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25¢ NEWSSTAND PRICE

FCPS reinstates pornographic books to school libraries

By Heather Zwicker FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES Fairfax County Public Schools announced last week that they would reintroduce books with pornographic material, "reaffirming their ongoing commitment to provide diverse reading materials that reflect the student population."

"Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe and "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison had been temporarily removed from FCPS high school libraries following a challenge in September. Many parents objected to the graphic depictions of sexual acts in both books. "Lawn Boy" depicted sexual acts between adult men and children.

The books are being returned to several high schools and two secondary schools, according to FCPS officials. "Lawn Boy" appears in the catalogue of 11 high schools. "Gender Queer" appears in the catalogue at seven high schools.

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, FCPS formed two committees of school administrators, librarians, parents, and students were formed to consider whether the two books were suitable as optional independent reading material for high school students. Both books were temporarily withdrawn from FCPS library shelves during the review process, according to a

FCPS news release. FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Noel Klimenko accepted the committee's recommendation. "Both books have value beyond their pages for students who may struggle to find relatable stories," she said.

The books came to the attention of parents after Fairfax County parent Stacy Langton spoke at a school board meeting and read from the books in late September. Langton was interrupted two different times, first by School Board Chair Stella Pekarsky, who apparently missed the irony, when she insisted that children were in the room. She was interrupted a second time by Hunter Mill District School Board Member Melanie Meren. These interruptions and the board's immediate recess meant that Langton did not get to finish her remarks addressing the legality of the books.

The legality of obscene materials are addressed in both Virginia and U.S. Code. State law in Virginia 18.2-376 states "it is unlawful for any person knowingly to exhibit, publish, print or circulation, any obscene item, or performance, where such obscene item, exhibition, or performance may be obtained, see or heard by minor children." Additionally,



COURTESY PHOTO

FCPS reaches agreement with organizations, parents over restraint and seclusion practices

FCPS and plaintiffs release joint statement on the settlement



By Laura Scudder FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) reached a settlement with disability rights organizations and individual families over the physical restraint and seclusion of special education students in county schools November 23.

WAMU first reported on the allegations of restraint and seclusion practices back in 2019.

The district had been using seclusion as a discipline tactic toward students, specifically special education students, but not reporting that data to the U.S. Department of Education. Documents obtained by WAMU detailed the use of such practices.

Aside from the six individual parties

See AGREEMENT, Page A4

POSITIVE Vibes By Laura Scudder FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Army veteran receives mobility equipped vehicle in Chantilly

Florida resident James Pistole honored with vehicle through Mobility is Freedom program

Wounded Warriors Family Support gave James Pistole a 2022 Ford F-150 XLT mobility equipped vehicle as part of the Mobility is Freedom program November 11. Pistole is a retired Army veteran who lost his leg and eventually his hand following an on-duty explosion in 2007.

"Wounded Warriors Family Support launched Mobility is Freedom in 2015 to provide modified vehicles for combat-wounded veterans. This is the ninth Mobility is Freedom vehicle donated to a veteran in 2021. Across the U.S., there are 350 veterans who need modified vehicles as a result of their combat-related injuries," according to the organization's press release.

"Our belief is that given a properly equipped vehicle for their individual needs, combat wounded veterans, such as James, will have the freedom to live a productive and quality life with their family. We are honored to present

See VETERAN, Page A4

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PUBLIC SAFETY



COURTESY PHOTO  
Kai Rendon

Martial arts instructor arrested for sexually assaulting juvenile

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau Child Abuse Squad have arrested a 35-year-old man for multiple sexual assaults against a juvenile. Detectives were notified on November 24 after the victim disclosed to a parent that he was sexually assaulted by an instructor on several occasions since the summer.

Detectives determined Kai Rendon, of Alexandria, was a martial arts instructor at Potomac Kempo, 5958 Kingstowne Center, in Kingstowne. On multiple occasions, Rendon took the victim to his Alexandria home during instructional periods where he sexually assaulted the victim. Detectives arrested and charged Rendon November 24 with three counts of carnal knowledge and three counts of indecent liberties by custodian. He is currently being held at the Adult Detention Center without bond.

Rendon worked at Potomac Kempo from January 2019 to November 2021. Detectives are asking anyone with information about this case or believe Rendon had inappropriate contact with them or their child to please call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

store at 6:43 p.m. by Harvey Coleman, of Arlington, after he reported to have shot someone in self-defense. Officers found the victim, an adult man, inside the store suffering a gunshot wound to the upper body. Officers rendered aid until fire and rescue personnel arrived and transported the man to a nearby hospital. The man remains hospitalized with injuries, now deemed not life threatening.

Detectives determined both men were patrons inside the store. The victim had a brief interaction with Coleman, who then brandished a firearm. The victim took a fighting stance and Coleman shot the man. No additional weapons were recovered from the scene. Following several interviews and the review of surveillance footage, detectives have charged Coleman with malicious wounding and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. He was arrested November 24 and held on a secure bond. Coleman was in lawful possession of the firearm.

Detectives would like anyone who has information about this incident to call the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



COURTESY PHOTO  
Smoke was coming from the back of the unit.

One person injured in Centreville townhouse fire

Units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Department responded to a reported townhouse fire in the 5100 block of Woodfield Drive in the Centreville area of Fairfax County at approximately 10:41 p.m. November 21.

Crews arrived on the scene of a two-story, middle unit townhouse to find smoke showing from the rear of the home. Firefighters located a fire on the second floor. The fire was quickly extinguished. One occupant was transported to the hospital with minor injuries. There were no firefighter injuries.

Two occupants were home at the time of the fire. One occupant awoke to smoke and fire in the bedroom. He then alerted the

other occupant who was in the basement. Both occupants self-evacuated and called 9-1-1. Smoke alarms were present and activated as the two occupants exited the townhouse.

Fire investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started in a second-floor bedroom. The fire was caused by an electrical malfunction within a surge protector.

Two occupants were displaced because of the fire. Red Cross services were offered and declined. Damages as a result of the fire were approximately \$30,000.

Barricade situation in Alexandria ends peacefully

The barricade situation in the 1000 block of Woods Place was resolved peacefully with the suspect surrendering.

At approximately 11:38 a.m. November 24, the suspect exited the house with his hands up and the Alexandria Police Department then took him into custody. No injuries were reported.

“This started off as a road rage incident and could have turned really bad, we are glad that this was a peaceful outcome and glad no one was hurt during this process,” said Chief Don Hayes. “But this really is a testament to the patience and professionalism of the members of the Alexandria Police Department and the agencies that supported us through this incident.”

“We really appreciate the residents who showed trust and patience with us during this crisis situation and the agencies that helped to deliver the outcome we were hoping for. Thanks to the Alexandria Sheriff’s Department, Office of Emergency Management, Alexandria Fire Department, Fairfax County Police, Arlington Police, Prince Williams County Police, Animal Control and Dominion Energy for their support.”

Man dies in workplace accident

A 43-year-old man died following a workplace accident that occurred just after midnight November 23 at the Home Depot, 2815 Merrilee Drive, in Fairfax.

Officers and Fire and Rescue personnel responded for a man who was trapped underneath a forklift that had fallen over on its side. Paul Gato 43, of Woodbridge, was found under the forklift and pronounced deceased at the scene.

Preliminarily, detectives determined Gato was operating the forklift unloading supplies from a delivery truck when the forklift fell,

trapping Gato. The driver of the delivery truck heard the loud crash, noticed the deceased under the forklift and immediately summoned emergency medical services and police.

At this time, detectives determined that there is no indication of criminal activity. The investigation is still active, and our detectives are working with officials from the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of death.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Lorenzo Jackson

Alexandria man arrested after shooting

Two officers were participating in the iPAC initiative when they heard several gunshots at 9 p.m. November 22. Officers immediately went towards where the sound came from in the 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue and found a man firing a gun into the air.

Using effective communication and teamwork, the officers convinced the man to drop the weapon. Officers safely took Lorenzo Jackson, 32, of Alexandria, into custody and charged him with reckless handling of a firearm and shooting within 1000 feet of a school. No injuries or property damage was reported.

Woman dies in head-on crash

A 61-year-old woman died yesterday morning following a crash that occurred at 5:56 a.m. on the Fairfax County Parkway at Ox Road. Elizabeth Wallgren of Alexandria was the driver and lone occupant of a 2013 Honda Civic traveling northbound on the Fairfax County Parkway. Preliminarily, detectives determined Wallgren lost control of the vehicle, crossed over the grass median and struck a 2014 Subaru Crosstrek driving in the southbound lanes, resulting in a head-on collision.

Subsequently, the driver of a 2013 Chevrolet Van, also driving southbound, crashed into the Subaru. Wallgren was pronounced deceased at the scene of the crash. The driver of the Subaru was taken to the hospital with injuries not considered life-threatening and the other driver remained on scene.

Preliminarily, detectives from our Crash Reconstruction Unit do not believe that speed and alcohol are factors in the crash, which remains under investigation.

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

This is the 18th non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2021.

Year to date in 2020, there were 10 non-pedestrian related fatalities.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Officers found the concealed currency inside the carry-on bag’s zippered liner.

Dulles CBP officers seize nearly 4,000 bongs and \$23K in unreported currency

The seizure of a \$56,000 shipment of glass bongs and \$23,000 in unreported currency on November 22 offer a glimpse into the breadth of enforcement responsibilities that Customs and Border Protection officers carry out daily at Washington Dulles International Airport.

CBP officers seized the unreported currency while conducting enforcement operations on a Ghana-bound flight. A married couple reported to CBP officers that they possessed a combined \$10,500.

While inspecting the couple’s carry-on bag, officers discovered an envelope concealed behind the carry-on bag’s zippered liner. Officers verified the couple’s combined currency at \$23,641. Officers seized the currency for violating U.S. currency reporting laws and then released the couple with \$641 as a humanitarian relief.

CBP is not releasing

the travelers’ names because none were criminally charged.

The shipment of 3,738 glass bongs initially arrived from China on October 3 manifested as “gravity pipes.” Officers detained the shipment and submitted documentation and photos to CBP’s international trade experts at the agency’s Consumer Products and Mass Merchandising Centers of Excellence and Expertise.

On November 17, CBP import specialists there reported back to officers that the shipment appraised at \$56,033 and confirmed that the glass bongs violated U.S. laws on the importation of drug paraphernalia. Officers completed the seizure November 22.

The glass bongs were destined to an address in Los Angeles County, Calif.

“The seizures of glass bongs and unreported currency may seem innocuous at first; however, they illustrate the resolve and commitment that Customs and Border Protection officers and specialists display every day to enforce our nation’s laws, to enhance our nation’s economic vitality through lawful international trade and travel, and to help keep our citizens safe,” said Daniel Escobedo, CBP area port director for the Area Port of Washington, D.C.

CBP officers remind travelers that there is no limit to how much currency or other monetary instruments they may bring to or take out of the United States; however, federal law [31 USC 5316] requires travelers to report all currency \$10,000 or greater to a CBP officer.

CBP officers have observed that smuggled bulk currency may be the proceeds of illicit activity, such as proceeds from the sales of dangerous drugs or revenue from financial crimes and work to disrupt currency smuggling. CBP seized an average of about \$386,000 every day last year in unreported or illicit currency along our nation’s borders.

Springfield man arrested after traffic stop

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a stolen 2016 Honda Accord at Edsall Road and I-395 at 8:08 p.m. November 23.

The driver, Christian Argueta, 21, of Springfield, attempted to run from the car, but was caught after a brief chase. No injuries were reported. The man was charged with grand larceny.



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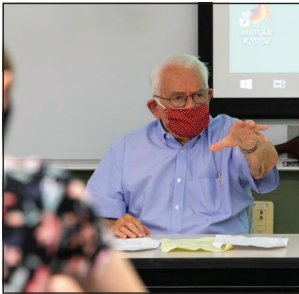
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PEOPLE & PLACES



LATHAN GOUMAS/STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

University Professor Peter Stearns teaching an Honors College class in fall 2020.

GMU professor receives American Historical Association recognition

Peter Stearns, university professor of History and provost emeritus at George Mason University, thinks there is more to know about happiness. So he is currently at work on a book that collects a variety of perspectives on the subject.

With two colleagues, he is organizing essays that represent diverse takes on happiness.

“Happiness is obviously an important current topic globally, but the historical research is scattered,” said Stearns, whose book “Happiness in World History” was published this year. “It’s an opportunity to collect a wider range of essays to try to establish different regional perspectives on happiness over time.”

The book will be the latest in a long line of Stearns’s impressive output of scholarship over his 58-year career; he has written, edited, or developed new editions of more than 150 volumes.

In addition to his research and writing, Stearns served as Mason’s provost from 2000 to 2014, when the university more than tripled its level of funded research and number of doctoral programs. While provost, Stearns also launched Mason Korea in Songdo, South Korea, and the collaboration with INTO to increase the number and diversity of students recruited from abroad. These projects, deeply rooted in a desire to increase global understanding, have fostered opportunities for constructive collaboration among different societies.

He also remains active in the classroom, teaching a course each fall and spring. Mason’s Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, launched in 2017 and an integral part of Mason’s rapid pivot to online teaching in March 2020, bears his name as a nod to his role as provost, his work in creating Mason’s Center for Teaching Excellence, and in the words of then-provost David Wu, his “tireless advoca[cy] for excellence in teaching.”

Prior to his time at Mason, he taught at Harvard University, the University of Chicago, Rutgers University, and Carnegie Mellon University, also serving in the administration at Rutgers and Carnegie Mellon. It was at Chicago that he founded the Journal of Social History, which is now edited at Mason.

With these contributions to the fields of history and education, and his extensive work with other journals and professional organizations, Stearns has earned a host of awards, the latest of which is the American Historical Association Award

for Scholarly Distinction to his list of accolades.

Established in 1984, the award recognizes “senior historians of the highest distinction who have spent the bulk of their professional careers in the United States,” according to the AHA website. A full citation of the prize will be printed in the December issue of the AHA’s newsmagazine, Perspectives on History, and an awards ceremony will be held in January 2022, during the AHA’s annual meeting in New Orleans.

“The impact that Peter has made through his teaching, his leadership, and of course his scholarship, is extraordinary,” said Ann Ardis, dean of Mason’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “Peter’s students and faculty colleagues at Mason are fortunate to have benefited from all three elements of his career accomplishments.”

Stearns is the second Mason faculty member to earn this honor from the AHA, said Matthew Karush, chair of the Department of History and Art History. Lawrence Levine, who taught at Mason from 1994 to 2005 after retiring from a 30-year career at University of California, Berkeley, also received the award.

“The list of previous winners includes some of the absolute giants in the field,” he added. “These really are the most prominent and influential historians of their time.”

Stearns particularly appreciates the award in light of the variety of work that his career represents.

“I’ve had a good bit of time in administration as well as teaching,” he noted. “But I’ve always been committed to historical scholarship and particularly the exploration of new subjects for historical analysis—like happiness. I’m certainly grateful for the honor given the diversity of my own career.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Salaheddine Badgui, RN, goes through the process at the Omnicell of the team’s workflow changes for the Insulin IV push.

Pharmacy team awarded for reducing adverse drug events

Inova’s pharmacy medication team has been recognized for successful implementation of error-reduction strategies around insulin administration by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) annual Cheers Awards. Each year, the ISMP honors individuals, institutions and groups who have demonstrated “exemplary commitment to the continued science and study of medication safety through innovative and creative projects, programs, educational efforts, standard setting, and/or research.”

Inova’s Intravenous (IV) Insulin Team: Push It, Push It Real Safe initiative received the recognition for their persistence in improving the safety of IV regular insulin administration.

The pharmacy medication team collaborated with other disciplines to implement error-reduction strategies, including restricting regular insulin to the IV route, requiring regular insulin prescribing via order sets with dosing limits, linking orders for IV push regular insulin to ensure dispensing of an appropriate needleless luer lock insulin syringe, and including an image of the appropriate syringe to be used for administration in the medication administration record.

The team also has ensured that commercially available premixed regular insulin is being used for IV infusions.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by ISMP, the preeminent global organization for medication safety,” said **Melanie Massiah-White**, Inova’s chief pharmacy officer. “We are very proud to be part of the Inova team, which is relentlessly dedicated to patient safety and is on a continuous journey to excellence and high reliability in healthcare.”

Many ISMP tools and guidelines were utilized during the process, and over the last year there has been a significant reduction in severe hypoglycemic events.

The ISMP Cheers Awards honor individuals, organizations, and companies that have set a standard of excellence for others to follow in the prevention of medication errors and adverse drug events.

COVID-19 at-home test kits will be available at 21 library branches

In a unique collaboration with public health, Fairfax County Public Library branches will become distribution sites for free COVID-19 rapid antigen at-home test kits as part of a pilot program beginning December 3.

BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Card Home Test kits will be available at each of library’s 13 open community branches and eight regional branches.

Quantities are limited. Neither proof of residency nor a library card is required, and the kits are free of charge.

The test should be taken at home, not in a library branch (however, most branches provide a strong Wi-Fi signal in parking lots). If someone is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please request kits via the library’s contactless curbside pickup service.

Due to the recent surge in COVID-19 and low retail supply, there has been an increased demand for testing throughout the Commonwealth. Health officials hope that increased access to testing through key community partnerships with trusted agencies — such as libraries — will be helpful in stemming the spread of the virus. These at-home test kits are intended for diagnostic testing by community members so that they can know their status and get early care. By early action, it should help break transmission and further protect others.

“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 13 community branches are open Monday through Saturday, while the



COURTESY PHOTO

Every year, The Brigade of Mercy (BOM), a local nonprofit based in McLean, makes Thanksgiving baskets for the needy in our local communities. BOM has put together more than 220 Thanksgiving baskets with the help of local community groups, including Girl Scout Troop 2958 and McLean Islamic Center (MIC). Each basket feeds a family of six and has a gift card (for the turkey), flour, oil, pasta, vegetable cans, beans, rice, desert and milk. BOM is an all-volunteer run organization where 100 percent of the donations go towards aid.

eight regional branches are open seven days a week. Details about branch hours and locations are available on the library’s website.

To take the test, individuals will need an internet connection, an internet-enabled device (computer, mobile phone, or tablet) with a webcam or front-facing camera, microphone, and speaker for the testing session, and a valid photo ID to show the eMed virtual guide. Information on supported browsers is available at this webpage. Valid forms of ID include driver’s license, passport, passport card, birth certificate, state-issued identification card, military ID card, and official school 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.

Individuals who test positive should isolate and follow up with their healthcare provider or the Fairfax County Health Department. The VDH Antigen Testing Recommendations webpage provides guidance on next steps following antigen test results. Visit the page at <https://bit.ly/3E6hym2>.

More information on this program is available here or by calling 1-877-829-4682.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Tom Wilson

Northrop Grumman elects new corporate VP and president, Space Systems

Northrop Grumman Corporation announced that its board of directors has elected **Tom Wilson** corporate vice president and president, Space Systems, effective January 1. Wilson will succeed **Blake Larson**, who has announced his intent to retire on February 4, after a 40-year career with Northrop Grumman and its heritage companies.

“Tom’s leadership experience and achievements in the national security, civil and commercial space markets

make him ideally suited for his new role,” said Kathy Warden, chairman, chief executive officer and president, Northrop Grumman. “I am confident our space business will continue to grow and perform under Tom’s strong leadership, vision and values.”

“On behalf of our company and the board of directors, I want to thank Blake for his leadership and significant contributions to our entire business, and particularly our Space portfolio,” said Warden. “His focus and vision have paved the way for the continued success of our space business, and the important customer missions we serve. We wish him all the best in his retirement.”

Larson will continue as corporate vice president, reporting to Warden to support this transition until his retirement.

Wilson is currently sector vice president and general manager of Northrop Grumman’s Strategic Space Systems division in the Space Systems sector, which has delivered strong growth and operating results. Previously, he led the Space Systems sector strategy and business development organization, where he was instrumental in the integration of the Northrop Grumman and Orbital ATK space portfolios. Wilson has held leadership positions in national security, defense and civil government space businesses. He also served in senior positions with the Department of Defense.

Wilson has 32 years of experience in the space industry. He joined Northrop Grumman in 2018 with the acquisition of Orbital ATK, after serving with Orbital ATK and ATK since 2001. He holds a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Rachel Williams

Motley Fool names new diversity and inclusion officer

The Motley Fool announced that **Rachel Williams** will join as the company’s first chief diversity and inclusion officer November 12, reporting

to co-founder and CEO Tom Gardner.

“Rachel is an incredible addition to our leadership team, our employees, and all our stakeholders. She brings an unending passion for teamwork, people, fairness, and purpose,” said Gardner. “She is a true Fool, with an innovative spirit and high expertise that will help us serve hundreds of millions more people in their journey to invest successfully.”

In this new role, Williams will build on the work achieved over the last six years by The Fool’s Motley Committee, applying her expertise on recruiting, leadership development, employee engagement, and retention. Her focus will also include advising our product and marketing teams as we expand our reach into diverse communities in our attempt to make the world smarter, happier, and richer.

“I’m completely bought into The Motley Fool’s mission and vision,” said Williams. “Financial literacy, access to wealth creation, and removing barriers to investing are some of the great societal equalizers. I can’t wait to join The Fool as we aim to tackle the audacious goal of making the world smarter, happier, and richer.”

Williams most recently served as the head of diversity, equity & inclusion at X, the moonshot factory at Alphabet. Prior to her role at X, Rachel served as the global head of diversity and inclusion at StubHub, and the head of corporate recruiting, diversity and inclusion at Yelp.

Made in Fairfax: your 2021 holiday gift guide

Fairfax County is home to an incredible and diverse group of artisan makers – so much so that the **Made in Fairfax** initiative was born.

The Made in Fairfax network aims to be a one-stop shop for maker businesses and those who want to support them. The Made in Fairfax directory features dozens of artisans who create a variety of products in the county like custom furniture, baked goods, jewelry, and more.

This holiday season (or any time of year, really!) take “shop local” to new heights by directly supporting the makers of these gift-worthy products – created right here in Fairfax County.

Here’s your Fairfax County 2021 Holiday Gift Guide <https://bit.ly/3xAdVck>.

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BOOKS  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Section 1466A of Title 18, United States Code, makes it illegal for any person to knowingly produce, distribute, receive, or possess with intent to transfer or distribute visual representations, such as drawings, cartoons, or paintings that appear to depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and are deemed obscene. Harmful materials for minors include any communication consisting of nudity, sex or excretion that (i) appeals to the prurient interest of minors, (ii) is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community with respect to what is suitable material for minors, (iii) and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors, according to the Department of Justice website.

“There are more books, but there’s been no accountability,” said Attorney and Congressional Candidate Mike Clancy. “We hope to get Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares to investigate these books and how they got into schools. We want to know if the books violate the Virginia laws against obscenity.”

Clancy said a citizen’s complaint was filed with both the Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney and the Virginia Attorney

General in early October. To date, no action has been taken. “You step inside a library and it’s magically legal?” said Langton, referring to the reinstatement of the books.

In response to the complaint, the committee spent considerable time reviewing Code of Virginia §18.2-376. They also reviewed other statutes including, §18.2-372, “Obscene” defined; §18.2-391, Advertising, etc., obscene items, exhibitions or performances, and an excerpt from the FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook pertaining to possessing obscene visual imagery as defined in the Code of Virginia, according to the committee’s recommendation and decisions which can be found at <https://www.fcps.edu/node/44880>.

The committee determined that the images in the book do not qualify as obscene per the definition in Virginia Code 18.2-372 and is also not harmful to juveniles as defined in 18.2-390. They also found Code of Virginia 18.2-376 inapplicable and said “the book aligns with FCPS Regulation 2603 supporting members of the gender expansive community and affirming individuals in their identity.” They found that the book was an appropriate addition to library collections in accordance with FCPS Regulation 3013.

When asked whether there was a lawyer on the committee, FCPS Spokeswoman Julie Moulton replied, “We don’t identify the committee. They need to be free to conduct their work without the risk of being harassed.”

The robust committee process took place over several weeks and considered whether the books flouted regulations by being obscene or harmful to juveniles as defined by the Code of Virginia. The members also considered the work in line with an excerpt from the FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook pertaining to possessing obscene visual imagery as defined in the Code of Virginia, said FCPS in their news release.

“The county’s actions are insulting and downright cowardly. Schools are no place for hardcore pornography, yet Fairfax County Public Schools insists on pushing this graphic material upon our children,” said Parents Defending Education President Nicole Neily. “By announcing their decision over Thanksgiving break, they clearly hope that parents won’t take notice. However, their actions show just how unfamiliar they are with parents: We’re always looking out for our children, and we won’t take this lying down.”



VETERAN  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

James with this vehicle to help enhance his quality of life and provide freedom and independence in his everyday life,” Wounded Warriors Family Support CEO and President Kate McCauley said.

The gift occurred at the Driver Rehabilitation Center of Excellence (DRCE) in Chantilly, an organization that offers services to those whose medical conditions may affect their driving.

“The Wounded Warrior Family Support and DRCE of Virginia are absolutely wonderful people. I love the truck, and I mean, it’s helped out amazingly, as far as getting around and making driving a lot ... easier on me,” Pistole said.

He explained that the truck is specially equipped to accommodate the injuries he sustained. Pistole joined the Army right out of high school, serving for a few years before becoming an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist in 2003.

“I’ve got a spinner knob on the steering wheel. And it’s got buttons for my blinkers, my horn, windshield wipers

... And everything that was on the left is now on my fingertips over the right ... [of] the steering wheel,” Pistole explained of his truck.

In addition, he noted that, “I have a little rest on my driver’s seat that comes on and off, and it adjusts. So on long trips, I can take my leg off and rest my stump on the rest.”

Pistole said he has already noticed that the truck has impacted his driving mobility.

“It’s made such a big difference already. I picked it up in Virginia and I drove it back home to Florida. And within a week, I had put close to 2000 miles on the truck because I had to go down to Tampa for some VA appointments. So it’s made a huge impact, especially as far as just maneuverability goes,” he said.

He was first notified about potentially receiving this vehicle through the EOD Warrior Foundation, which provides support to active and retired EOD specialists, as well as their family members.

“Our support includes financial assistance and additional services such as morale events, peer-to-peer support, educational programs, connections to resources, care of the EOD Memorial, and sustained contact with our EOD

warriors and their families,” the website states.

Pistole said that the organization does a lot for veterans and their families, and he enjoys also being able to give back when he is able by fundraising.

“They actually reach out quite a bit ... Sometimes they’ll have guest speakers, they have retreats for husbands and wives ... They have lots of stuff going on, and they’re a really good foundation. I try to help out when I can,” he explained.

While Pistole said there was a period of adjustment to his injuries, he eventually got used to using prosthetics and adapting to challenges.

“It took a while because I lost my leg immediately and I didn’t lose my hand until a year later. So I took a year of trying to rehab my hand ... But once I got my hand cut off, it was easy going from there. It’s just learning how to use a prosthetic — but it wasn’t that hard with all the training and therapy I had,” he said.

Pistole usually keeps busy by spending time with his wife and three children, and often hunts, fishes and rides his motorcycle.

AGREEMENT  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

listed as plaintiffs, the organizations in the lawsuit included the Council of Parents Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) and CommunicationFIRST.

According to the COPAA website, “The settlement includes an agreement to stop using seclusion rooms in nearly all of FCPS public schools by January 1, 2022, and in ALL public schools by Fall 2022 (next school year). FCPS will stop using restraints, except in emergency situations where safety is at risk (this doesn’t include damage to property).”

The agreement will also not allow restraint or seclusion to be written into an individualized education plan (IEP), will provide training to teachers and staff, and includes oversight and data collection — as well as “factors in students who need communication alternatives.”

“Since the allegations

were made, FCPS has taken direct action to ensure the dignified and appropriate treatment of students with disabilities,” FCPS said in a joint statement with the plaintiffs, who were represented by Brown, Goldstein, & Levy.

The statement also noted that the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) began a review of restraint and seclusion guidelines and practices following the revelation of these uses.

Other actions taken by the school district include FCPS appointing an official “dedicated solely to the FCPS special education program who is responsible for supporting parents who have special education concerns,” and FCSB adopting a policy to eliminate the use of restraint and seclusion in 2020.

FCPS has a full list of the actions taken following the allegations on its website at <https://bit.ly/3DbT61g>.

In the statement, the plaintiffs noted they were encouraged by steps taken by FCPS, noting the

purpose of the lawsuit was to highlight concerns about how students with disabilities were being treated.

“FCPS’s new policies recognize that the needs of students and the school system are bound together in a common purpose to foster the education, advancement, and maximization of learning and growth potential for all students, including those with disabilities. Although the trauma the children in this lawsuit have endured because of restraint and seclusion can never be undone, we expect this resolution will ensure that no other student will ever have to experience such trauma,” they said.

The statement also noted that they hope that these policies will provide guidance for staff on working with students with disabilities, benefiting teachers as well as students.

“We encourage other school districts around the country to take note of what FCPS is doing to end restraint and seclusion and foster a positive learning experience for all students,” the plaintiffs said.

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# Fairfax County’s donation options during the holiday season

Multiple ways available for those looking to give back

By Laura Scudder  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

For those who are in the spirit to give and support their community, Fairfax County has compiled a list of donations people can make during the holiday season — with some donation deadlines coming up soon for those who are interested.

Gifts for children and families

For toys, people can bring gift donations to the Fairfax County police station by December 11. These gifts will be distributed to children at Fairfax Hospital and Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center, among others.

The county Fire and Rescue Department is also participating in the annual National Capital Region Fire and Emergency Medical Services Departments’ 2021 Toys for Tots campaign.

Donations are being accepted at the McLean Community Center through December 11 and the Fairfax County Fire Station through December 12.

To help provide adults with gifts for the holiday season, the “Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate and the Reston Teen Center are collecting donations for their Elf Store event,” according to the list.

For this event, staff create a store environment where young people “can select a free gift for special adults in their lives.”



New or gently used items such as jewelry, candles, tools, home goods and the like are suggested as gifts — items which can be used to wrap and bag such gifts are also accepted.

Donations can be dropped off through December 10 at the Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate, 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston.

Supplies for people in need

Aside from toys and gifts for families and children in the area, the community is also collecting clothing and other warm supplies for those in need.

This year, in lieu of the Park Authority’s usual holiday gift drive, Hutchison Elementary School is requesting coats for families that have been hit hard by the COVID-19

pandemic. The Park Authority is coordinating this drive to ensure that coats get to the school.

Donations of new coats in children’s sizes — as well as adult small and medium sizes — can be dropped off at the Providence or Spring Hill RECenters.

Coats can also be donated online, now through December 10, as the “Sully District Office is partnering with Operation Warm to purchase 500 new winter coats for children in the area.”

The Hunter Mill District Office and Cornerstones are partnering on a Winter Coat Closet this year, as they have done in years past. They will be collecting and distributing heavy winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves for those in need.

Donations should be dropped off at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. December 11, and January 8.

The annual Fairfax County Senior Centers’ Winter Warming Service Project is collecting “new or handmade hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks for adults and children in Fairfax County.”

From there, these items are distributed by local nonprofits Cornerstones, Homestretch and ShelterHouse. The items will be distributed “to the people they serve, including adults and families experiencing homelessness,” according to the county website.

Donations of these items and yarn can be made now

through January 5 at any of the locations below (donation boxes will be in the entry or lobby of these places):

- Herndon Senior Center: 873 Grace St, Herndon
- Kingstowne Center for Active Adults: 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria
- Lewinsville/Pimmit Hills Senior Center: 1613 Great Falls Street, McLean
- Little River Glen Senior Center: 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax
- Mott Community Center: 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax

Gift card donations to survivors of domestic violence, children who have lost loved ones

Donations are also being accepted in the form of gift cards, rather than physical gifts,

to help those in tough situations purchase necessary items for themselves and their families.

To help those who are survivors of domestic violence, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, an office of the Department of Family Services, is collecting gift cards in the form of \$25 increments to grocery stores, gas stations and retail stores. The office is also accepting Visa, Mastercard and American Express gift cards.

Those who are interested in providing gifts cards should mail them by December 9, to Vanessa Cullers at the Domestic Violence Action Center, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 2702, Fairfax, or Gulira Alieva at Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 738, Fairfax.

In addition to the gift card donations accepted by Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, the Fairfax County Police Department’s Victim Services Division “is collecting gift cards for child victims and witnesses of domestic and sexual violence and children who lost loved ones due to homicide.”

Gift cards from places like retail or grocery stores, where parents can buy more practical items for their children and family, are encouraged, and can be dropped off or sent to Saly Fayeze, Victim Services Section, 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

## Eleven FCPS schools named Purple Star schools for 2021

Courtesy of  
Fairfax County Public Schools

Eleven Fairfax County public schools have been recognized by the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children as 2021 Purple Star schools. The Purple Star designation is awarded to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated their commitment to meeting the needs of military-connected students and their families.

Fairfax County schools recognized as 2021 Purple Star schools include:

- Cameron Elementary School.
- Fairview Elementary School.
- Island Creek Elementary School.
- Ravensworth Elementary School.
- Waynewood Elementary School.

The following six schools have the unique distinction of being honored for a second time in recognition of their ongoing commitment to welcoming military students and families:

- Clermont Elementary School.
- Flint Hill Elementary School.
- Fort Belvoir Primary.
- Fort Belvoir Upper Elementary.
- Hunt Valley Elementary School.
- Sangster Elementary School.

Two Fairfax County public schools were named Purple Star schools in 2020, 18 schools were recognized in 2019, and 14 schools were recognized in 2018, the first year of the program.

To qualify for a Purple Star, schools must have a staff member designated as the point of contact for military students and families who serves as the primary link between the military family and the school. Schools must also demonstrate their commitment to meeting the needs of



military students by providing resources and programming on issues important to military families, such as academic planning and transitions between schools, districts, and states.

Schools have unique ways of supporting their military students and families. Island Creek Elementary invites community members who are military connected to come into the school and meet with principals, parent liaison, counselors, and military counselors. Families are given resources to help them transition to their new school and make connections.

At Fairview Elementary School a military kids group meets monthly to do a meaningful activity and connect over the challenges of having a parent in service. “We also have a military kids mentor program that pairs students who have been at Fairview with newcomers to help ease the transition,” explains Meghan Ehrman, assistant principal.

The Ravensworth Elementary Ambassador Program includes military connected youth and helps welcome new students when they arrive at the school.

This is the fourth year VDOE and the Virginia Council have designated Purple Star schools. The Purple Star schools retain the designation for three years before being required to reapply.

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# Madison defeats Centreville for region 6D championship

By Michael Marrow  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The last time the Madison Warhawks (12-1) and Centreville Wildcats (10-3) met, the Warhawks bested the Wildcats 21-17, but both teams left convinced they could play better. After letting the Wildcats back in the game in the fourth quarter following a 21-3 lead, it ended as Madison's closest winning game all season, and the Wildcats were convinced another go could correct the record.

The two teams had their chance for a rematch November 27, and the Warhawks proved beyond a doubt they were the team to beat, handily defeating the Wildcats 35-7.

It was Madison's fourth regional football title in school history, and the first time the Warhawks had won it back-to-back.

"It feels great. It's never been done in Madison history," Warhawks Running

Back Alex Jreige said after the game. "It's a new feeling for us. Last year was the first year we won the region since 2003."

Throughout the fall, Jreige's strong run game often served as the tip of the spear of Madison's offense. In the regular season, Jreige had more than 1,300 rushing yards and 22 touchdowns under his belt.

As the season progressed, the Warhawks started to lean into their passing game as well, demonstrating that all options were on the table for their high-powered offense.

"I think it's more of the way teams have been playing us and daring us to beat them with the pass," said Madison Head Coach Justin Counts. Since the Warhawks successfully ran the ball, other teams "really had to pack the box, and we've had some matchups on the outside that we could take advantage of, or at least one-on-one opportunities that we thought we had to take a shot at."



Photo by Colin K

An early play by the Warhawks set a leading example. On third down, Wide Receiver Darren Knically reached over a Wildcat defender to pull in a 44-yard pass from Quarterback Connor Barry, setting up the Warhawks just outside the redzone. A few plays later, Jreige carried the ball to the right side, diving into the endzone for a score of 7-0.

The ball now with the Wildcats, Madison swiftly proved they could dominate both sides of play. The Wildcats were only able to pick up a first down on their fourth drive, and their sole touchdown came late in the fourth quarter. Throughout the game, the Warhawks kept the Wildcats to less than 140 yards.

After holding Centreville to a punt, the Warhawks quickly reached the end zone once again. Barry lobbed a pass to Wide Receiver Sonny Endicott, who beat a defender to strut up the sideline for a 51-yard touchdown.

Centreville's offense, on the other hand, had little room to maneuver, as

formidable running back Isaiah Ragland found difficulty punching through Madison's defensive line. Wildcats Quarterback Bryan Resto often came under pressure as well, forcing several incomplete passes.

Just before halftime, Jreige carried for another touchdown, weaving through the right side for a nearly 25-yard run and a score of 21-0.

The Wildcats were down but not out after the first half, and they had a chance to turn the tide starting with the ball in the third quarter. But just as Centreville's offense started to gain steam, an interception by Madison Defensive Back Michael Delgado shut them down.

Shortly thereafter, the Warhawks marched to the endzone for a score of 28-0, leaving little doubt about whether Madison would let Centreville back in the game.

For good measure, the Warhawks widened their lead after stopping Centreville once again. Wide Receiver Cord Yates dived to catch a pass from Barry, picking up a 37-yard completion

for Madison. On a steady drive to the end zone, Jreige capped it off with his third touchdown of the game for a score of 35-0.

Halfway through the fourth quarter, Centreville offered their only reply. Ragland fought through defenders to carry the ball up the left sideline, punching it on the next play for a final score of 35-7.

After the game, Centreville Head Coach Jon Shields reflected on a disappointing end to a strong season for the Wildcats. "I'm proud that we got here," Shields said. "Congrats to Madison. They outplayed us and deserved to win."

Looking forward, Centreville has a deep bench: only a handful of starters are graduating, leaving ample room for the team to grow next season. "They've built a foundation," Shields said of the graduating seniors. "We've got to find a way to keep this in our distant memory. Team chemistry is everything. You can have playmakers, but if you don't have chemistry, you don't

have anything."

Celebrating their 12th straight win following their season-opening loss to Stone Bridge, Jreige described their initial defeat as a wake-up call. "That was the best thing that could happen to us," he said. "After that loss, we had a players-only meeting, no coaches involved on a Sunday, and we talked about what we needed to do to bring our season up."

The team has no doubt left an impressive legacy. "Walking in the gym, we can see our class on the banners as region and district champs," Barry said. "It feels incredible, just knowing we're going out with a bang."

The Warhawks now have a chance for a thrilling rematch. During last year's shortened spring football season played under pandemic conditions, the Warhawks were defeated by the South County Stallions in the Class 6 semifinals. The Warhawks will face the Stallions December 4 in the semifinals once again on their home turf.

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Photo by Colin K



Enjoy healthy holiday gift-giving ideas

KEYS TO BETTER HEALTH  
CINDY SANTA ANA



Giving thoughtful gifts always brings such a deep feeling of gratitude to our friends and family members. But it can be hard to figure out what to get someone, especially if they “have everything.” Sometimes giving experiences can be even more fun than a tangible gift. I’ve compiled a list of my favorites for those who may be hard to shop for. These gifts are mostly healthy, sustainable and some are local. I plan on shopping a lot of local holiday markets to support local artisans. Happy gift giving!

Self-care gifts

- Dry skin brush
- Silk pillowcase cover
- Organic cotton pajamas
- Eye mask
- Nail files (great for stocking stuffers)
- Face masks (I love the Charcoal mask from Beauty Counter)

- Massage/facial from a local spa
- Reusable stainless steel water bottle (Contigo/Hydroflask)
- Blue light blocking glasses (Defender Shield)
- Bath salts & bath pillow

For the foodie

- Sea salts
- Salad spinner
- Herbal tea & cute tea pot
- High-quality olive oil (Laconiko is local and you can save 10 percent with the code: UBH)
- Fancy balsamic vinegars (Laconiko also makes wonderful vinegars)
- Dark chocolates (River-Sea Chocolates is local)
- Culinary herbs to grow in small pots
- Bamboo spatulas and spoons
- Custom recipe tea towel (I saw these on Etsy)
- Cookbook (look at their wish list on Amazon – I make one every year for books

- I want)
- Raw honey from a local apiary (there are many in Northern Virginia)
- Milk frother for blending lattes and matcha tea

Experiences

- Horseback riding lessons
- Ice skating (there are many local rinks)
- Spa day
- Museum/zoo pass
- Escape room
- Movie theater tickets
- Gift card to a local Mom & Pop restaurant
- Sporting event tickets
- Cooking class

More random fun gifts:

- Yoga classes/yoga mat
- Puzzles that look like art
- Fuzzy slippers
- Plush robe
- Faux fur throw
- Bluetooth speaker
- Temperature control smart mug



UNSPLASH

How to care for your teeth during the holidays



By Dr. Rahul Kumar D.D.S.  
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

The holiday season is almost here, and the wait is over to dive into amazing delicacies. But, all this relish can severely harm your teeth and gums. That is why we have listed some tips to take care of your teeth during the holidays.

Follow your oral health routine thoroughly

No matter the season or event, you should always stick to your dental health routine thoroughly. Brushing, flossing, and gargling twice a day might not be fun for you, but it will keep your teeth healthy. Hence, with effort and planning on dental health, you can enjoy your holiday without any discomfort or worries.

Schedule an appointment for post-holiday checkup & cleaning

The holiday season makes you engage in the event’s planning, which is why you might be occupied with a lot of work. In this chaos, you may forget to floss your teeth or skip the dental care routine. However, you can schedule an appointment with your dentist for a post-holiday checkup and cleaning. It will keep your teeth clean, bright, and free of cavities

from day one until the new year.

Drink plenty of water regularly

Drinking water provides you with multiple benefits. It keeps you feeling and looking your best. It will freshen up your breath and help in digestion and elimination. However, the most significant effect of water is that it helps to eliminate all the freshly-accumulated bacteria and acid that can lead to sore teeth or cavities.

Drink light-colored or clear beverages

Imagine that you have invested your time in whitening and brightening your teeth, and in the morning post-New Year, you notice that your newly whitened teeth have now become pale. Drinks like red wine can severely stain your teeth. Hence, opt for clear or light-colored beverages as they will keep your whitened teeth intact. Also, pack a handy oral care kit for parties. It will

make you ready for any emergency issues. These tips will keep your teeth safe and healthy all day long. Are you getting all packed for the next long trip this holiday season? Get the proper dental care treatments and advice from the experts at Natural Smiles Dental Center. For more details and appointments, call us at (703) 595-4405, book online, or visit us directly at 1800 Michael Faraday Dr. STE 205, in Reston.



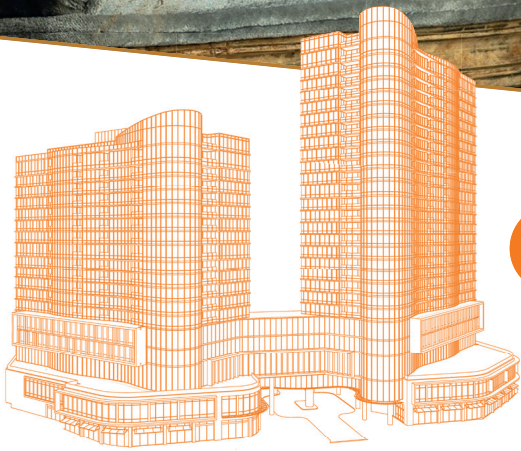
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# Make the holidays colorful

## Creative gift ideas for children

### Courtesy of Family Features

Seeing a child’s face light up with excitement during the holiday season is a sight that can bring feelings of joy to everyone gathered around to celebrate. Though many wish lists are filled with tech gadgets and gizmos, gifts that allow kids to explore their artistic sides and foster imaginative play are still popular picks as well. For example, options like these from the Crayola Scribble Scrubbie line can spark young imaginations and encourage children to express themselves creatively and colorfully. A perfect option for animal lovers, these themed playsets allow girls and boys to unlock endless hours of playful fun as they color, wash and color their pets again. Find more inspiration for presents that allow kids



to create colorful memories this holiday season at [crayola.com/product-feature/scribble-scrubbie-pets](https://www.crayola.com/product-feature/scribble-scrubbie-pets). **Reimagine underwater animals** Take your gift giving off the beaten bath this year and help kids dive into adventure with an award-winning present like the Crayola Scribble Ocean Pets Lagoon Playset. Young explorers can add bright, fun designs to shark, octopus, whale and clownfish pets. Using the

six included washable markers, children can color and customize the ocean pets for nearly endless underwater imagination. Then simply dip the pets in the kid-powered lagoon shower to wash in style before recoloring and playing again and again. **Colorful pet fun in the clouds** With colored pets for added fun and excitement, kids can take imaginative play to new environments this holiday season with an option like the Scribble Scrubbie Peculiar Pets Cloud Clubhouse. The set includes Crayola’s most recent innovation: colored pets. Featuring a Uni-Owl and Uni-Koala as well as a rainbow slide, a rainwater shower, three washable markers and a cloud environment that doubles as a storage solution, the entire collection is washable so children can color and customize then wash and color again.

# Spread holiday cheer through gifts that give back

### Courtesy of Family Features

The holiday season is a time to spread cheer, spend time with loved ones and give back to those in need in both small and big ways. Individuals are often inspired

this time of year to help transform the world into a better place by contributing, donating and fundraising for communities, both locally and abroad. This year, this global movement of generosity and compassion is all the more significant. The

COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing conflicts and escalating crises around the world have had devastating impacts on children. In its historic 75th year of lifesaving work, UNICEF has made gifts available this holiday season that can help make the world better for children.

Through UNICEF Market, an online collection of gifts including jewelry, apparel, home decor, holiday decor, kitchenware and unique gifts handcrafted by talented artisans from around the world, you can purchase gifts for your loved ones that play a significant role in supporting small businesses around the world and aiding the organization’s mission to relentlessly pursue an equitable world for every child. One of the many artisans your purchase can support is Made Wardika. He was born and raised in a small town in Central Bali on farmland amidst beautiful natural landscapes. The artisan learned to carve at the age of 11 and spent his childhood working to perfect his craft in order to put himself through school. Created from scratch, Wardika’s unique jewelry is centered around Bali’s art, traditions and culture. The thriving business supports his wife, two sons and daughter. “Being responsible for my small family has encouraged me to work harder,” Wardika said. “I decided to work with UNICEF in the

hopes that this would help expand my workshop, help my children go to school and help me provide for their daily needs.” Beyond helping artists like Wardika support their families, keep traditional skills alive and help local economies thrive, a portion of every purchase goes toward helping UNICEF scale up response to its global efforts. By purchasing the “Modern Sound” wooden phone speaker from Thailand, you could provide 22 packets of life-saving nourishment for children suffering from malnutrition. By purchasing the “Tropical Nature” Curate Brazilian cotton hammock, you could provide 126 doses of the measles vaccine to protect children from this deadly disease. You can also donate items such as therapeutic food, newborn kits, school supplies and shelter materials in the name of a loved one alongside a personalized card or e-greeting. Celebrate this holiday season and find more gifts that give back at [market.unicefusa.org](https://market.unicefusa.org).



# Fairfax Water

## NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water’s offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2022, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,400 to \$4,510†.
- A decrease in the Local Facilities Charge from \$19,610 to \$19,400.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,430 to \$1,480†.
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$40 to \$41.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$14.85 to \$14.95†.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.33 to \$3.46 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- A decrease in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.90 to \$3.85.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the changes in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- An increase in the Overhead Charges for (Labor) from 102% to 103% and a decrease for (Materials) from 13% to 12%.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8” residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$208 million budget for calendar year 2022\*. Water sales are expected to provide \$180.1 million and the remaining \$27.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

	-- \$1,000s --	
Category	2021	2022
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$58,379	\$63,585
Power and Utilities	10,597	10,795
Chemicals	7,637	8,688
Purchased Water	6,863	8,013
Supplies and Materials	4,984	5,272
Insurance	1,157	1,214
Fuel	680	753
Postage	585	618
Contractual Services	11,737	12,526
Professional Services	1,254	1,249
Other	2,243	2,740
Sub-Total	106,116	115,453
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,763)	(10,949)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,353</b>	<b>\$104,504</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,484,307
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$47,922,000

\* Fairfax Water’s Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [fairfaxwater.org/rates](https://fairfaxwater.org/rates)

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029.

Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to: Fairfax Water • Public Hearing Comments • 8570 Executive Park Avenue • Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 15, 2021** to be included in the record of the public hearing.



# Virginia School Board removal efforts are the essence of democracy

Dear Editor,

This past March, in Loudoun County, I joined several other parents and announced that we would begin collecting signatures for the removal of six school board members pursuant to Virginia’s removal statute. At the same time, parents in Fairfax County were gathering signatures to remove three of their school board members.

The impetus for the effort in Loudoun was that those six school board members destroyed the public trust by being part of a private Facebook group that targeted parents who opposed the policies of the Loudoun County School Board.

Since then, the Loudoun County School Board has been embroiled in controversy. They unlawfully placed a teacher on administrative leave for speaking at a school board meeting on a proposed policy. They shut down public comment on June 22 because the audience applauded. They learned of a sexual assault on May 28, stood by while the superintendent lied about that assault at a subsequent school board meeting, and did nothing to prevent the student from returning to school until his case had concluded. That led to a second sexual assault at a different school by the same

student.

In August, we were preparing to file our first removal case in Loudoun County. But we had serious concerns about the fairness of the process after the Fairfax County parents were denied their day in court for the removal case against Elaine Tholen. Despite a judge declaring that the removal case could proceed, Albemarle Commonwealth Attorney Jim Hingeley voluntarily dismissed the case. Hingeley had been selected by Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano, who self-recused based on a conflict of interest. We later learned that Hingeley, who like Descano received funding from George Soros, also had a conflict of interest that he did not disclose – he campaigned with Tholen in 2019.

To guard against that in Loudoun, when we filed our first case against Beth Barts in August, we also moved to intervene and disqualify our local Soros-backed Commonwealth Attorney Buta Biberaj. In early October, the Court granted our motion to intervene, disqualified the Biberaj for conflict of interest, and denied Barts’ motion to dismiss. Barts ultimately resigned 10 days later.

Following the election, we filed two new removal

petitions in court – one for Chairwoman Brenda Sheridan and one for Vice-Chairwoman Atoosa Reaser. The responses from Sheridan and Reaser are telling.

Sheridan said: “My election was a mandate from those who came to the polls – three times – to choose me as their representative. Tuesday’s filing is the result of a fraction of those citizens signing a petition, whether they voted or not.”

Reaser claimed in a statement that: “[A] small fraction of residents have filed a petition to silence [her supporters’] voices” and that this “is an effort to take away the rights of thousands of citizens who chose [her] as their representative” and that “our democracy is at stake.”

In those statements, Sheridan and Reaser continue to make the mistake that has gotten them and others to this point – disrespecting people that they disagree with by dismissing them as a “small minority of voices.”

Those comments are also a brazen assault on the rule of law. The Virginia removal statute provides that citizens can petition a court to remove an elected official for “neglect of duty, misuse of office, or incompetence in the performance of duties.” To get to court, petitioners must

submit signatures of the elected officials district that equal 10 percent of the total vote in the official’s last election.

The theory behind removal is very similar to impeachment in the U.S. and Virginia Constitutions – removing elected officers for breach of the public trust.

One of the core principles that our Founding Fathers attempted to build into our representative democracy was that of the fiduciary duty of our elected officials. In Volume 19 of the Federalist Society Review, the editor noted:

“[A]t the Virginia ratifying convention, Edmund Randolph saw it as a remedy for dishonesty, disloyalty, and self-dealing. George Nicholas and James Madison referred to it as a remedy for maladministration and violating the national interest, and Patrick Henry as a response to ‘violation of duty.’”

In sum, the “high misdemeanors” language was to protect not solely criminal activity, but breaches of fiduciary duties and, as Hamilton stated in Federalist No. 65, “the abuse or violation of some public trust.”

Impeachment is impracticable in small, unicameral bodies like school boards. Further, allowing members to vote each other off even with a super majority

would create opportunities for abuse in the name of politics.

The removal statute protects against impracticability and abuse. It requires thresholds for signatures, a court process with high burdens of proof, and the Commonwealth Attorney to prove a significant breach by elected officials of their fiduciary duties to maintain the public trust.

We believe that has happened in Loudoun County and parents in Fairfax County certainly believe the same about their school board. Unfortunately, what we have seen in Fairfax and could see here in Loudoun is that the statute assumed a Commonwealth Attorney who would follow the evidence where it took her and prosecute without politics getting in the way.

We are currently witnessing a breakdown in the objective removal process. Despite already being deemed by a court to have a conflict in the Barts case, Biberaj has not recused from the cases against Sheridan and Reaser, even though her presence in the private Facebook group and her involvement in releasing and putting a sexual assailant back in school, both subjects of the removal efforts, make her a witness in both cases which is prohibited by Rule 3.7 of Virginia’s State Bar

Guidelines.

The failure of Commonwealth Attorneys to be unbiased and objective in the removal process thus requires parents who have spent months gathering signatures to spend money on lawyers to seek legal intervention and disqualification, with no guarantee that a judge will grant those motions.

If those motions fail in the cases against Sheridan and Reaser, Loudoun County parents will likely watch as Biberaj does what Hingeley did to Fairfax County parents this summer - voluntary dismiss a case that is politically and personally inconvenient.

Regardless of what happens in the Loudoun County and Fairfax removal cases, the new government in Richmond can improve the checks and balances of the removal statute by giving the party that organizes the removal effort a right to intervene. This would merely protect against politically motivated Commonwealth Attorneys blocking citizens from using the legal checks and balances, written into the law, that hold public officials for breaching their fiduciary duty to maintain the public trust.

Ian Prior  
Executive Director of Fight for Schools

## Are school resource officers really protecting our kids?

Dear Editor,

School resource officers – police officers on “special assignment” to provide law enforcement services on school campuses – have become a popular option for ensuring school safety, but they don’t protect all students the same. For some students, adding more school resource officers actually risks their safety. These kids tend to be students of color and students with disabilities. Based on the Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2015 to 2016 school year:

- Students in Virginia were more than 2 times as likely to be referred to law enforcement compared to the national average
- Students with disabilities were more than 6 times as likely to be referred to law

enforcement compared to students without disabilities

- Black students were about 2.5 times as likely to be referred to law enforcement compared to white students

The school resource officers must’ve had a good reason for these actions, right? We all hope so, but students are often referred to law enforcement for minor issues, like having bad grades, being tardy, and being disruptive in class. I’ve done all these things and, as a person of color and a former Fairfax County student, I likely could have been arrested for my actions. I would’ve been one of many students to be shoved into the school-to-prison pipeline, meaning I would’ve been more likely to drop out of high school, get a criminal record, have inadequate housing, and get paid a lower wage. And

maybe I could’ve overcome these obstacles and fought my way to where I am today, but is it fair to derail a kid’s life over being late to school?

Even if you don’t take it from me, take it from the kids who are in school now. In the 2020 Virginia School Climate Survey, about 1 in 4 students noted that they “disagreed” or “strongly disagreed” that a school resource officer made them feel safer at school and these were often students of color. Keeping some kids safe while putting other kids in danger isn’t school safety. It’s reminiscent of the “Separate but Equal” doctrine that made racial segregation legal – something Virginia historically advocated for. This doctrine granted white students a decent education while taking that away from students of color, particularly Black and African

American students. We’re still doing the same thing, just under a new name of “school resource officers.”

On January 15, 2022, Governor-Elect Youngkin will officially be inaugurated into office, marking a significant push in policing policies throughout the state of Virginia. During a campaign rally on October 19, Youngkin said he’d require every school to have school resource officers and threatened that any school that resists this policy will lose its funding.

If there’s one thing we can agree on, it’s that we want our kids, our friends, our neighbors, and our community to be safe. So, how might we do that? Let’s urge the Fairfax County School Board to hire more counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

- If a student has bad

grades, maybe they’re not a bad student, but they’re struggling with depression or anxiety? Let’s refer them to a psychologist to work through the causes of those issues together. Let’s connect them to a tutor to help them bring their grades back up.

• If a student is late to school, maybe it’s not that they don’t care about school, but they have additional responsibilities at home? Let’s have a counselor check in with them and help them make the most out of the time they can be at school. Let’s connect them to a social worker to help them balance responsibilities at home.

• If a student is disruptive in class, maybe it’s something that’s outside of their control? Let’s hire specialists to provide alternative learning strategies so these students can stay in

the classroom and contribute in a way that works for them.

School resource officers currently tackle many of these issues and they have to be trained in these specialties in just 6 months. Even still, adding school resource officers may protect some students, but they disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities. Let’s reinvest these resources spent on additional training for police officers into hiring professionals who have devoted their careers to student wellness. Our police officers could then focus their efforts on actual crimes, all our students could thrive in a safe school environment, and, as Youngkin promised, we might just see “a new day in Virginia.”

Manjari Kumarappan

## Telling truth about power

Dear Editor,

Like most Americans, the folks in the Port City tend to take the reliability of the power grid for granted. And, like the song says, “you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.” Only in this case, Dominion Energy didn’t pave paradise. It just couldn’t keep the power on during the recent Del Ray Arts Festival.

It wasn’t that the power went out. These things happen. It was that the power company couldn’t find a way to get it back on in time to avoid adversely affecting the festivities. As they say nowadays, it was an “epic fail.” The festival is an important day for an important part of Alexandria City. It’s something that the merchants and the city count on and people, residents and non-residents alike, look forward to every year.

A failure on that scale, and it was a failure in serval ways, is a clear signal we Virginians need to be thinking outside the box about how we’ll meet the future demand for power. It would be nice to have Dominion as part of that conversation but, as the company is busy helping bankroll a dark money group throwing money around to stop the push for energy choice, it’s unlikely they’ll be at the table.

The conversation needs to happen anyway, as the outage in Del Ray and other places makes clear. Energy consumers should play a bigger role in the process of deciding how and from where they get their power. Yet for almost a year a group calling itself Power for Tomorrow has been engaged in a sophisticated lobbying and advertising campaign designed to convince them power market competition is a bad thing.

In Connecticut, PFT’s Executive Director Gary Meltz wrote that “deregulation policy has failed” and that the “General Assembly should end competitive supply once and for all.” In Massachusetts, Meltz suggested that “it is time to admit deregulation was a mistake and end the competitive electric supply industry in the Bay State.”

Under the guise of protecting consumers PFT, formed in November 2020, has been a mouthpiece for the interests of the power industry and its billions in sunk costs. PFT’s leadership connects to the DC law firm Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP which, in turn, has historical ties to regulated electric utilities. And, because PFT’s set up as a 501c6 organization under the Internal Revenue Code, it can collect membership fees from mega-utilities like Dominion.

The pro-utility bias of the group is obvious. When winter storms in Texas left millions without electricity in February 2021, PFT jumped at the chance to deride the state’s competitive power market with the obvious goal of protecting monopoly power providers like Dominion. It also launched a direct mail campaign, part of an overall campaign that cost \$1,526,918 according to reports filed with state authorities.

Dominion admits it funded that campaign as well as other efforts including lobbying, advertising, market research, and membership fees that cost nearly \$19 million. Sadly, that money, which came from its customers, was all spent to protect the utility’s interests rather than on improving the climate for consumers.

That shows what you can do with a captive audience or,

in this case, a captive market like Dominion has. Instead of using revenue derived from ratepayers to provide reliable and affordable electricity, it’s been funding thinly veiled attempts to stifle power market competition in Virginia and elsewhere.

Ultimately, that’s an issue for regulators and legislators with oversight authority over Dominion but, in the interim, to set the record straight: competitive electricity markets provide cheaper energy prices, more reliable electricity, and greater emission reductions compared to monopoly states.

The Pacific Research Institute has found that among fourteen U.S. jurisdictions with retail electricity competition (13 States and Washington, DC) have seen smaller price increases compared to monopoly states. Dominion and other monopoly power

providers don’t like those facts, which is why they’re spending ratepayer money to raise unfounded fears about deregulation.

Dominion and its ratepayers are on opposite sides. The utility wants state lawmakers to lessen the burden of its regulatory oversight while running off potential competitors under the pretense of protecting consumers. That’s Power for Tomorrow’s message too. What they really want, however, is for the monopoly power arrangement that continues to fail the people of Virginia to continue. You don’t need the lights on to see that.

Bill Greene  
Alexandria VA  
Previously served with the  
United States Department of Energy.



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## GRAMMY WINNERS REUNITE FOR HOLIDAY SHOW AT CAPITAL ONE HALL

*Amy Grant and  
Michael W. Smith*

**WILL PERFORM HOLIDAY FAVORITES TOGETHER**

BY KEITH LORIA • SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES



COURTESY PHOTO

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith have the type of chemistry that can only come from more than three decades of friendship, which is why the pair's annual holiday concert is highly anticipated by their fans each year.

"The last time we toured, we did it with a full orchestra, but we are touring theatres this time with an extended band," Grant said. "I do know from my experience doing Christmas shows with my husband every year, that this is going to

be more intimate and that's beautiful."

One of those stops will be to the Capital One Hall in Tysons on December 3, when the longtime friends and Christian superstars perform a collection of Christmas music and audience favorites from each of their repertoires.

During her career, Grant has sold more than 30 million albums, known for performing contemporary Christian music and a successful crossover to pop, earning six Grammy Awards

along the way. She was recently inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Smith has sold more than 18 million albums, known mostly for his Christian recordings, which has earned him three Grammy Awards over his career. He recently released "Worship Forever," an update of his popular 2001 "Worship" album, now with a full orchestra behind the music.

Grant also has released five successful Christmas albums, one of which even

spawned her own Christmas-themed TV special. Smith has four Christmas albums of his own, most recently, "Michael W. Smith & Friends: The Spirit of Christmas," which of course includes Grant as a guest.

"Because we've been friends for so long, the tone of the whole concert is friendship, togetherness and love," Grant said. "He's like a ray of light. I hope that's the emotional tone of the evening, camaraderie and welcome."

During the pandemic,

Grant and her husband—country star Vince Gill—took some rare downtime together, and it was the longest the couple had been at home together in their 20-plus years of marriage.

"It deepened our friendship exponentially," she said. "We're not the typical couple—we're both out there touring—but we were able to spend a lot of family time together."

But there were some dark moments as well. The couple did lose a dear friend to COVID, and Grant had to

undergo open heart surgery in June 2020 for something called partial anomalous pulmonary venous return.

"I did think about how many young artists who were just gaining momentum, and we did what we could to support young musicians," Grant said. "We wanted to help and find some good things in COVID."

As we approach Christmas, Grant is feeling better than ever, coming off a fall tour and getting ready to

See CAPITAL ONE, Page B4

COURTESY PHOTO



The Birchmere welcomes

*Dar Williams*

**The folk singer-songwriter has a new album**

By Keith Loria

SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

For a quarter century, Dar Williams has been a force to be reckoned with in the folk industry, first earning acclaim with the release of three small albums and opening for Joan Baez in concert.

Over the years, Williams has earned a reputation as one of the best singer-songwriters of her generation. Baez agrees with that statement, having recorded several of Williams' songs, and even partnering on a successful duet in the song, "Ring Them Bells."

Williams will be heading to The Birchmere December 5 in support of her latest studio album, "I'll Meet You Here." Alt-country up-and-comer Emily Scott

Robinson will open the show.

"This will be an album release concert," Williams said. "Because we have been away, we'll be playing a lot from the new album. But also songs that people expect and I'll pull out a couple of deeper cuts."

Finding the right balance between the new songs she wants fans to hear and appreciate and the fan favorites that she knows the audience hopes to hear is something she has perfected throughout her career.

"I've performed a lot and I have a sense of an audience," Williams said. "Audiences like The Birchmere tend to embrace the new material. They are the opposite of a bar crowd calling out for 'Freebird.' They take in new and more recent music. At the same time, the old stuff, the

music they listened to at the beginning of relationships and certain times of their lives is now 25 years old. So, playing those old songs connects us to where we all are together."

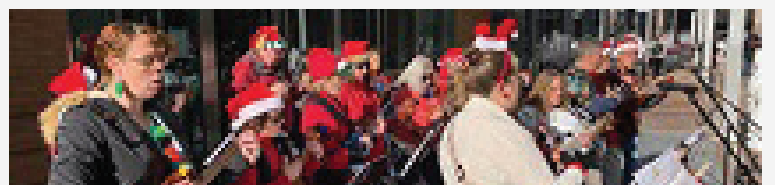
The singer has been on tour since the end of September, though she did play about 10 concerts outdoors this summer, which she described as "a beautiful way to return to performing."

"The first concert back was just before sunset and a hot air balloon landed right behind the audience, so that was memorable," she said. "Every concert was the perfect temperature, perfect location and a lot of mosquitos—but that was ok because I'm a professional!"

"I'll Meet You Here" was written and recorded before the

See WILLIAMS, Page B4

## HOT LINKS BY COLLIN COPE



**Holiday performances in Reston Town Center  
December 4 & 5 • free**

This December 4 and 5, visit Reston Town Center between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. for a set of holiday performances from local musical ensembles the Virginia Ukulele Ensemble, the Seth Kible Trio and the Lohr Family Entertainers. The performances will take place by the Reston Town Center Christmas tree in Fountain Square and will be free to attend. For more information about the performances, as well as set times, please visit <https://bit.ly/3ljn3q0>.



**Chanukah celebration at Mosaic  
December 5 • free • 5-7 p.m.**

On the evening of December 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., experience Mosaic District's community menorah lighting ceremony in recognition of this year's annual Chanukah celebration. The event will be free to attend and welcomes all kinds of attendees to light candles, sing along to traditional songs and spin the dreidel in order to come together for this year's festival of lights. The event will be free to all who wish to attend and more information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3rwmcGe>.



**Alexandria Choral Society's "Snow Globe Series" pop-up  
concert • December 7 • free**

Take notice of the Alexandria's Choral Society's annual Snow Globe Series this week as they bring their traveling performance to Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden on December 7. Similar to real snow globes, this series aims to bring a similarly beautiful and unique setting of music to audiences, despite regularly shaking up the location. The event will be free to attend and will begin at 8 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3FWpRkE>.

COURTESY PHOTOS







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### Cobalt

**Breed:** Domestic long hair  
**Age:** 5 months

**Gender:** Male neutered

Playful, cheery and full of energy, this puff ball Cobalt is a friend to all. When he's not busy chasing lasers or feather toys Cobalt loves to get pets and give purrs. This handsome fellow is ready for a home to call his own.



### Cerise

**Breed:** Domestic short hair  
**Age:** 5 months

**Gender:** Female spayed

Cerise is a beautiful dilute calico girl with a gorgeous fluffy tail. This sweet gal enjoys warm laps and will keep you entertained with her playful antics. Puffy balls and play mice are a few of her favorite things.

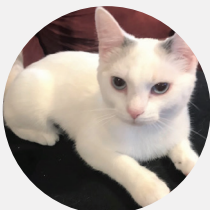


### Maizy

**Breed:** Domestic short hair  
**Age:** 5 months

**Gender:** Female spayed

Maizy is the life of the party and loves to socialize with other young cats. When it comes to playtime she's the leader of the pack. This beauty likes to show off her hunting skills by bringing you her "dead" play mice as a reward.



### Jasmine

**Breed:** Domestic short hair  
**Age:** 1 year

**Gender:** Female spayed

Jasmine is a gentle girl with a big heart. Rescued from the shelter as a stray, she enjoys naps in a sunny window and human companionship. Ready to settle into a new home of her own, Jasmine has lots of love to give.

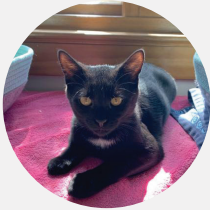


### Jett

**Breed:** Domestic short hair  
**Age:** 4 months

**Gender:** Male neutered

Jett is a perfect gentleman and as easy going as they come. He is very playful. He and his mom will play for hours on end. He also loves to cuddle though and will start purring immediately when he sees you. He loves laying in the sun and playing in water. He is fine with being held for short periods and gentle pushes away when he is ready to get down. He warmed up very quickly with the other older male cat in the house with no attempt at dominance issues at all. He may be ok with a cat-friendly dog. Jett does need to go to a home with another cat or kitten.



### Flora

**Breed:** Domestic short hair  
**Age:** 1 year

**Gender:** Female spayed

Flora an adorable momma kitty who recently finished weaning her kittens and is now ready to move on to her own forever home. She enjoys her foster home and always sleeps next to her humans. She is very friendly and is a lovable lap cat. Come meet Flora today.



## FROM THE DOG'S PAW

# Cat lovers month



PETCONNECT RESCUE

Lottie

### By Samson!

SPECIAL TO THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Meows! We already know that cats are purringly pawsome meowsters who make life pawingly grand for their humans-- the smart ones who adopted one, that is. Cat Lover's Month is to celebrate the pawsomeness, sassiness, beauty, and smarts of the pawnderful cats in our lives.

My Dad had grown up seeing cats do some severe scratching on more than a few human friends, so he was afraid of cats. He would prefer to pet a strange large dog, think Rottweiler than go anywhere near any cat no matter what. Purring, Mom introduced him to the love of cats soon after they married and now, I'm the third cat he's lived with. Purringly, he tells me that I am the bestest cat ever in the entire universe. All I can meow is that he's right, but it took him long enough. Purringly, when I decide to allow him, we spend a few minutes here and there cuddling and playing with a wand toy.

Meowingly, my Uncle Ed, a widow, adopted a Siamese cat. Siamon has made his human's life without his spouse easier, is a constant source of amusement, is a great sleeping partner, loves talking, sometimes has conversations lasting 10 minutes or more. He loves greeting his human when he comes back from being out. Meow. A pawsomely grand companion.

Purringly, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation shares that 25 percent of households are home to a cat. Sadly though, millions of cats are not adopted and never leave shelters.

Paws, cats are popular pets for many reasons: they are quiet, independent, and require less maintenance, purrs you don't have to walk us or let us out, than other pets. MEOWS! We are pawsome companions too. Paws, I can tell when my humans need comfort or extra attention, and I have helped reduce anxiety and stress levels. Paws, a study conducted at the University of Minnesota, indicated cat owners were 40 percent less likely to suffer a fatal heart attack than humans who don't have a cat. Meows, humans form deep bonds with cats who provide a lifetime of love and affection.

Purringly, if you already have a cat, it is time to celebrate their unique pawsomeness. Buy your fabulous feline friend that special expensive toy you've been putting off. Pawing, meow, give yourself the gift of time with your pawsome companion. HISS! It can be challenging to find time to spend with those you love, so take a few extra pawrecious moments with your meowster. Pawingly, try sitting, brushing, or playing with your cat.

Meows, if you cannot take on the responsibilities of a cat, or pawssibly cats aren't your thing, which I cannot believe since we are so great, consider donating to a local rescue. Purringly, they can use your financial donation to assist cats in need and make it easier to help more cats. Donations help with transportation, medical, and food expenses. Meows. Consider volunteering to help with the pawsome cats. Rescues are volunteer-run and can use help in many areas such as fostering, transportation, photography, publicity, support at adoption events, and fundraising, just to paw a few.

Meowingly, as pawrt of

Cat Lover's Month, I encourage you to consider adopting a cat. Pawlease meet a few feline friends looking for their "Forever Homes" with humans to love who will love them too.

MEOWS! PURRS!! Meet beautiful 2-year-old Lottie, who is one gorgeous tortie. Pawingly, she has a pawsome personality to match. She pawssitively loves chatting with her human and will headbutt you for attention. She is good with mini-humans too.

Echo is a 1-year-old meowingly playful, beautiful black kitty with pawlenty of energy and love to give. She isn't much on cuddling, but she pawssitively loves hanging out, spending time with her humans, and getting pets. Purrs, she loves attention and is very sweet and friendly. She is a vocal girl often heard trilling, purring, and meowing to her sweet little heart's delight. Echo knows how to entertain herself around the house with her favorite toy. She will be happiest in a home as the only pet. She prefers older mini-humans.

PetConnect Rescue [www.petconnectrescue.org](http://www.petconnectrescue.org), email: [info@petconnectrescue.org](mailto:info@petconnectrescue.org) or call 1-877-838-9171

### 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).



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Art News

**McLean Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival** three-day indoor show features the work of 80 talented, juried, regional artisans. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. December 3. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. December 4 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 5. Admission is \$5 for adults. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2ZEsmPI>.

**Night Sky Photography** Learn how to use a wide-angle lens and tripod to make long-exposure, starry nightscapes and landscapes from the boardwalk. Bring your DSLR and tripod. All skill levels are welcome. 7 p.m. December 3. Cost is \$40. Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3FXSq1b>.

**Gifts from the HeART** Enjoy artists’ creations on display. This exhibit showcases original works in a variety of media. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. December 4. The exhibit items will remain on display through February 18. Free. Jo Ann Rose Gallery and 3D Gallery, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3FWmE4K>.

**Drawing and Learning About Evergreens** Learn about evergreen lore and identification on a hike, then return to the classroom to draw or paint local evergreens including ferns, Virginia pine, spruce, holly, and partridge berry. 9 a.m. December 4. Cost is \$25. Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3I5cGjd>.

**A Child’s Christmas in Wales** Experience a musical celebration of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas’ iconic story, the “never to be forgotten day at the end of the unremembered year,” when songs are sung, cakes and sweets are abundant, and the frozen city parks are laden with mysteries and adventures for wild boys and girls to explore. Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. through December 18. 2 p.m. matinees December 5 and 19. 10 a.m. matinee December 18. Cost is \$10 to \$15. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., NE., Vienna. For tickets visit <https://bit.ly/3o3CrZi>.

**Nutcracker** performed by Metropolitan School of the Arts students and featuring Sara Yoon as Clara. Shows are December 4 and 5 at noon and 5 p.m. Tickets range from \$26 to \$28. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Dr., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3D53XKc>.

**Holiday Festival** Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire boat around 3:30 p.m. on the Waterfront. Music fills the halls and the Waterfront, beckoning people to browse three floors of open artists’ studios. Santa will even take a spin on the famous Torpedo Bike. 2 to 8 p.m. December 4. Free. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3xyOAbU>.

**Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long** from Home on two separate nights, each with special guests. The two festive pre-recorded video performances, each containing unique special guests and different songs, will be premiering on December 4 and 18. The concerts will be streamed free and available for viewers at home throughout the winter holidays. Both concerts go live at 4 p.m. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3xElkzA>.

**Christmas Time is Here** Dianne Reeves shares her timeless voice and improvisational prowess in an exceptional holiday program of seasonal sounds. 8 p.m. December 4. Tickets are \$26 to \$60. Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3EaUJ0r>.

**Sounds of the Season** features holiday classics performed by the National Concert Band of America. 3 p.m. December 5. Free. Carl Sandberg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2ZyZaTE>.

Community Information

**Holiday Lights on the Farm** Tour the farm in the safety and warmth of your vehicle on a one-mile route to see the farm animals, wooded wonders, and luminous lights decorating the pastures and historic buildings. 5:30 to 8 p.m. December 3, 4 and 5. Cost is \$20 to \$25 per vehicle. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Rd., Herndon. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/30KLDJ6>.

**Fairfax City Holiday Market** Come and shop at the market of craft vendors as you enjoy Old Town Square in the heart of Historic Fairfax covered in holiday lights. The festival will include live holiday music, hot drinks, and gourmet treats and more. Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. the first two weekends in December. Free. Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/32FORON>.

**Burke Farmers Market** Markets are open for in-person shopping. Some vendors offer online ordering with pickup at the market. 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through December 18. VRE Parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3HFMIII>.

**Stuff the Cruiser** Virginia State Police is hosting this event to support Toys for Toys and help brighten Christmas for area children. Drop off new, unwrapped toys and enjoy hot chocolate. Noon to 4 p.m. December 4. Chantilly Target, 14391 Chantilly Crossing Lane, Chantilly. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3pwlB59>.

**Festival of Lights and Carols** Enjoy music, s’mores, hot cider and the tree lighting ceremony. Noon to 6 p.m. December 4. Free. Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3xBzp1y>.

**Klondike Campfire Cookout** Prepare a winter meal with your family using centuries-old colonial and indigenous cooking techniques. 3 p.m. December 4. Cost is \$15. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3d3QtUM>.

**Local History of Jazz** Join Brian Slawski for this virtual meeting as he highlights some of the less obvious institutions that have helped support the local jazz scene. 4 p.m. December 4. Free. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3rnLZR5>.

**Christmas in Camp and Making Do at Home** Travel back in time to learn how Civil War soldiers and the folks back home celebrated Christmas. Noon to 4 p.m. December 5. Free. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy., Fairfax. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3lnmEmu>.

**Celebration of Lights** Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and other treats as you listen to seasonal music and enjoy the annual tree lighting. Petting zoo and pony rides. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fire truck. 5 to 7 p.m. December 5. Free. Great Falls Village Field, 776 Walker Rd., Great Falls. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3xFygWI>.

**ONGOING**

**Vale UMC Tree Sales** Buy a freshly-cut Christmas tree from Vale United Methodist Church (11528 Vale Road, Oakton), and your purchase will provide, on average, 100 life-saving meals for hungry families around the world. Proceeds from Vale Church’s tree sale will be donated to the global relief organization Rise Against Hunger, as well as being used for local anti-hunger efforts in Fairfax County. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. December 4 and 11. For more information, call 703-620-2594 or email [christmastrees@valechurch.org](mailto:christmastrees@valechurch.org).

**Bull Run Festival of Lights** Drive through more than two miles of festive light displays. Begins November 11 and runs through January 2. 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 10 p.m. weekends. Cost is \$30 per vehicle in advance, \$40 at the gate. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/31kiLrp>.

**Winter Walk of Lights** Stroll along this half-mile long, one-way route for an enchanting and safe evening activity. 5:30 to 10 p.m. November 11 through January 2. Purchase timed-entry tickets starting at \$16 plus an online fee. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3mwtl6Q>.

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

**Help Children in Need** through volunteer work with Assistance League. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/305C3ge>.

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

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

2022

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AT WOLF TRAP



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JAN 20 | 8 PM



CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE BARNS

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SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR

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AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS

JAN 26 + 27 | 8 PM



LIMITED AVAILABILITY

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JAN 28 | 8 PM

BUSH/MARSHALL/MEYER/MEYER

SAM BUSH, MIKE MARSHALL

EDGAR MEYER, GEORGE MEYER

FEB 2 + 3

ANA POPOVIC

FEB 4

INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT

FEB 9 + 10

1964 THE TRIBUTE

FEB 11 + 12

AMY HELM

FEB 17

NELLA

FEB 18

THE MIRÓ QUARTET

CHAMBER MUSIC AT THE BARNS

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**WILLIAMS**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

pandemic, though she needed to add in the overdubs at a studio during the quarantine.

In her forced time away from the stage, Williams used it to organize her life.

“When you’re on the road a lot, you always think, ‘someday I’m going to get this all together,’ and you wonder, ‘why can’t I do this, what’s my problem?’” she said. “During the pandemic, I organized my life in a way that I couldn’t have going away one or two weeks every month.”

She also spent a lot of time working on songs and finished two drafts of a songwriting guide that she is writing.

Although she doesn’t feel the pandemic affected the way she wrote or the themes of what she was writing about, Williams does think what changed was her maturity about how she feels during the song-writing process.

“I used to think that getting my career right meant that I would get over myself; I would have a thicker skin and less mood swings and anxiety over certain aspects of performing and whether or not a song would turn out ok,” she said. “What I learned in the pandemic is that none of that is going to go away. You don’t make that emotional weather go away, you accept it.”

In 2022, Williams will release that songwriting book and continue writing new songs and performing. Additionally, five years ago, she wrote a book, “What I’ve Found in a Thousand Towns,” and she’s going to be speaking at several urban planning events, also singing as well.

“I’m looking forward to a trifecta of meeting retreats, talking about urban planning, and of course performing, which is still my first passion,” she said. “I encourage everyone to get out and see a live performance. There’s so much energy around it right now. It’s so nice to look out and see audiences again.”

**CAPITAL ONE**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

embark on the Christmas tour with Smith.

“I just love being back out there; the first two shows, which I believe were in August, I couldn’t get through a sound check without choking up,” she said. “It was so emotional. And I still find that. Even with most of the audiences we are singing to being fully masked, we can see that heartfelt emotion.”

The Christmas season has always meant so much to Grant and she looks forward to December every year.

“For all kinds of reasons, so much emphasis is placed on Christmas,” Grant said. “Obviously, in the faith world, it’s a milestone for being the birth of Jesus. In the advertising world and the fiscal world, it’s an onslaught to the senses. From a performer’s standpoint, and a woman and a mom, I know what I long for is a way for my family to gather. And when you’re talking multi-gen-

erational, it’s tricky. On stage, I try to create the emotional art, bringing the hope, laughter and nostalgia of the season.”

Grant looks forward to the upcoming show and thanks people for supporting live music and all the people it takes to create a live show. She promises the Capital One Hall concert will be a night to remember.

“If you’re looking for a magic connection time with your family, start December off right and spend the evening with us,” she said.



# Rat King wins this round, but the arts are strong in Fairfax

By Dana Stewart  
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

It is the sound that signals the holiday season is upon us – Tchaikovsky’s ballet “The Nutcracker.”

No other seasonal performance conjures up familiar and happy feelings through visions of fireplaces, snowflakes, and beautifully wrapped presents. Throughout December, Fairfax County is home to performances from our youngest residents to our outstanding professional performers, each creating their version of Tchaikovsky’s great work.

This year is different. This year, the Rat King won the battle as arts organizations continued to return to normal.

“The Nutcracker,” like every performance presented and piece of art created, takes time and funding before making a



COURTESY PHOTO

public appearance. The lack of Nutcracker performances this year reflects the arts’ year-long struggle to fully re-open. It is a message that the arts community continues to share.

As we come to the year-end, take time to enjoy the art in your community. Sing carols with your friends and family, enjoy an arts performance or visit an art gallery.

No matter how you choose to celebrate in December, remember the arts are in Fairfax because you help keep them here. The Rat King may have overcome us this year, but the arts are strong in Fairfax.

There are many opportunities to celebrate the arts this season. To learn more about the many artists and arts organizations in Fairfax

County, visit the ArtsFairfax Arts Directory at [artsfairfax.org](https://artsfairfax.org).

**Holiday Events**

BalletNova presents “The Nutcracker Petite Performance,” a perfect first ballet experience specifically created for children ages five and under. Enjoy the 45-minute performance on December 11 and 12, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets

are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under age 12.

Sing in the season with the American Festival Pops Orchestra on December 11 at 8 p.m. at Mason’s Center for the Arts. Tickets range from \$36 to \$60. Visit [cfa.gmu.edu](https://cfa.gmu.edu) to learn more and purchase tickets.

**Closing Soon**

George Mason University’s “Conjuring Presence” exhibition of art and poetry featuring students, faculty, and alumni curated by Mason faculty member and artist Jessica Kallista closes on December 11. The exhibit is available to view in Fenwick Gallery and online through Mason Exhibitions.

Workhouse Arts Center presents Small Business Saturday through December 11. Shoppers will receive a 20 percent discount on all original Workhouse creations. Patrons are invited to celebrate the season during Workhouse’s traditional Second Saturday Art Walk with holiday carolers and decorations.

Celebrate Fairfax presents a Holiday Market featuring local artists and small businesses at The Parc at Tysons December 4 and December 11 and a Winter Village that expands the holiday market to include iceless ice-skating and winter activities December 18. The festival runs from noon to 5 p.m.

**Through December**

Artisans United holiday show features a wide variety of craft items to decorate your home or share with family and friends. Visit the show at 4022C Hummer Road in Annandale Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Falls Church Arts Gallery presents an all-media show, “Make Me Happy,” opening December 18, featuring work that elicits joy and lifts the spirit. The gallery is open daily, but times vary.

## Northern Lights shine brightly at West Springfield High School’s “Almost, Maine”

By Sarina Saran  
THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Nine couples, 18 hearts on the mend, and countless gasps from the audience. The story of love is told in many ways, and West Springfield High School encapsulates them all in Spartan Theatre’s production of “Almost, Maine.”

Written by John Cariani in 2007, “Almost, Maine” tells the stories of nine different relationships as they fluctuate between the good and the bad, the heartwarming and the heartbreaking. The show is tinged with an aspect of magical realism that brings to life the small, fictional town of Almost, Maine. Although the nine vignettes are unrelated, each one conveys the theme of the changing circumstances that are associated with love in any situation. The stories are also connected by the Northern Lights that appear throughout, a phenomenon that further elicits the ro-

matic nature of the play.

Even though each story happened individually, it was inspiring to watch the entire cast work together as a cohesive unit. Some actors made the audience laugh, some brought forth tears, and others prompted a chorus of happy sighs. While each actor chose a different tactic, the Spartan cast clearly presented a single message: the importance of adapting to the changing tides of love and life.

One of the standout vignettes, entitled “Her Heart,” portrayed the charming meet-cute that took place between Glory and East (Adella Bailey and Nick Frazier) as they watched the Northern Lights together. Bailey’s lovable quirkiness played beautifully with Frazier’s frenetic nervousness to tell the narrative in a captivating way. Through overlapping verbal exchanges and the awkward hugs they shared, Bailey and Frazier each excelled at drawing the audience into

the sweetest of romances.

Pete and Ginette’s (Oliver Bourjaily and Mad Mitchell) story was woven throughout the play as a prologue, interlogue, and epilogue, and the pair had the audience enraptured from beginning to end. Bourjaily artfully used silence and a dejected posture to first convey his character’s aloofness and later regret. Meanwhile, Mitchell started with over-eagerness in her tone of voice before crossing her arms to close herself off to both Bourjaily and the audience. With the happily-ever-after ending that was introduced by the epilogue, both actors showcased hope through their facial expressions and hand gestures to take the place of any verbal communication.

Propelled by the Northern Lights motif, the lighting design immaculately directed the flow of each story. Designers TJ Green, Rakeb Yihunie, and Zachary Kearny overlapped a variety of textures in the lighting to indicate the presence of snow all around Maine. They also adjusted the colder color schemes to add a pink accent in the most heartfelt scenes, creating an atmosphere that emanated warmth despite the setting. In the final scene of the play, the Northern Lights finally appeared all around the auditorium in a gorgeous display of the technical mastery that the student designers had achieved. This skill was further emphasized by the aesthetic nature of the set, which melded with the lights to establish the impression of silhouetted evergreen trees. The set designers, led by Finley Cochran, also built a snow-covered log cabin to further add to the ambiance of the town.

Even with the incessant chill of “Almost, Maine,” the cast and crew of Spartan Theatre performed with all the warmth that comes from the joy of doing what they love.

## A wedding to remember at Herndon High School

By Kaylee Williams  
FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL

“We love our bread, we love our butter, but most of all we love each other!” exclaimed Tina and the Vitale family at the convincing wedding reception on the stage of Herndon High School.

Set in Queens, New York, 1991, and written by The Artificial Theatre Company, “Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding” is a unique comedic show that encapsulated the personalities and interactions of two stereotypical Italian families joining into one. The whole cast interacted with the audience throughout the show as if they were welcome guests at the wedding. With a large cast consisting of waiters, band members, wedding guests, a bride, a groom, and more, Herndon High School was able to beautifully perform this scripted and improvised show.

The play revolved around Lulu Megahed as Tina Vitale and Yali Miranda as Tony Nunzio, whose personalities complemented each other. Megahed played an energetic and excited new bride who was not afraid to speak her mind. Also, Megahed never strayed from the strong Queens accent and interacted with the audience throughout the night,

making them feel as if they were a part of the family. Miranda, on the other hand, played a more timid and nervous groom. Although Tony began as a nervous wreck, Miranda developed the character throughout the show and became confident enough to stand up for Tina when the ex-boyfriend Michael (played by David Wrigley) tried to win Tina back.

Augustus Wood as Johnny and Emma Harris as Connie had the audience laughing the whole show. Wood did an incredible job as Tony’s flirtatious little brother/groomsman. He was so committed to the role that from the beginning of the show to the bows and throughout, Wood never broke character. Whether Wood was showing off some fantastic dance moves or “hitting on” some of the audience members, they were constantly doing a fantastic job of conveying the character of Johnny. Emma Harris portrayed Connie as the sassy, pregnant, maid of honor. Harris did an amazing job interacting with the audience and keeping the energy up throughout the show. When all chaos broke loose after an argument between Connie and Tina, Harris changed from energetic to argumentative and had the whole audience rooting for Connie in the

battle of the bridesmaids. Additionally, Father Mark played by Tommy Maxson did a wonderful job unfolding from an orderly and pious priest to a sloppy drunk.

The technical aspects of the show deserve praise as they set the mood for the entire production and completed the wedding environment. Costumes by Chloe Thompson, Augustus Wood, Lauren Tucker, and Katie Hancock were perfect for the 1990s and showed the character’s personalities while also being wedding-appropriate. Additionally, the sound crew (Wilson Purdue and Liam Nowak) handled the number of microphones incredibly as the audience could hear every member of the cast the entire show. Song choices such as Karma Chameleon and Fly Me to the Moon (sung by Lainey Bradley) set the mood for each scene. Lastly, the lighting design done by David Wrigley, Zach Wemyss, and Emmy Tublin perfectly fit each scene. For example, during the fight scene, the scrim was red and at one point in the show, it was even the colors of the Italian flag.

“Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding” was one like none other. The amount of detail in the technical aspects and the actor’s ability to improv for hours made the show unforgettable.



NAMIR TUBIA

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Gorove/Slade Associates, Inc., a Chantilly, VA company, is looking for a Transportation Engineer with:

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Please send resume to Tushar Awar, Gorove/Slade Associates, Inc., 3914 Centreville Road, Suite 330, Chantilly, VA 20151. Refer to Job #PP21 in your cover letter.

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**Help Wanted**

Software Developer— Analyze user requirements, design & develop systems & applications. Deg. & exp. Mail resume: HR, Fasur Technologies LLC, 13800 Coppermine Rd, Ste 226, Herndon, VA 20171

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Clarabridge, Inc. has openings in Reston, Virginia for the following positions (various types/levels).

- Senior Technical Consultant (Multiple Openings) - Job #STC1 / 20797.24.3

Job Description includes: Work closely with the customer to identify, document, and deliver the customer requirements. This position is eligible for telecommuting. Position requires domestic travel up to 30%. Please send resume or CV to [Lourdes.Caballero@clarabridge.com](mailto:Lourdes.Caballero@clarabridge.com) and reference STC1&2.

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Clarabridge, Inc. has an opening for Senior Cloud Software Engineer in Reston, Virginia. Job Description includes: Manage and troubleshoot our worldwide systems footprint, including networks, VMs, and bare metal machines. Establish and implement best practices for systems management, patching, and upgrades. Please send resume or CV to [Lourdes.Caballero@clarabridge.com](mailto:Lourdes.Caballero@clarabridge.com) and reference SCSE1.

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Serco Inc. has an opening for Database Analyst III in Herndon, VA to design, develop, test, plan, implement, protect, operate, manage and maintain company's databases. Identify data sources and construct data decomposition diagrams. Telecommuting 100% of the time permitted. Serco Inc. US performs pre-employment drug tests and criminal background checks. Rate of Pay: \$109,947.97 per year to \$126,440.16 per year. Please apply at <https://www.serco.com/na/careers>. Please refer to Job #8058.129.

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Vista Applied Solutions Group, Inc., Herndon, VA based IT Svcs company has multiple positions: ETLDvlprs (#ETL921); JavaDvlprs (#JD922); SalesforceDvlprs (#SF923); & S/wDvlprs (#SD924). Positions require MS in CS or rtd. Full details of duties & rqmts available @ [www.vasginc.com](http://www.vasginc.com). Send resumes: [hr@vasginc.com](mailto:hr@vasginc.com) & ref Ad#.

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**Legal Notice**

Dish Wireless LLC DC proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at centerline heights of 111 feet and 105 feet on a 111-foot building with an overall building height of 127 feet at the approx. vicinity of 6200 Wilson Blvd, Falls Church, Fairfax County, VA, 22044. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Reed Rhoads, [rrhoads@trileaf.com](mailto:rrhoads@trileaf.com), 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

**Legal Notice**

The Bulgarian Educational and Cultural Center “Kliment Ohridski” admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made vailable to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies and other school administered programs.

(12-03-21)

**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the **Planning Commission** of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, will hold a work session on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room, located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon and a public hearing on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following item:

**SPECIAL EXCEPTION – SE #21-03, 1315 and 1317 Monroe Street**, a special exception to allow for development within the FPO, Floodplain Overlay district. The project proposal is to demolish the existing single family dwelling and construct a new single family dwelling on 1315 Monroe Street and to construct a new single family dwelling on the undeveloped lot at 1317 Monroe Street. The total area of both lots is approximately 1.06 acres. The property is zoned R-10, Single Family Residential district, and is designated in the Comprehensive Plan as “Neighborhood Conservation.” The property is located at the northwest corner of the Monroe Street and Grant Street intersection. Fairfax County Tax Map Numbers 0102 02 0001B and 0102 02 0001C. Agent: Anwar Maharmeh, P.E., MTES Engineering Services. Owners: Dina Abdel-Hamid and David Hawa.

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov) beginning December 3, 2021 after 3:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above item are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to [planning.commission@herndon-va.gov](mailto:planning.commission@herndon-va.gov).

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

Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

**Note to Publisher:**  
Publish November 26 and December 3, 2021

**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that EZ Transportation Services LLC, 7400 Colshire Drive, Apt. 6, McLean, Virginia 22102, has filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity that would authorize Passenger transportation as a Common Carrier over Irregular Routes, providing service 1. In the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park, Virginia, and the Counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren Virginia; 2. Statewide throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia for the transportation of Medicaid recipients as a non-emergency medical transportation carrier as defined in Section 46.2-2000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

Any person who desires to protest the application and be a party to the matter must submit a signed and dated written request setting forth (1) a precise statement of the party's interest and how the party could be aggrieved if the application was granted; (2) a full and clear statement of the facts that the person is prepared to provide by competent evidence; (3) a statement of the specific relief sought; (4) the name of the applicant and case number assigned to the application; and (5) a certification that a copy of the protest was sent to the applicant. The case number assigned to this application is MC2000405LH.

Written protests must be mailed to DMV Motor Carrier Services, Attn: Operating Authority, P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001 and must be postmarked on or before **December 17, 2021**.

Any protest filed with competent evidence will be carefully considered by DMV, however, DMV will have full discretion as to whether a hearing is warranted based on the merits of the protest filed.

**Legal Notice**

Required action to eliminate condition that constitutes a public safety menace: Removal of the tree.

Fairfax County Chapter 46 authorizes the removal of a public safety menace at the owners expense, after notifying the owner by certified mail and by a notice published once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation with the County when the owner fails to take the required action. The owner has a right to request a hearing. The request for a hearing shall be in writing to the Director of Health, Fairfax County Health Department, 10777 Main Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

Failure to contact the Director of Health by (date 28 days after first publication) or correct the Condition, the Health Department will order the condition eliminated and any costs or expenses that remain unpaid shall constitute a lien against the property.

**Legal Notice**

Notice is hereby given that the **Architectural Review Board** of the of the Town of Herndon will hold a work session on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon and a public hearing on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following items:

**APPLICATION FOR BUILDING ALTERATION, ARB #21-024**, to consider an application for the addition of an exterior door at 510 Spring Street, Suite 21, Herndon, Virginia, further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0162-02-0156J and located on the east side of the Spring Street and Van Buren Street intersection. The property is zoned as O & LI, Office and Light Industrial, and consists of 196,100 square feet of land. Owner: Nova Realty Holdings Inc. Applicant/Agent: Kayvan Mehrbakhsh.

**APPLICATION FOR BUILDING ALTERATION, ARB #21-025**, to consider an application for a modification to an existing structure located at 492 Elden Street, Herndon Virginia, further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0162-24-F and located approximately 850 feet northeast of the Elden Street and Grant Street intersection. This property is part of the Herndon Centre shopping center, is zoned as PD-B, Planned Development-Business, and consists of 227,836 square feet of land. Owner: Stuart II Project, LP, Stuart II/AJD Corp. Applicants/Agents: Roni Robbins & Ted Satterthwaite, A.J. Dwoskin & Associates.

**APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE, ARB #21-026**, to consider an application for an exterior wall sign located at 492 Elden Street, Herndon Virginia, further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0162-24-F and located approximately 850 feet northeast of the Elden Street and Grant Street intersection. This property is part of the Herndon Centre shopping center, is zoned as PD-B, Planned Development-Business, and consists of 227,836 square feet of land. Owner: Stuart II Project, LP, Stuart II/AJD Corp. Applicants/Agents: Roni Robbins & Ted Satterthwaite, A.J. Dwoskin & Associates.

**APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE, ARB #21-027**, to consider an application for an exterior wall sign located at 12950 Worldgate Drive, Herndon, Virginia, further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0163-02-0028B and located on the north side of Worldgate Drive, approximately 950 feet southeast of the Elden Street and Worldgate Drive intersection. This property is zoned as PD-W, Planned Development-Worldgate, and consists of 170,895 square feet of land. Owner: Jon Cummings, 38 WP2D1 Owner LLC. Applicant/Agent: Anthony Bashorun, Signorama.

The proposed items are available for review by the public on the town's website [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov) beginning November 24, 2021 after 3:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above items are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to [hdrb.arb@herndon-va.gov](mailto:hdrb.arb@herndon-va.gov).

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

Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

**Note to Publisher:**  
Publish November 26 and December 3, 2021

**Legal Notice**

[[Full name(s) of owner(s)]:  
Thai Pot Shabu LLC

**Trading as:**  
E Saan Thai and Sushi  
1106 Herndon Parkway  
Fairfax, Herndon, VA 20170-5577

The above establishment is applying to the **VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY** for a **Wine and Beer On Premises / Mixed beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.**

James Patrick Malone, President

**NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.**

3008983 (11-26-21, 12-03-21)

**Legal Notice**

[[Full name(s) of owner(s)]:  
Unique and Special Kids Spa LLC

**Trading as:**  
Unique and Special Kids Spa  
6911 Richmond Hwy Ste 405  
Fairfax, Alexandria, VA 22306-1803

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

Martia Clark, Member

**NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.**

3009007 (12-03-21, 12-10-21)

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