive director of the foundation, wrote in an email that addiction being a “death sentence” is a common misconception. “People can and do recover,” she wrote, observing that “23 million Americans are living in long-term recovery.” She noted that stigma often stands in the way of seeking treatment. “This disease is treated differently than other diseases. The science doesn’t back that up.”

She added that it is crucial for those at risk of an overdose to be connected with long-term care. “Emergency departments routinely discharge people after an overdose or some other medical emergency that is clearly a result of their substance use disorder and don’t provide them with any resources, follow-ups, [or] linkage to care,” she wrote. “We have to stop failing people at these most basic and critical intersections because for some people that’s the one chance we will get to help them before it’s too late.”

With the holiday season underway, what’s often viewed as a time for close friends and family to come together can also heighten social isolation for others. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, you can contact the CSB or the Peer Outreach Response Team for assistance. The Heads Up and Talk it Out program and the virtual parent support group hosted by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court also offer support for adolescents struggling with addiction and other challenges. In the event of an overdose emergency, dial 911.

Lock it in and watch it grow.

Earn 5x the national average with a Money Market Certificate.

1.00%  
APY<sup>1</sup> for 3 years

1.25%  
APY<sup>1</sup> for 5 years

1.50%  
APY<sup>1</sup> for 7 years

Your savings at work and the guaranteed earnings you deserve.



Earn more than 5x the national average<sup>2</sup>



Invest as little as \$1,000



Savings are federally insured by the NCUA



SCAN WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA!



PENFED<sup>®</sup>

CREDIT UNION

Get started at

PenFed.org/Certificates

Federally Insured by NCUA. To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed Credit Union. 1. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates are accurate as of 12/6/2021. Rates are subject to change and are fixed for the term of the certificate. Certificates dividends compound daily and credited monthly. The minimum balance to open a certificate is \$1,000. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. This will reduce earnings on the account. For all certificates funded by ACH, funds cannot be withdrawn within the first 60 days of the account opening. The rate for the 3 year and 5 year certificate is more than 5x the national average of .19% APY for 3 years and .24% APY for 5 years and was sourced directly from <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/rates> as of November 15, 2021. © 2021 Pentagon Federal Credit Union



# Virginia Employment Commission updates system amid ongoing litigation

By Michael Marrow  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The Virginia Employment Commission unveiled a new system for filing unemployment claims November 18, overhauling outdated 35-year-old infrastructure that heavily relied on paper files and manual labor in favor of digital tools.

The new system, which has been more than a decade in the making due to being eight years behind schedule, comes on the heels of a scathing November 8 report that identified numerous shortcomings in the existing unemployment system. After layoffs skyrocketed in the wake of the pandemic, nearly 2 million separate unemployment filings were made with the VEC. The system then became overwhelmed and failed to adjust to the crisis, causing a months-long queue that eventually resulted in \$14.5 billion worth of claims.

The report was issued by

the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, which conducts nonpartisan policy analysis as part of legislative oversight. The JLARC’s report identified staff shortages, insufficient funding, and antiquated technology as key issues existing prior to the pandemic, which combined to contribute to a hefty backlog despite nearly 200,000 overtime hours logged by VEC employees in 2020.

The JLARC issued 40 recommendations to improve operations of the VEC going forward. They include increased staffing, organizational restructuring, and the implementation of an unemployment resiliency plan that could weather future unforeseen circumstances that place high burdens on the VEC. The JLARC also called for the creation of a legislative subcommittee to strengthen oversight.

The new system was rolled out amid ongoing litigation concerning the VEC’s dysfunction. In April, five women filed

a federal class action lawsuit against the VEC, arguing that its backlog violated a state law that requires timely adjudication of claims. The plaintiffs requested a court to intervene and compel the VEC to address ongoing issues. A settlement was then approved in May that set a deadline for the progress of adjudicating claims, and parties to the lawsuit have been tracking VEC’s progress since.

To monitor the VEC’s improvement efforts currently underway, a federal court overseeing the lawsuit has since requested ongoing status updates, the most recent of which came November 30. The VEC had previously set a goal of adjudicating 95 percent of claims made as of October 15, but according to the November 30 status report, only 82.3 percent of claims had been adjudicated. The VEC reasoned that the rollout of the new system temporarily delayed its efforts to address pending claims, and no timeframe for when they would

be resolved was provided.

“It is hard to come up with a definite timeline,” wrote VEC Spokesperson Joyce Fogg. “Each case takes a different amount of time to process and clear.”

Fogg added that most outstanding claims involve cases where workers were fired or quit and are in the process of an appeal, rather than being laid off. “The large percentage of these that are not resolved are those claimants who have either quit or been fired; not those who are awaiting payments,” Fogg wrote in a response to questions. “If your employer reports that you quit your job or were fired, you have the right to appeal and it goes through the adjudication process. Those have not been approved for any unemployment payment.”

Citing ongoing litigation and status updates provided to the court, Fogg declined to comment directly on the lawsuit.

Pat Levy-Lavelle, an attorney representing the plaintiffs in

the case, wrote that a new system is a welcome improvement, but it is not enough to address the issues plaguing the VEC. “It is important to keep in mind that the JLARC report identified a very wide range of serious challenges the VEC needs to address,” Levy-Lavelle wrote. “At best, even a well-functioning new computer system could address only a fraction of these challenges.”

He also wrote that plaintiffs are still expecting greater progress from the VEC. “Many Virginians have been waiting too long for answers and for benefits,” he wrote. “We understand from the VEC that the switchover to the new computer system did delay progress. We expect that the 95 percent goal will be met soon; Virginians are counting on it.”

After waiting long periods for their claims to be adjudicated, many Virginians were also likely awarded incorrect amounts. The JLARC report identifies more than \$1 billion

in erroneous disbursements from 2020 through June 2021, many of which are estimated to be overpayments. Some of these costs could be covered by the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, but federal law also requires the VEC to diligently collect overpayments.

“The VEC distributed billions of dollars to jobless Virginians during the pandemic,” Levy-Lavelle wrote. “Although most of those benefits are not in question, a fraction of them does represent overpayments.” He added that the plaintiffs hope that the Commonwealth appropriately balances recoupment of overpayments with “recognition that many low-income Virginians will not have the means to repay benefits (even if deemed overpayments) that helped them survive the worst economic crisis in nearly a century.”

# Community-wide event held in Annandale for neighborhood youth

*FACETS and other organizations worked to bring the holiday spirit to children at Fairmont Gardens*

By Laura Scudder  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

People in the Annandale community came together December 4 for a neighborhood-wide event at Fairmont Gardens, where children could make gifts and decorations for the holiday season.

Walking around the event, stations for youth community members were set up for them to make cards for loved ones, as well as photo frames to give parents. The children also made ornaments, where they could put items such as beads inside.

The event even included a space to meet Santa and his elf through the Fairfax County Police Department.

The event was held by FACETS, an organization that meets the needs of those suffering from the effects of poverty in Fairfax County, in conjunction with Kids Give Back and Community Art for Everyone (CAFE).

Other partners also provided the chairs and tables for stations, as well as hot chocolate.

“It’s about breaking the cycle of poverty with a multi-generational approach. this is a high-poverty neighborhood in terms of looking at the census. But what this program does is it brings in ... members of the community as leaders and identifying what the greatest needs are in their community,” said Allison Coles, FACETS’ senior director of development and

communications.

Coles noted that hundreds of youth participated in Saturday’s event. She also noted that Opportunity Neighborhood Annandale, part of FACETS, was essential in discovering the needs of the community through a survey and speaking to those in the neighborhood.

“One of the things about Opportunity Neighborhood is that it is a collective impact, and it’s about bringing everyone together — all the different stakeholders, including the individuals in the community, Coles explained. “That intent is being served to identify the needs, having them be leaders and identifying resources or projects or opportunities, and then bringing the community together. And so this is really kind of beautiful representation [of that].”

Coles said that Opportunity Neighborhood Annandale’s Community Director Nayely Lopez, was essential to gather that information, as well as Terry Angelotti, the strategic director.

“The initial thing she [Angelotti] needed to do was identify first which community in Annandale really specifically could benefit from the Opportunity Neighborhood program. And then it was conducting that survey, about what the greatest community needs were and then identifying leaders and partners and bringing them together. And so you’re kind of seeing what that collabora-

tion has brought together,” Coles said.

Aside from helping those who are in need, the event also gave people an opportunity to give back. Teachers from Woodburn Elementary School were out to volunteer on Saturday.

The community partners and volunteers present at the event shared the sentiment that poverty in Fairfax County should be given more attention.

“There’s not a lot of awareness of the intense poverty here ... for the last couple of years, we’ve really been trying to let people know that there’s a serious situation here. I think we’re slowly getting there,” said Woodburn Elementary School Principal Katy Richman.

Denise Gavilan, founder of Kids Give Back, said that the organization’s mission is to inspire the next generation of leaders by providing children 6 to 12 years old with volunteer opportunities. Founded in 2019, the group has completed various projects within the area.

“In the beginning of the year with Woodburn — the way our relationship with Woodburn started was one of our board members is an FCPS teacher. And she said, ‘You know what, the teachers don’t get a lot of love at the beginning of the year, and they’re all coming off the pandemic.’ So we made 110 welcome baskets. There were crafts in there that

the kids made, which they loved. Then there was lotion and snacks, and you know, just treats and things that

they need during the day,” Gavilan said.

FACETS is looking for a permanent place to meet and

provide resources for people in the county, as well as always welcoming volunteers and donations.



Affordable Magnolia Studio Assisted Living Apartments

The *Right Size* at the *Right Price!*

STARTING AT  
**\$3,999\***  
PER MONTH

*\*Limited-time offer. Includes level 1 care and medication management.*

Join the Tall Oaks family and enjoy vibrant activities with friends, chef-prepared meals, worry-free living, and *peace of mind* that comes with 24-hour access to compassionate, licensed nurses!

Join the Tall Oaks family!  
Schedule your in-person or virtual tour today.

 **703-834-9800**  **ctodd@talloaksal.com**



703-834-9800  
TallOaksAL.com  
 A Family Company

**Tall Oaks**  
ASSISTED LIVING  
RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

 Coordinated Services Management, Inc. Professional Management of Retirement Communities Since 1981 



COURTESY PHOTO



# Madison Warhawks bound for state football championship

By Michael Marrow  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Ever since they fell to the South County Stallions in the state semifinal last year, the Madison Warhawks have been yearning for a rematch.

Returning with a senior-stacked lineup, powerhouse offense, and ironclad defense, they got a chance to deliver payback. The Warhawks (13-1) and Stallions (11-3) met again for the semifinal on December 4 and once again on Madison's home turf. This time, things were different: the Warhawks trounced the Stallions 28-6.

Victory over South County is the latest impressive statistic in a record-setting season for Madison, including 13 straight wins and back-to-back region championships.

The Warhawks now head to the state title for the first time in program history. They will play at Old Dominion University on December 11 and face the returning champions, the Tigers of Oscar Smith.

"This was a goal of theirs, and they've done everything in their power to get to this game," Madison head coach Justin Counts said. "I couldn't be more proud of them."

After a slow start for both teams, Madison took control late in the first quarter and never let up. The Warhawks marched toward the end zone, with a keeper by Quarterback Connor Barry placing them in the lead 7-0.

It was an early demonstration of the threat Barry posed on offense. Supported by solid pass protection, he was usually comfortable finding receivers. "With me and Alex [Jreige] in the backfield, and a whole senior O-line, I feel comfortable in the pocket being able to do what I do," Barry said.

On the occasion the pocket collapsed, he was somehow always able to find space and salvage a play; quick on his feet, he would also run for first down conversions when the Warhawks needed it.



Photo by Colin K

Action picked up in the second quarter for Madison, where the Warhawks would score 21 points. Matched up one-on-one with a South County defender, Wide Receiver Sonny Endicott caught a 14-yard pass for a touchdown, putting the Warhawks up 14-0.

"I was injured in the first half of the season and I was just trying to come back," Endicott said. Adding that scoring a touchdown in the game that carried his team to states is "more than what I imagined. It just feels great to contribute to this win."

Madison is graduating several key players after this season, but the Warhawks' wideouts remain promising. Three starting receivers – sophomores Endicott, Cord Yates, and Darren Knicely – are returning. "We're showing glimpses of the future," Endicott said.

An 8-yard carry by Running Back Alex Jreige then widened the Warhawks' lead 21-0. After three previous drives went 3-0, South County's earliest first down conversion then came when running back Trenton Johnson caught a 27-yard pass. It was still not enough

to put points on the board.

With just under a minute remaining, Madison squeezed the most out of the first half to score their final touchdown of the game. After Knicely picked up big yards for the Warhawks, Barry once again walked the ball in for a score of 28-0.

South County would not score until the fourth quarter. After a flea-flicker to Johnson put the Stallions in the red zone, Johnson punched it in shortly thereafter. For good measure, Warhawks Defensive Back Michael Delgado blocked the extra point attempt, making the final score 28-6.

The Stallions had hoped

for another go at the state championship, but Head Coach Tynan Rolander said that many opportunities lay ahead. "The future is bright," Rolander said. "We have really talented and hard-working kids in our program and really great coaches on our staff. This is not the best moment for us, but it's a moment we'll learn from and come back a little bit better prepared for, and hopefully, we'll be right back here next year."

The repeat of Madison and South County in the semifinals also suggests a shifting balance of power in northern Virginia football, as the two teams have recently

emerged as seasoned adversaries capable of toppling legacy programs.

"Last year, we ended our season out on this field," Jreige said. "This year, it was the senior's last game on this field, and it was a dominating win. I'm just so happy and so grateful."

Barry similarly remarked that their road to the state championship was paved beginning with last season's loss to South County in the semifinals. "Coming into it, we had a lot of motivation from guys last year," Barry said. "We really did this for them today. It was good to come out with a win."

The Warhawks are now

preparing for the state championship like they have every week: "Watch film, create a game plan, execute and hope for a good result," Barry said.

If this season's performance is any indication, the Warhawks are poised to return from Old Dominion with championship rings in hand. "Our defense has been good and I feel like this is the first year we've had a really high-powered offense," Jreige said. "We have weapons all over, we've got really young wide receivers that play like they're seniors. It's a 1-2 combo you can't really stop."



Photo by Colin K

Life is short.  
**Don't make it shorter.**

**Choose life.** Make sure your kids get their HPV vaccine and protect them against cancer.

@vaccinatevirginia



Protect the ones you love,  
**get vaccinated now.**

VDH  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH





Are you getting enough Omega 3 fatty acids?

KEYS TO BETTER HEALTH  
CINDY SANTA ANA

One thing that Americans don't eat enough of is fish. I often test my clients for their Omega 3 fatty acid index and every time it is low. There are three types of Omega 3-fatty acids: ALA, EPA and DHA and they have numerous health benefits.

Interestingly, studies indicate that people who consume Omega-3's regularly are less likely to be depressed. Omega 3's are crucial for brain growth and early development in infants and during pregnancy. Omega 3 fatty acids can also support heart health. Their consumption can cause a

reduction in triglycerides and reduce blood pressure in those with high blood pressure. They can also keep blood platelets from clumping together. This prevents the formation of dangerous blood clots. Additionally, Omega-3 fatty acids can reduce the production of molecules and substances linked to inflammation, such as inflammatory eicosanoids and cytokines. I will often take fish oil for pain from intense workouts or a mild headache.

You can supplement with a high-quality fish oil and eat wild-caught fish two to three times per week. I like wild salmon, halibut, cod, Wild Planet sardines and anchovies. Try the delicious recipe for salmon.

SIMPLE GLAZED SALMON

- INGREDIENTS:
- 1/2 cup coconut aminos (this is a soy sauce alternative)
  - 1/4 cup water
  - 2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
  - 3-4 tbsp coconut palm sugar
  - 1 1/2 tsp. minced garlic
  - 1 1/2 tsp. minced ginger
  - 1/2 Tbs. arrowroot powder
  - 1 Tbs. water
  - 2-4 wild-caught salmon filets

- INSTRUCTIONS:
- Combine the first six ingredients in a saucepan on medium heat until the sugar is dissolved.
  - Meanwhile, mix 1/2 Tbsp. arrowroot with 1 Tbsp. water. Whisk to combine.
  - Add the arrowroot water mixture to the pot of hot sauce. Increase heat to medium-high, whisk well and bring to a simmer. As soon as it simmers, remove it from heat. Allow it to cool.
  - Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Place the salmon fillets into a parchment-lined baking dish, spaced at least 1 inch apart. Generously glaze with the teriyaki sauce, and place into the oven for exactly 16 minutes.

Remove and serve immediately. I like to pan-sear some fresh green beans with this or broccoli florets. It's also delicious over a bed of cauliflower rice. See [www.UnlockBetterHealth.com](http://www.UnlockBetterHealth.com) for more recipes.



Lifestyle, dietary advice, and Chinese medicine



By Asim Safdar L.Ac, M.om  
LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST

Chinese medicine has a unique perspective on lifestyle, diet, and health. It follows the theory of yin and yang, which is the universal theory of relationships based on opposites and the observation of natural phenomena. Chinese Dietary Therapy is a part of the medicine that characterizes certain foods to determine their effects on the body. Through diagnosis of symptoms, the pulse, and the tongue, Acupuncturists recommend a balanced diet that is specific to the diagnosis. Characteristics of foods involve the following aspects: the four thermal natures and the five tastes.

The thermal natures are hot, warm, neutral, and cold.

The five tastes are: acrid, sweet, sour, bitter, salty

Foods with their inherent

nature as mentioned above create changes in the body according to their synergistic effect. Hot foods are generally meat and spicy foods. Cold foods are raw vegetables and any iced or cold products such as sodas, salads, etc. They should generally be avoided unless prescribed in form of cooling herbs to clear inflammation. Acrid or spicy foods generally disperse, so they can be used in many of the exterior diseases such as the common cold or influenza. Sweet foods provide the body with energy and nourishment, but overconsumption of these can lead to various disorders such as diabetes and obesity. Sour foods astringe and bind and can be beneficial in hemorrhage, sweating, and diarrhea. Bitter foods clear heat in the body, which is a cause of many diseases that cause inflammation. Salty foods and herbs can help dissolve hard nodules. Thermal natures and the tastes can also be combined for a synergistic effect.

In a general, there are

three types of foods that should be limited: cold, hot/spicy, and fried or damp-creating foods.

Cold foods should be avoided by weak and elderly individuals. These foods can slow digestion and can make existing conditions worse. Warm soups and cooked vegetables cooked with appropriate ingredients are a better alternative. It is beneficial to digestion, and it can also help increase focus.

Fried foods should be

limited because they create damp heat in the body, which is a cause and trigger for many symptoms. Existing autoimmune conditions can be aggravated by such foods. Dairy is also a damp-creating food and should be limited by those who suffer from certain chronic conditions. Damp or phlegm-creating foods should also be limited by those who suffer from asthma and other respiratory disorders which involve the mucous membranes.

Hot and spicy foods are very damaging to digestion and can make other disorders worse. It creates heat in the body which in combination with damp foods can increase inflammation. A balanced approach and taste should be preferred in a daily diet.

In addition to a balanced diet, it is also very important to observe and adjust your lifestyle according to the signs and symptoms. Symptoms can be viewed as a way in which the body is

asking for help. The body through its symptoms demands certain changes in lifestyle. I recommend proper sleep, rest, and meditation to calm the mind to my patients. Meditation is very important in individuals suffering from anxiety, insomnia, and depression. It can help soothe the mind and keep the mental state in balance. Sleep and proper rest are necessary to heal while receiving acupuncture.



WEALTH PLANNING

MAXIMIZE YOUR GAINS OR MINIMIZE YOUR RISKS? LET'S TALK ABOUT FINDING THE SWEET SPOT IN BETWEEN.

From investments and wealth planning to retirement and trust services, our team is here to make managing your wealth a more relaxing experience. We believe banking is a conversation. Let's talk about your options. Call us at 301.774.8420 or visit [sandyspringbank.com/wealth](http://sandyspringbank.com/wealth).

Sandy Spring Private Client Group

Wealth and Insurance products are not FDIC insured, not guaranteed, and may lose value. Wealth products offered by Sandy Spring Private Client Group and Sandy Spring Trust, divisions of Sandy Spring Bank. Member FDIC. Sandy Spring Bank and the SSB logo are registered trademarks of Sandy Spring Bank. © 2021 Sandy Spring Bank. All rights reserved.



## Six high-ROI ideas to increase the value of your house

**Courtesy of  
Family Features**

Home upgrades happen for different reasons but enhancing your home's curb appeal and value are often at the top of the list. These projects can make it easier to enjoy your home knowing they carry a return on investment of up to 92%, according to the Remodeling 2021 Cost vs. Value Report published in "Remodeling Magazine." Plus, you'll have the added benefit of knowing you're making a sound investment should you decide to sell down the road.

### Stone veneer

Stone veneer is an upgrade that adds warmth and texture with the look of natural stone, but without the expense. It's also a durable product that is low maintenance, so you don't have to worry about sealing or painting.

With the variety of styles and colors available, it's easy for homeowners to mix and match to create a custom look. Mortarless options like ClipStone are designed to be installed with screws and common tools, making them accessible options for both professionals and DIYers.



With a built-in water management system, overlapping edges to minimize gaps, reversible outside corners and a variety of accessories, mortarless options allow homeowners to achieve the look of traditional masonry without the hassle.

### Garage doors

Exterior features often bring a big return on investment because a home with strong curb appeal can make a great first impression on potential buyers. The garage doors are no exception.

If you think of your garage doors as a purely functional element of your home, you may be surprised to learn garage door replacement is actually the best home upgrade you can make, according to the report.

Garage doors aren't just functional; they can be a focal point of your home's exterior design, completely transforming the exterior. Depending on the style and features you choose, an updated garage door is also a smart strategy for managing climate and adding security to your home.

### Windows

Windows are another smart investment for numerous reasons. Not only do they provide a sophisticated presence that can greatly enhance curb appeal, upgraded windows play a major role in energy conservation. Homeowners also

rely on windows to make a bold statement. For example, Simonton black exterior windows and patio doors can help perfect a wide range of architectural styles including farmhouse, modern, industrial and contemporary designs.

This award-winning line of vinyl windows offers homeowners a variety of styles and colors to customize both their home's interior and exterior spaces. The windows are AAMA Gold Certified, passing some of the industry's most stringent quality assurance testing for air leakage, water penetration and wind pressure - resulting in low-maintenance windows with lasting durability, weather resistance and energy efficiency.

### Deck additions

Adding a deck is an easy way to improve your home's exterior appeal and increase

your livable space. Wooden decks rank in the top 10 for ROI, according to the report. An attractive deck situated off the living room or kitchen can make those rooms feel larger, especially when you're entertaining, and guests can circulate freely between indoor and outdoor spaces. A well-constructed deck also serves as a transition point from the home to the backyard, where you may invest in even more outdoor living features.

You'll achieve the greatest ROI by designing your deck to integrate seamlessly with your home and landscaping and even stone accents. Also take functional features into consideration, including privacy and protection from the wind and sun. Depending on your climate, it may be beneficial to design a deck for maximum shade during

the warm months or to make the most of sunlight during the cool seasons. Features like built-in kitchens, stone accents, TV mounts and access to water features all lend high-end custom touches that also boost ROI.

### Siding

If you're considering updating your home's color and trim, re-siding is a great way to transform its curb appeal while also earning a hefty return on the investment and giving yourself (or a future owner) the gift of lower maintenance living.

With 15 different collections, Ply Gem Mastic has an array of solutions to help homeowners transform their living spaces such as board and batten, hand-split shake shingles, traditional Dutch lap siding and more. Each is available with detailed wood grain texture in a variety of rich, on-trend colors, including increasingly popular dark options.

### Entry doors

One of the simplest projects in the report, a new entry door can also make a big impact because it's one of the first things potential buyers see. Not only can a steel door help make a good first impression, it also serves as an updated security feature and can offer additional insulation, which makes for a good investment if you live in an area that experiences extreme weather.

Explore more high-ROI ideas and products for upgrading your home and its value at [cornerstonebuildingbrands.com/residential](https://cornerstonebuildingbrands.com/residential).



**We'll be there in the darkest moments.**  
**703.880.9850**

**We Have Generators In Stock!**

**GENERAC®**

Generac® Home Standby Generators automatically provide you backup power during a utility power outage – whether you're home or away. Whether it's for a few hours or several days, your family and home are protected. **Generator Supercenter is the #1 Generac dealer in North America.** We have the experience and expertise you need. From design, local permitting, installation and long-term maintenance support, we are there for you. **That's why they call us the Standby Power People.**



© CHS NOVA 2021

### FREE Whole Home Surge Protector

with a generator purchase from Generator Supercenter of Virginia. Limited time offer. Call for details.

**Schedule Your Free Estimate Today!**  
**Generator Supercenter of Virginia**  
**[GeneracSupercenterofVirginia.com](https://GeneracSupercenterofVirginia.com)**

**Visit our showroom at 21005 Ashburn Crossing Drive, Suites 125-130, Ashburn, VA**



## “Why does Virginia have such a big surplus?”

Dear Editor,

The Senate Finance Committee’s post-election Retreat in Roanoke had some eye-popping figures. For a change, the news was good.

First, the Commonwealth is holding a \$2.3 billion surplus from FY 2021, which ended on June 30, 2021. That equals 10% of the state’s discretionary budget, which already includes healthy deposits into the state’s reserve fund. Moreover, the Commonwealth is looking at a \$3.3 billion surplus for FY 2022, based on the economic data. That means that the state government, as of June 30, 2022, will be looking at \$5.6 billion in unallocated cash. And it doesn’t end there.

Going forward, if Virginia holds all programs at current spending levels in the next biennium (FY23-FY24), then we’re looking at a projected surplus of eight (\$8.0) billion dollars against a baseline budget of forty-eight (\$48.0) billion dollars. In other words, we will be collecting 16%

more dollars than we will be spending – in addition to all the additional Federal money (still unallocated) through the ARPA legislation passed in March 2021 and the Infrastructure legislation recently signed into law in November. We literally cannot spend the money fast enough.

Under the State Constitution, half of surplus funds are ordinarily allocated to the “Rainy Day Fund” which protects provides a reserve for economic downturns, when the state (unlike the Feds) cannot rely on deficit spending. However, that fund itself is capped at 10% of the state budget and with \$3.8 billion currently in the Fund, we are rapidly approaching the cap. In other words, this is mostly ready cash.

All this must be bewildering to those following the national news: isn’t our U.S. economy stagnant? What about the supply chain crisis? How about unemployment?

The short answer is that our economy in Virginia

is still (barely) below pre-COVID levels from early 2020. However, there are two systemic factors driving the surplus: first, the failure of Virginia’s tax system to conform to the Federal tax changes starting in 2018, and, second, the historic drop-off in state services starting with the COVID19 shutdown in March 2020.

The first has led to an unprecedented growth in revenue, while the latter factor has limited and even reduced state spending over the past two years.

In 2018, the U.S. Congress passed legislation, presumptuously titled the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Creation Act” or “TCCJA,” which reshaped the Federal tax system. Numerous tax deductions or exemptions, such as home mortgage interest, were eliminated or sharply curtailed. Others like minimum standard deduction were increased. The net effect was that the “aggregate gross income” reported by most Americans making

over \$50,000 per year was increased. On the flip side, the legislation reduced Federal tax rates, especially in the upper brackets, so that overall Federal income taxes fell for most Americans.

In Virginia, the overwhelming number of tax filers use the “AGI” from their Federal return as the income figure on their Virginia return. Due to the TCJA changes, that reported gross income is now higher than before for most Virginians, even if actual income is the same.

The Assembly could have balanced this out by reducing rates. Instead, in 2019, the Republican majority authorized a one-time “cash back” for all income tax filers. Then in 2020, the new Democratic majority discontinued the automatic cash refunds. So the imbalance remained.

The end result is that a large part, at least half, of Virginia’s surplus is being driven by the simple fact that the Commonwealth taxes a larger part of income than it did

before 2018. Period.

The second systemic cause of the surplus traces back to the Governor’s decision in March 2020 to shut down schools. For a year, most schoolchildren in Virginia did not have access to in-person public education, one of the great policy errors in modern history. Thousands of families removed their children from the public school system.

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, Virginia had 50,000 fewer students in its public school system. At a state obligation of \$6,000 per child, that is an annual savings of \$300 million, which doesn’t include the ordinary increases in students from population growth (in fact, Virginia had been adding students ever year since the 1970’s). To date, those children have not returned, which means that the Commonwealth has a commensurately lower education cost.

The drop in education costs was mirrored by a drop in costs relating to Medicaid, which at \$6 billion a year is Virginia’s second-highest budget driver

(next to K-12). This might seem counter-intuitive since COVID19 struck particularly hard amongst Medicaid-eligible populations, such as seniors. However, the bottom line is that Medicaid clients on a “fee for service” model were far less likely to visit their providers during 2020-2021. As a result, Medicaid had a net savings of \$653 million in FY21.

That trend appears to be carrying forward in 2021. For the first time since the program began, Medicaid costs seem to be stable and even decreasing – because people are seeking less care. Again, this is not because they are less vulnerable but rather because of the new barriers to visiting doctors.

The bottom line is that the state surplus is not about “good stewardship.” It’s about collecting more in taxes while providing fewer state services. That model is not sustainable. And it will change.

Senator Chap Petersen  
D-Fairfax

## Scholarship for Virginians with autism lacking supports and funds

Dear Editor,

Young adults with autism (22+) are often left behind. This is because, once they graduate high school and/or reach the age of 22, they are considered, “aged-out.” This means the educational services they were receiving under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) simply go away. Even though the support and services end, people with autism don’t magically grow out of autism or “get better”. Autism is a lifelong journey

and the costs associated with care and services are upwards of \$1.4million over a lifespan. \*<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24911948/>

Less than 20% of adults with autism live on their own. Yet with the right support, coaching, and encouragement, so many more have the ability. The barriers to many autistic adults living independently are the high costs of care and lack of insurance coverage. Care and services should not be out of reach to anyone, regardless of financial need.

CA Human Services (Commonwealth Autism), a 501c3 non-profit organization, has worked to bridge these service gaps for Virginians with autism and developmental disabilities for over 25 years. One way CA is working to do this is through an annual scholarship for our Residential-Adult Program. In this transformative program adults aged 18 to 35+ live in a communal style, single family home in a beautiful neighborhood in near Richmond’s West End. By harnessing intrinsic

motivation, providing life skills training, and implementing familiar support systems adults with autism or developmental disabilities can live in the residence for six months to two years. Once they graduate through the program, they move on to live independently in their own apartment or home. CA also continues to support them through regular check-ins through what we call our Community Support Program.

Maintaining this program for a single client can cost up to \$3000 per month. This cost

factors in room and board, coaching, and other support services. This is a sticker shock for most families, and this cost unfortunately limits which Virginians can utilize the program. Through a generous grant from the state, CA can now offer needs-based scholarships at 50% of costs. To cover the remaining cost for one economically disadvantaged adult, we have begun fundraising for our Invest in Independence Scholarship.

We are seeking scholarship

applicants now! To qualify for the scholarship, individuals should be aged 18+, live in Virginia, have an autism or similar diagnosis, have the capacity and motivation to live independently, and prove financial need. Interested individuals can apply at <https://www.cahumanservices.org/invest-in-independence/>

Cameron Kelley  
Marketing and Events  
Coordinator  
CA Human Services

## Pandemic impacts prison system

Dear Editor,

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in our communities, but imagine what it is like behind bars. As of November 30 there have been 440,611 COVID-19 cases among people incarcerated in U.S. prisons (Home, 2021). COVID is spread easily in confined areas, but social distancing is nearly impossible within carceral settings. With this pandemic, a sentence to time in prison could become a death sentence. Prisons need to lower their numbers, fix their poor living conditions, and protect those in custody with lifesaving options such as PPE, healthcare, and vaccines.

Increases in the length and severity of sentencing due to the tough-on-crime era caused prison populations to increase exponentially to nearly 2 million individuals. This led to an overcrowding issue that has heightened the effects of the pandemic (Coronavirus vii., 2021). Although some releases occurred, overcrowding remains. Overcrowding combined with tight budgets leaves few, if any, resources for PPE and other necessary healthcare supplies and services (AMON 2020). This forces prison residents to use socks and other such items as face masks and limited supplies of soap and hand sanitizer leaving them with no way to clean themselves once it is gone (Coronavirus vii., 2021). All of these challenges contribute to dangerous levels of viral spread within these institutions.

To fix carceral overcrowding and health conditions, some suggest decreasing the number of people incarcerated. We have done this, but not nearly enough. Since the pandemic began, police have been more willing to write a citation/ticket rather than arrest individuals for Class C misdemeanors (Trautman & Infantolino, 2020). Also, due to the pandemic, federal prisons have decreased their population by 3%

and state prisons have dropped their population by 5 percent (Coronavirus vii., 2021) but prisons are still running above capacity. This increased capacity puts residents not only at risk for illness but also increases the possibility of violence among residents and staff.

Additionally, there is some controversy over whether prison residents have a right to the COVID vaccine (Kishi et al., 2021). In some jurisdictions, individuals in prison were among the first vaccinated because they were in higher-risk groups due to their health or the places they lived. With prisons operating as a hotbed of viral spread for the above-mentioned reasons, residents of prisons are at extremely high risk of infection which should place them into the first group of those to receive the vaccine, but this often was not the case. Everyone should have the right to the vaccine even if they choose not to get it, and individuals living in high-risk conditions should have priority to be immunized over those who do not. Most people in prison were sentenced to a period of time in prison, not to death. It is unfair for the correctional system to keep residents in conditions that could end their lives; this is not justice, it is cruel and unusual punishment. There are at least two ways to remedy this problem: release low-level offenders or fix prison conditions.

While decreasing the prison population may come with risk, more social programs will help reintegrate former prison residents back into society which may prevent or lower recidivism and lower the prison population. It also costs less to supervise an individual in the community rather than in custody and the money saved could be spent on protecting unreleased residents and improved healthcare.

Some may suggest that prison residents deserve to live in these conditions because of the actions that put them there. They may argue we are

already decreasing the prison population so it is not an issue, and prison residents should not receive the vaccine first or at all because their own actions landed them in custody. However, prisons provide justice via incapacitation, retribution, deterrence, and hopefully rehabilitation but they are not designed or intended to endanger individuals’ lives. While residents may have done something society disagrees with, this does not mean an incarcerated individual’s worth should be determined by a singular action. Additionally, while the number of people in U.S. prisons is declining, it is declining at a rate so slow it does little for those who are currently incarcerated. Finally, being in a high-risk environment should not determine whether someone deserves a vaccine. The conditions of prisons put residents at high risk, but the actions that put an individual in prison are not justification for withholding a potentially life-saving vaccine from them.

The pandemic has impacted the prison system enormously, and whichever side you may be on regarding this issue, prison residents are humans. If we want to reduce public health problems we need to release those who are no longer a risk to society and make sure those still incarcerated have the sanitation, healthcare, distancing, and vaccinations they need to contain this horrible disease for them and for all of us. To help you can contact your local or state representatives and advocate for: early releases for the residents who do not pose societal threats; more social programs to help former prison residents, and healthcare for all humans, even those we rarely think about, especially those in prison.

Hope Miller  
George Mason University student

\*References available upon request

## In response to FCPS reinstates pornographic books to school libraries

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your article in the December 3 edition of the Fairfax Times regarding re-introduction of pornographic books to the libraries of Fairfax County Middle and High School libraries.

I had previously checked out both books in question from the Fairfax County Public Library when this first became an issue.

My concern is that this is about pedophilia, not just pornography.

The book “Lawn Boy”, cited in your article, clearly promotes that it is perfectly all right for a young underage boy to sexually service an adult male. The young boy’s own words in the book say that his sexual encounter with the adult male was not so bad. As far as I know, pedophilia is still illegal in this state. If a book is promoting young people to “commit a crime”, why is it “legal” to encourage the book for young readers. This week we learned about the practice of sexual “grooming” of underage girls, as seen in the court

testimony of the Jeffrey Epstein trial. That is what “Lawn Boy” is doing.

Furthermore, I did not realize, until I read your article today, that the members of the Fairfax County Public School’s review committees were not publicly identified.

How do we know what type of people were chosen? Why is it a secret? Were background checks conducted? Do any have former sex crime backgrounds? How many were from the LGBTQ community and how many were heterosexual parents with children currently in Fairfax County schools? Are all the members of the committees registered voters of a single political party? Are the members allowed to speak to the press? How do we know that the membership of the review committees comply with Fairfax County’s own One Fairfax diversity, equity and inclusiveness standards?

Clearly, these committees have absolutely no legitimacy. Parents should be outraged.

Bill Denk  
Great Falls



DON'T MISS OUR

BIGGEST AND BEST

HEARING AID SALE *EVER!*

SALE  
ENDS  
DEC. 31



25%  
OFF

ON TOP MODELS  
LIKE THESE!\*



Silk



Stylectto X



Motion X



MOMENT



Don't know if you have hearing loss? Schedule a **FREE** hearing evaluation and find out. Receive a **FREE \$25 gift card** if you have hearing loss!\*\*

\*\*Must be an existing customer to refer. Referred customer must be a new customer, schedule a hearing evaluation and have hearing loss. Other terms and conditions apply, check our website or ask center staff for details.

Great prices are  
just the beginning:

- ✓ Personalized service and expert staff
- ✓ Top brands of hearing aids with cutting edge technology
- ✓ Same-day fitting – walk out with your new hearing aids today
- ✓ Risk-free 1-week trial
- ✓ Financing options available; our centers accept most insurances

Call us to schedule a **FREE** hearing evaluation today!  
**(855) 736-4509**



**FAIRFAX**  
8301 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 302  
Fairfax, VA 22031

**MCLEAN**  
6647-B Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101

[hearusa.com](https://www.hearusa.com)

\*Offer valid on purchase of two Signia level 3, 5 or 7 hearing aids and Widex Moment level 3, 5 or 7 hearing aids. For example, everyday price for Motion Charge&Go 5 hearing aid is \$3,795 each, after discount \$2,846.25 each. Offer not valid on Signia Active hearing aids or with any other offer or discount. Offer not valid on previous purchases and cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Offer expires 12/31/2021.





NextStop Theatre stages something a little different for Christmas

# “EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD (and Then Some!)” is a comic romp that's heavy on tradition

By Keith Loria  
SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Once the calendar hits December, there are plenty of opportunities to see traditional holiday shows like “The Nutcracker” or “A Christmas Carol,” with plenty of performances by different companies around Northern Virginia and the entire Washington, D.C. region.

But, for those looking for something a bit different, NextStop Theatre Company is staging “Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!),” a fast, furious, and slightly irreverent look at holiday classics and traditions.

Directed by Evan Hoffmann, the racy comedy follows three actors who instead of performing Charles Dickens’ classic for the umpteenth time, choose to perform every Christmas story ever told.

And they add to the holiday magic by sprinkling in seasonal icons from ancient times to contemporary pop culture, Christmas traditions from around the world, and every carol ever sung. That means you can expect Santa Claus, Rudolph and Charlie Brown all to make an appearance.

The show stars a trio of actresses—Rebecca Ballinger,

Rikki Howie and Brittany Martz, all of whom have rich ties to the local theatre community.

Ballinger was last seen on the NextStop stage in the production of “Beehive” in 2019, but was also a part of the theatre’s pandemic-inspired Parking Lot series last year. She’s thrilled to be back.

“This is such a fun show to be part of,” she said. “We are sort of playing ourselves. It starts off with the three of us putting on a traditional production of ‘A Christmas Carol’ as a lot of theatres do this time of year.”

Ballinger’s character quickly interrupts the production, moaning about how she just can’t do this show again, as there’s so many other holiday things she thinks of before this Dickens play.

“We get this idea to do as many of those stories as we can, as fast as we can in an hour-and-a-half,” the actress said. “We get ideas from the audience and then we go forward with as many of those stories as we can, fast and abridged. And that creates some really good ingredients for great comedy.”

Though it seems like that scenario might create a great deal of improv, the script is written in a way where it’s mostly pre-planned, since

many of the same holiday classics will be thrown out in response.

“Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)” was written by John K. Alvarez, Michael Carleton and James FitzGerald in 2003, and contains original music by Will Knapp. The three comedians allow anyone producing the show to update jokes to things topical since a lot of the references were dealing with the times they were living in.

“Evan decided to cast three women in the role as part of those changes, which is not typically done,” Ballinger said. “This is my first time working with Rikki and Brittany on stage. It’s been an interesting rehearsal process, with it being significantly shorter than normal. It’s been super-super-fast and me, Rikki and Brittany have had to speed up this cast bonding and understanding how we feed off each other on stage, which is appropriate given the context of the play. It’s been so much fun.”

The big theme throughout the performance is tradition and that’s something that people are longing for this time of year.

“What has been really fun about doing this show in 2021

See NEXTSTOP, Page B4



COURTESY PHOTOS



COURTESY PHOTO

## “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” BRINGS HOLIDAY CHEER

THE ICONIC STORY BY DYLAN THOMAS  
TO BE STAGED IN VIENNA AND TYSONS

By Keith Loria  
SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The poem “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” was written by renowned Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas in 1955, and has become a favorite piece of prose for many families during the holiday season.

Emerging from an earlier piece Thomas wrote for BBC Radio in 1952, the poem is an anecdotal reminiscence of a Christmas from the viewpoint of a young boy, depicting a nostalgic and simpler time.

In 1987, the iconic story was adapted into a musical, and this holiday season those in our area

will have the chance to see this wonderful show in both Tysons and Vienna.

“Two really great theatre people—Jeremy Brooks and Adrienne Mitchell—adapted it to the stage, and while they kept a lot of Dylan’s beautiful language, they added dialogue, they fleshed out characters a little more and they added songs,” said Jessie Roberts, who is directing the production. “The songs are mostly Christmas carols with altered lyrics to fit the storyline, and some Welsh traditional music also, which is pretty neat.”

The story is about a family celebrating the holidays with their friends. It was first produced in 1982 and Roberts was excited to bring it to the area.

“It’s so charming, and I don’t know why people don’t do it more,” she said. “I’ve loved Dylan Thomas all my life and this just seemed like the perfect opportunity to bring this story to the stage.”

“A Child’s Christmas in Wales” stars Sarah Cusenza as Dylan Thomas, who plays the poet as both an adult and a child.

“She’s just wonderful in the role,” Roberts said. “Sarah’s mother Sally is also in the show. And we have another family bond with a father/son team of Chad and AJ Murray, so that’s kind of nice to have family in a family show.”

Others in the cast are Matt

See WALES, Page B4

## HOT LINKS BY COLLIN COPE



Holiday Lights on the Farm • 5:30 p.m.  
December 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19

This month, check out Holiday Lights on the Farm at Herndon’s Frying Pan Farm Park. Bring your friends and family out for a mile-long tour of the barn grounds to see various sparkling lights to truly ring in the holiday season. Rides will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the nights of December 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19, with tickets available online at <https://bit.ly/3ItD3zL>.



Alexandria Harmonizers’ Market Square holiday concert  
December 11 • 3 p.m. • free

This December 11 at 3 p.m., check out the Alexandria Harmonizers’ annual holiday concert in Alexandria’s Market Square. This award-winning men’s chorus never fails to enchant a crowd with their a capella renditions of various holiday classics. The event will be free to attend and Market Square’s holiday tree will be on full display. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3drrLOA>.



Forest Fledglings • Weekends  
through February 23 • \$8

Every weekend until February 23 at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, bring your children (age 3 to 5) to explore the many different creatures and species of the natural forest. Running from 9:45 until 10:30 a.m., each session will experience forest life in its purest condition and each child will bring home an experience of exploring the wonders of the forest. Admission is \$8 per child. More information is available at <https://bit.ly/3dwmwgi>.

COURTESY PHOTOS



# ArtsFairfax welcomes new board directors and staff

**Courtesy of Manuela  
Quintero Fehr**  
ARTSFAIRFAX

**A**rtsFairfax, Fairfax County's designated arts agency, announced the addition of five new Board of Directors and four new staff members demonstrating a continued commitment to diversity and service to our community.

“ArtsFairfax is pleased to welcome Julie Carter, Amy Ginn, Sung Bin Im, Upen Patel, and Sean Sharifi to our Board of Directors,” said ArtsFairfax President & CEO, Linda S. Sullivan. “They each bring traits to ArtsFairfax that support our mission and experience that will guide us to achieve our future goals. They join a strong Board whose leadership is committed to assisting our arts community.”

## Meet ArtsFairfax new board members

**Julie Carter, Carter Consulting Group**

Carter is the president and founder of Carter Consulting Group in Fairfax. She has served as the chief development officer of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, successfully completing the Foundation's capital campaign to build and partially endow the Center for Education. Additionally, Ms. Carter served as the chief development officer for Americans for the Arts and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and

Gardens. More recently, she worked on the initial stages of Mount Vernon's campaign to establish and build a national library for George Washington. Ms. Carter earned a Master's in Community Arts Management from the University of Illinois.

**Amy Ginn, BSB**

Ginn is a not-for-profit audit manager with more than 15 years of accounting experience who joined BSB in 2006. She grew up in the art world, which encouraged her passion for music and art appreciation at a very young age. Over the years, her love for supporting the arts has intensified, reflected in her enthusiastic support of many art disciplines. Ginn attended the University of Alabama and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from George Mason

University.

**Sung Bin Im, World Bankcard Services**

Im is the founder and president of World Bankcard Services, headquartered in Fairfax. He also served as a founding director and board member of the 1st Commonwealth Bank of Virginia. Im is actively involved in the Korean American community in the Washington area. In 2003, he led and directed the Washington Korean American Amateur Sports Association team in the National Korean American Olympic in Dallas, Texas. After immigrating from Seoul, Korea, in 1976, Mr. Im studied Pre-Law at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. He completed the Executive Program from

Georgetown University,  
McDonough School of  
Business in E-Commerce  
and Business Management in  
2001.

## Upen Patel, The Federal Savings Bank

Patel is a senior vice president at The Federal Savings Bank in Vienna. As a longtime resident of the Washington D.C. area, he has been actively involved in the D.C. real estate market. Patel graduated from The University of Texas - McCombs School of Business with an MBA. After graduation, he spent several years as a management consultant advising and assisting Fortune 500 clients.

**Sean Sharifi, Lydia Real Estate LLC**

Sharifi is a lifelong resident of Fairfax County, the

principal broker of Lydia Real Estate LLC, and an art lover. After graduating from George Washington University, Mr. Sharif joined the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, where he has served as a volunteer firefighter/EMT for more than 16 years. He currently serves on the One Neighborhood Foundation (ONF) board, a nonprofit that he and his sister founded during the pandemic to help feed food-insecure families in Vienna and throughout Fairfax County. In 2020, ONF raised over \$100,000 from the community and offered tens of thousands of meals to those in need.

The ArtsFairfax Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2022 include: Michele “Shelly” Hazel, chairman, Tim Sargeant, Dominion Energy, Inc., vice-chairman, Pat Macintyre, Macintyre Electronic Design Associates, Inc., secretary, and Jennifer Owen, Senior Private Client Advisor, treasurer.

**Directors are:** Jose Banzon, White64, Suzanne H. Bissell, Bissell Philanthropy Services, Julie Carter, Carter Consulting Group, Michael P. Coogan, Leidos, Scott Cryer, HGA Architects and Engineering, Bill Dubose, Heritage Financial, LLC, The Honorable Eileen Filler-Corn, Virginia House of Delegates, Amy Ginn, BSB, Leila Gordon, Reston Community Center, Sung Bin Im, World Bankcard Services, Deirdre Johnson.

Federal Realty Investment Trust, Michael S. Liberman, Fairfax County Government, Jennifer Owen, Senior Private Client Advisor, Upenn Patel, The Federal Savings Bank, Sean Sharifi, Lydia Real Estate, Cathy “Smitty” Smith, Long & Foster Tysons, Dr. Maurice B. Springer, Cardinal Insurance and Financial Inc., and d’Andre Willis, d’Andre Willis Consulting.

"ArtsFairfax thanks outgoing board members Michael Forehand, Inova Health Systems, and Russel Hines, Monument Realty, who have been great champions for the arts in Fairfax," said Sullivan.

**ArtsFairfax's new staff members are** Hope Cagle, education manager and accessibility officer. Jackie Dubin, grants manager, Debbie Mueller, director of development, Manucla Quintero Fehr, digital media & outreach manager, and Gaffar Shareef, business & operations manager

"ArtsFairfax continues to attract talented individuals who are excited to serve the Fairfax community," said Sullivan. "I encourage everyone to get to know our board members and staff and utilize the expertise they bring to our organization."

ArtsFairfax thanks departing staff members Kimber Craine, Brenda McRoberts, Dana Stewart, and Danielle Stoebe for their hard work and dedication to the arts.

# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Alum
- 5 Spell-off
- 8 Pit
- 12 Taylor of  
"Mystic Pizza"
- 13 Approves
- 14 Satan's forte
- 15 Leading man?
- 16 Landlocked  
Mideast terri-  
tory
- 18 Disney's Ariel,  
for one
- 20 Van Gogh  
venue
- 21 CBS logo
- 22 Mimic
- 23 Wedding VIP
- 26 "I'm No  
Angel" actress

- |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 23 | 24 | 25 |    |    |    | 26 |    |    |    | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |    |    | 31 |    |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |
| 33 |    |    | 34 | 35 |    |    |    | 36 | 37 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 40 | 41 | 42 |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |    | 44 | 45 | 46 |
| 47 |    |    |    |    | 48 |    |    |    | 49 |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    |    |    |
| 53 |    |    |    |    | 54 |    |    |    | 55 |    |    |    |

- |                   |                  |                    |                     |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 31 Green shade    | 55 Marvel super- | 10 Queue           | 35 Sufficient, old- |
| 32 Cattle call    | heroes           | 11 BPOE mem-       | style               |
| 33 "The Great     |                  | bers               | 36 Deity            |
| Gatsby" set-      | <b>DOWN</b>      | 17 Carton sealer   | 37 Gender-          |
| ting              | 1 Glitz partner  | 19 Nay undoer      | neutral             |
| 36 Self-reproach  | 2 Carousel, for  | 22 Motorist's org. | 39 Montana city     |
| 38 Stop — dime    | one              | 23 Upscale auto    | 40 Dazzles          |
| 39 "— voyage!"    | 3 Winged         | 24 Shad product    | 41 Freshener        |
| 40 Skater Ohno    | 4 Darkened       | 25 Egos' coun-     | scent               |
| 43 Within earshot | 5 "Let's Dance"  | terparts           | 42 Shoppe           |
| 47 Oater setting  | singer           | 26 Jo's sister     | description         |
| 49 Author Bellow  | 6 Scratched      | 27 Brit. record    | 43 Unrepaired       |
| 50 Within (Pref.) | (out)            | label              | 44 Lip soother      |
| 51 "Shoo!"        | 7 Curved letter  | 28 Fa follower     | 45 Garage job       |
| 52 Exile isle     | 8 Semitic lan-   | 29 Youngster       | 46 Panache          |
| 53 Beheld         | guage            | 31 Links org.      | 48 Conceit          |
| 54 Sugary suffix  | 9 Cameo shape    | 34 Ratted out      |                     |

© 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



**www.corkeycomics.com**



**Holiday Gift  
& Event Guide**

Fairfax County Times      Circulation 330,000



Five weeks devoted to  
great holiday gifts, events, and  
ideas, running through  
December 22nd!

## Call for Details

**Simmy Murdock** • (703) 463-9228 or email [simmym@wspnet.com](mailto:simmym@wspnet.com)

**Marcia Patch** • (703) 904-1004 or email [marcia@wspnet.com](mailto:marcia@wspnet.com)

**T**FAIRFAX COUNTY  
**IMES**



## Gifting a puppy this holiday season? Read these tips first

Courtesy of  
StatePoint Media

Thinking of surprising a friend or family member with a puppy this holiday season?

"Before gifting someone with a commitment that lasts well beyond the holidays, make sure you've made your list and checked it twice," says Claire Komorowski, chief executive officer of PuppySpot, a USDA-licensed company whose mission is to make lives better by placing healthy puppies into happy homes.

Having introduced over 200,000 puppies to loving homes, PuppySpot encourages potential dog owners to make responsible decisions this holiday season and are offering the following Do's and Don'ts to help:

### Don't:

1. Surprise your friend, partner or spouse unless they've openly communicated that they're ready to take on the commitment and can prepare for the puppy's arrival.
2. Wait too long to start looking if you know this is something you and your family want for the holidays.
3. Try and cut costs. Healthy, well-bred puppies can be expensive. If you see something that seems too good to be true, it probably is.
4. Expect a puppy to arrive fully-

ly-trained and well-behaved. Puppies can be mischievous and require a lot of time and attention.

### Do:

1. Leave plenty of time for the entire process, you don't want to rush selecting the right pup for you.
2. Realize your puppy may not arrive at the exact moment you had hoped for. These are living, breathing animals that require stops and care along their journey. They are not a warehouse package.
3. Plan to be home for the holidays to acclimate your puppy. Be sure to consider what happens when the holiday excitement dies down. Puppies need a great deal of attention, especially during their first year.
4. Use reputable services, like PuppySpot, which is authorized by the American Kennel Club and has its own independent scientific advisory board that collaborates with the USDA to ensure all national standards are exceeded. To learn more about PuppySpot and its promise to connect the nation's top breeders to caring, responsible pet owners, visit [www.puppyspot.com](http://www.puppyspot.com).

While there is perhaps no more joyful holiday surprise than a puppy, this is one gift that should never be given lightly. By weighing the decision carefully, you can ensure that a puppy's new home is their fur-ever home.

FROM THE DOG'S PAW

## Holiday safety tips for your pets



UNSPASH

By Noah!

SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Woofs! I love this time of year with all the lights, presents, and especially the pawties. Yup! They are fun as we get to see friends and family each year and often meet new humans. Oh, my barks! It's fun to watch our humans prepare for the holidays as there is so much to do, and we usually get a treat or two out of it.

WOOFS! I love watching the humans decorate the Christmas tree. I couldn't believe Mom and Dad planted a tree in the living room and decorated it. Arfs, but they wouldn't let me water it, I don't understand why. We are allowed to hang out with them while they do all the decorating, but they were careful about leaving ornaments, yarns, garland, cords, lights, and the like unattended. Woofings, these items can cause injuries to curious pets. Be sure to hide cords, think cord covers, away from pets. Consider storing unique ornaments or decorations to prevent breakage.

Prepawlan your pawty plants with pets in mind! Paws, while holiday plants are a paw-some great way to brighten a home, many of them are toxic, while non-toxic plants can cause gastrointestinal upset if eaten in large quantities. WOOFs! Trust me, you would not want me to have gas at a pawty. I cleared a house once. It was so embarrassing. The holiday plants which can be harmful to pets include amaryllis, azaleas, chrysanthemums, evergreens, holly, ivy, juniper, lily, and mistletoe. Woofs, poinsettias may irritate the mouth and stomach but are considered low toxicity. My hu-

mans use silk poinsettias to decorate, so there's no risk of us getting into any harmful plant.

Barkingly, when our humans begin preparing for Christmas celebrations, they know we can be a handful unless given appropriate attention beforehand. WOOFs! Dad will take us for a long rigorous walk and playtime chasing toys, running zoomies, and laps in the backyard. Tired dogs are good dogs. It will be too cold for us to stay outside when guests arrive, so he prepares us ahead of time for playing with toys, doggie games, treats, water, and food in his studio. Don't wait until the last minute to do this as it will not work and may cause chaos at your pawty. Knowing that Abby and I are curious dogs, Dad allows us to safely explore a bit of the new scents of the holiday by showing them to us while having control of us by our collars or a leash. We've gotten to sniff grocery bags, decorations, woofs, just about everything. Woofs, it has helped to somewhat settle our curiosities but must be done with adult supervision. Arf.

Paws, since Abby and I love our crates and have them decked out with Christmas trees, ceramic art, and lights, so we may enjoy our rooms while our humans enjoy their pawty. We have a few of our favorite toys with us to entertain ourselves. Samson, our meowingly purrster brother, prefers keeping to himself when humans visit. He'll stay upstairs hiding in one of his favorite pawlaces. Our humans will pawlace a child gate blocking the stairs as a precaution to prevent any curiosity. He has pawlenty of toys, treats, and games to keep him busy.

If you pawlan to allow your

pets to roam around the pawty after guests arrive, make sure you alert, or remind, the humans attending of your pets. Some humans might have allergies, and others may be afraid of dogs and cats. Barks, you may find it easier to keep pets away from the festivities. Barks.

Woofs, if you must clear the sideway or driveway of ice or snow or both, pawlease remember to use pet-friendly labeled products. Rock salt, chemicals, and some antifreeze products can be irritating and even toxic. Rock salt causes several issues with dogs. First, it irritates my paws, so I will lick it off, which allows it to be ingested and causes agitation, pawssibly vomiting.

Paws, always be prepared for a pet emergency. Know the location of the closest 24/7 emergency veterinary clinic, the holiday hours of your veterinarian or pet hospital, and store their numbers on your phone. WOOFs! Keep handy the number to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 888-426-4435. A consultation fee may apply.

### About us!

WOOF! MEOW! Do you enjoy our articles? Barks and purrs, pawlease follow us at [www.fromthedogspaw.com](http://www.fromthedogspaw.com) by email to enjoy our adventures! Noah, Samson, and Abby are Pawthors pawing about dog/cat care tips using facts and humor, and entertaining stories about their lives with humans! Our human, Allen Pearson, is a Dog, Nature, and Railroad Photographer and Writer. Find us all at: [www.fromthedogspaw.com](http://www.fromthedogspaw.com), [www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw](http://www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw), [www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw](http://www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw), [www.allen-pearsonphotography.com](http://www.allen-pearsonphotography.com).



UNSPASH

## A SHELTER PET WANTS YOU!

Pet Supplies Plus will take **\$5 off \$35** when you show proof of adoption from our shelter partners. Offer Code: **910097**

**PET SUPPLIES PLUS.**  
GREAT PRICES. NO BEGGING.

Store Coupon. Only one coupon per household. Valid at N Virginia/DC Metro Pet Supplies Plus locations only. No cash back. No cash value. May not be combined with any other total purchase offer. Digital copies and duplications will not be accepted. Pet Supplies Plus reserves the right to cancel this offer at any time. Offer expires on 01/15/22









# George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts announces request for proposals for the 4th year of the Young Alumni Commissioning Project

Awards up to 5 grants to recent alumni towards the development of original work

**Courtesy of George Mason University**

George Mason University’s College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) released a request for proposals for the Young Alumni Commissioning Project, which provides crucial support for the artistic development of recent alumni. This is the fourth year of the program, which will award up to five grants to CVPA alumni for the creation of original work that will be presented at a Mason venue during the 2022/2023 season. The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, February 11, 2022. The recipients will be announced in May 2022.

“The Young Alumni Commissioning Project is bearing fruit so beautifully after our first three rounds, adding new work to the world’s store of artistic creation and helping advance the careers of Mason’s outstanding arts alumni,” shares Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. “As we enter cycle four, I am excited to see what our community of artists brings forward for consideration. Each cycle represents and reflects a moment in time for both the artists and the world we work in, and I know that our alumni are busy doing what artists do: seeing, feeling, and thinking deeply about their world, and transforming those perceptions into significant work.”

All potential applicants are invited to participate in an online grant writing workshop designed and executed by CVPA staff, taking place on Wednesday, January 26 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Individual applicants can also reserve time to speak with CVPA staff about their project and the application process during scheduled office hours, offered during the week of January 31 and February 7.

During the 2020/2021 award cycle, Jada Salter (’20) received the Young Alumni Commissioning Project Award and \$5,000 in support for Just the Two of Us, a documentary about multi-Grammy award-winning musician and grandfather William “Bill” Salter. Nicole Daniell (Dance ’17), Nicholas Horner (Theater ’18, MFA Candidate ’21), Cristian Perez (Music ’12), and Katherine Thompson (Visual Art ’15) were awarded Young Alumni Creative Development Awards and each received \$2,500 in commissioning support.

The Young Alumni Commissioning Project is made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Linda E. Gramlich for the support of young artists, and by donors to Mason’s Giving Day, including Shugoll Research. Young Alumni Commissioning Project recipients may receive up to \$5,000 in commissioning funds as well as venue, production, and marketing support for a public showing of the work.

To be eligible, applicants must be a graduate of the College of Visual and Performing Arts from the class of 2011 and after.

Proposals should be for an original new work in any art form suitable for performance, exhibition, or screening in a Mason venue. The size, length, duration, magnitude, and content are at the artist’s discretion. Potential venues include Mason’s traditional theater spaces, galleries, and cinemas, but proposals for non-traditional venues will also be considered.

To view complete details for submitting a proposal and how to apply: <https://cvpa.gmu.edu/about/alumni/young-alumni-commissioning-project>

# Visit Fairfax launches advent-style calendar



**Courtesy of Visit Fairfax**

As we enter the festive holiday season, Visit Fairfax is excited to share the launch 31 Days of Holiday Happiness, an advent-style calendar of activities, events, holiday inspiration, and other ways to celebrate the 2021 season.

“We came up with the idea for 31 Days of Holiday Happiness last year as a way to bring a little extra joy to people’s lives during an unconventional holiday season,” said Alison Morris, Visit Fairfax destination marketing manager. “But this year it seems that there is even more holiday magic in the air – more in-person events, more creative concepts thought up by our incredible hospitality partners, and more fun to be had out and about in Fairfax County.

We hope this calendar offers residents and visitors an entertaining and engaging way to plan out their holiday season festivities.”

So far, calendar items have included a round-up of 10+ holiday concerts & performances that will knock your socks off, information on Wolf Trap’s annual Sing-a-Long festivities, and where to get Christmas trees in Fairfax County.

We’ve curated a helpful list of events, gift ideas, activities, and more that everyone can explore each day in December to experience the best of the holiday season here in Fairfax County. Visit Fairfax will unveil one item each day throughout the month. There is much more content to be unveiled, so we’re encouraging folks to check back every day to see what is new. The URL is <https://www.fxva.com/holiday-happiness/>.

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

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



## MADE IN FAIRFAX: YOUR 2021 GIFT GUIDE

Handmade local gift ideas sure to impress. Check off that holiday shopping list early with these handmade items from local Fairfax County makers. Here's a holiday gift guide to get your inspiration flowing!

## WHERE TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Time to get your living room all spruced up! Let the decorating begin! Nothing says Christmas more than a fresh-smelling, well-decorated tree. Here's where to pick up yours this year.





**“King Richard”**  
(PG-13) -- Long before Venus and Serena Williams were household names known worldwide, they were just two sisters in a family of seven living in Compton, California. Their father, Richard, was both homeschool teacher and athletic trainer. More importantly, he was the visionary providing the steady push behind the incredible athletes we know today. Will Smith gives a thoughtful performance as the Williams’ patriarch, ever focused on paving a path for his daughters to hone their own greatness. Saniyya Sidney as young Venus and Demi Singleton as young Serena are each charming, convincingly athletic and talented at portraying the determined yet humble champions. (HBOMax)

**“A Very Boy Band Holiday!”**  
(NR) -- It’s OK if you missed the NKOTBSB tour, or failed to book a cabin on the New Kids Cruise. Because come

Dec. 6, (almost) all of your favorite boy banders from the ‘80s and ‘90s are in one place at one time for an epic boys-travaganza of holiday delight! Dudes from \*NSYNC, 98 Degrees, Boyz II Men, New Edition, New Kids on the Block and even O-Town converged to create the ultimate manly song-and-dance special to rev up your holiday spirit. After it airs on ABC, it can be viewed the next day on demand and Hulu. (Hulu)

**“Snoopy Presents: For Auld Lang Syne”**  
(TV-G) -- Anyone under the age of 55 doesn’t know life without the classic “Peanuts” cartoon TV specials. So having a brand-new holiday-themed special is a big happening. The plot of this future classic centers around three story lines: Lucy throwing herself a great New Year’s Eve party, Charlie Brown attempting to successfully complete just one of his resolutions from the prior year (good grief!), and every-

one being bummed because Grandma could not visit for the holidays. It remains unknown if a tuxedo-donned Snoopy will try to kiss Lucy at the stroke of midnight, but I’m hopeful. Premieres Dec. 10. (Apple TV+)

**“Saturday Morning All Star Hits!”**  
(NR) -- This eight-episode Netflix original series is a quirky melding of live action and animation that pays homage to the great cartoons that Gen X and Gen Y grew up watching. The creation of “Saturday Night Live” cast member Kyle Mooney and Ben Jones (of the animation studio Bento Box), this adult series promises to take viewers through the Saturday morning cartoon experience of our youth. Pour yourself a heaping bowl of sugary cereal and plop yourself on the couch ... this feels like a binge-watch selection. Premieres Dec. 10. (Netflix)

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.



APPLE TV+

Scene from “Snoopy Presents: For Auld Lang Syne”

# Business & Services Directory

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

**Holiday Special**  
*Family Owned Since 1970*  
**CHARLES JENKINS TREE SERVICES**  
**Seasoned Firewood**  
*by the Chord*  
**FREE ESTIMATES • REASONABLE RATES**  
**Call: 540.422.9721**  
**Office: 703.830.2654**  
INSURED - BONDED - LICENSED

**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**

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

**Home Depot and Lowes Shower Enclosure Installation**

**Sick of that shower curtain? Let us replace it for you. We provide professional prefabricated shower enclosure installation. Quick installation and reasonably priced!**  
**Call us today for FREE ESTIMATE!**  
**301-636-7562**

**Remember Your Loved One**  
in the Fairfax County Times  
**Call Marcia Patch • 703-904-1004**

# Classified

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

| Help Wanted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Help Wanted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Help Wanted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Legal Notice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Legal Notice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Kitchen Design Center LLC seeks Designer in Fairfax, VA. Meet w/ clients to understand design ideas. Dev. &amp; implement design projects. Prep estimates. Manage mult. projects. Req. Bach in Interior Design or rel. &amp; 3 yrs. of exp. in rel. field OR no degree and 5 yrs. rel. exp. Must have work exp. w/using kitchen design software; using AutoCAD; architectural design &amp; drawings; &amp; presenting design options to cust. 30% travel to client locations. Submit resume: KDC, 11217 Lee Hwy Ste E, Fairfax VA 22030, Ref: Designer.</p> <p>Core Network Engineer (mult.openings) Reston, VA: Analyzing fault identifications &amp; resolution for IP networks / Produce network implementatn &amp; migratn strategies &amp; plans / Provide logs &amp; run required test cases / Test &amp; Support networks in various stages of deploymnt / Well versed in network troubleshooting skills w/ MPLS, IGP, EGP, Layer 2 &amp; Layer 3 tech / Develop &amp; produce Engng Design Specificatn, Service Management Plan, Provisioning Plan, Capacity Model/Plan, &amp; Facilities / Familiar w/ IP networking concepts (TCP, UDP, IP, VLAN, IP Subnet) / Familiar w/ Routing protocols (OSPF, ISIS, BGP), signaling protocols (RSVP, LDP, QOS, VLL/VPLS &amp; VPRN / Utilize tools like Wireshark, traffic generator, NSP to troubleshoot issues in scope of packet inspectn, latency, packet-drop, QoS, protocols (like TCP/IP, UDP, RTP, RTSP, ICMP, DHCP, NTP, SMTP, DNS, SIP, HTTP &amp; Telnet) / Working exp w/ Linux platforms / Familiar w/ Network Functns Virtualizatn (NFV) concepts, working exp w/ OpenStack / Perform Python, Batch &amp; shell scripting, Reqts: Bachelor's Degree or equiv in Electrical Engng or rtd, 2 yr exp in job or rtd, Must have 1 yr exp utilizing tools &amp; protocols like Wireshark, Y1731, RTP, TCP/IP, IXIA - Traffic Generator, NSP 5620 SAM. Frequent travel to unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. M-F, 9a-3p. Resume to: Global Technology Associates LLC, 1890 Preston White Dr, Suite 150, Reston, VA 20191</p> <p><b>CLASSIFIEDS</b><br/>To place a classified ad or a Business &amp; Services ad, please contact:<br/><b>Marcia Patch • 703-904-1004</b><br/><a href="mailto:marcia@wspnet.com">marcia@wspnet.com</a></p> | <p>SW Engineer Sr. to work in Reston, VA. Opportunity to work from home. Apply <a href="http://www.saic.com">www.saic.com</a>, Science Applications International Corporation. Job code# 2115671. EOE.</p> <p>Market Research Analyst, F/T, MBA, Responsible for identifying and researching market trends for a stone fabrication/kitchen remodel company. Gather data to forecast future marketing trends, prepare reports with a graphic illustration of findings. Prepare reports on operational and management guidance to the top management for marketing programs and business strategies to increase profits and market share. Mail resume: Merrifield Granite and Marble LLC, 8536 Terminal Road, Unit X, Lorton, VA 22079</p> <p>CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., a Jacobs Engineering Group company, Mechanical Engineer, Herndon, VA Perform engineering duties in planning &amp; integrating tools, machines, &amp; other mechanically functioning equipment. Mail resume to CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., a Jacobs Engineering Group company, Attn: Miriam Garcia, 5985 Rogerdale Road, Houston, TX 77072 and reference job code 21-VA-2442.</p> <p><b>STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FAIRFAX COUNTY NEWS</b><br/><b>FREE DIGITAL E-DIGEST</b><br/><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fairfax Times' weekly newsletter!</li><li>• Local news straight to your inbox!</li><li>• Access a full digital issue of the Fairfax Times each week!</li><li>• Be the first to know about contests and promotions!</li></ul></p> | <p>Core Network Engineer (multiple openings) Reston, VA: Analyzing fault identifications &amp; resolution for Core networks / Provide logs &amp; run required test cases / perform testing on LTE, CSFB, UMTS, SRVCC, GSM for various network operators / Well versed in network troubleshooting skills w/ MPLS, IGP, EGP &amp; Layer 2 tech / Research wireless policy control systems for 4G/5G tech, 3GPP specification for mobile core &amp; 3GPP specifications for IMS core / Utilize packet tracing tools IRIS Session Analyzer, Wireshark, NetAct to troubleshoot issues in the scope of deep packet inspection, protocols (TCP/IP, UDP, RTP, RTSP, TLS, NTP, SIP, SDP, Diameter, HTTP) / Working exp w/ Linux platforms / Create tech documentation like Engineering Design Doc, Data Flow Diagram, Call Flow Diagram, Implementation Guide, Operations Guide, Method of Procedure, Maintenance Operation Procedure, Network Diagram, Tech Bulletin, Test Plan, &amp; Test results / Familiar w/ Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) concepts, working exp w/ OpenStack / Perform Python, Batch &amp; shell scripting Reqts: Bachelor's Degree or equiv in Electrical Engineering or rtd, 2 yrs exp in job or rtd, 1 yr exp w/ tools and protocols: Wireshark, SIP Load Generator, RTP, TCP/IP, Diameter, Frequent travel to unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. M-F, 9a-5p. Resume to: Global Technology Associates LLC, 1890 Preston White Dr, Suite 150, Reston, VA 20191</p> <p>BA/QA Analyst – Reston, VA. Seeking MS in Info. Sys., Comp. Sci., or related and 2 yrs. QA testing exp. req'd. Travel and relocation, as req'd. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job #1118, eSolutionsFirst, LLC, 12020 Sunrise Valley Dr #100, Reston, VA 20191.</p> <p>Marketing Data Scientist, Mattress World USA, Inc. seeking Data Scientist for its Chantilly, VA location to design, update, and maintain customized software to organize and interpret a customer profile database; create, update and maintain a machine-learning algorithm to model and predict direction of advertising budget. Resume to: 4060 Walney Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151</p> <p>Soft. Developer (11082021): Ampcus, Inc. seeks SD to design, develop, &amp; test applns using agile methdlogy. Visit <a href="https://www.ampcus.com/jobs/">https://www.ampcus.com/jobs/</a> for reqmnts &amp; to apply online. Or email resume to <a href="mailto:jobs@ampcus.com">jobs@ampcus.com</a>. Or mail resume to 14900 Conference Center Drive, Suite# 500, Chantilly, VA 20151. Roving job. Relocation may be req'd. EOE</p> | <p><b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b><br/>Notice is hereby given that Virginia Electric and Power Company is requesting a permit from Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install one (1) 12.5 kV fiber optics line (one circuit) to existing poles and within an existing right-of-way, a minimum 38 feet above a 45-foot wide section of Holmes Run at the Columbia Pike stream crossing as part of the Annandale to Baileys Crossroads project in Fairfax County.<br/><br/>Send Comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Building 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 or <a href="mailto:jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov">jpa.permits@mrc.virginia.gov</a>.</p> | <p>[(Full name(s) of owner(s))]:  Unique and Special Kids Spa LLC<br/><br/><b>Trading as:</b> Unique and Special Kids Spa<br/>6911 Richmond Hwy Ste 405<br/>Fairfax, Alexandria, VA 22306-1803<br/><br/><b>The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a day spa license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.</b><br/><br/>Martia Clark, Member<br/><b>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 <a href="http://www.abc.virginia.gov">www.abc.virginia.gov</a> or 800-552-3200.</b><br/>3009007 (12-03-21, 12-10-21)</p> <div><p>Place a Birth or Wedding announcement in the Fairfax County Times<br/><b>Contact Marcia Patch at 703-904-1004</b></p></div> |