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Warner: Mid-Term Elections At Risk

Senator Expresses Worry
Trump Will Skew Results

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Virginia's U.S. Senator Mark Warner, appearing on CNN yesterday morning, stated that as the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the danger the Trump administration represents to U.S. elections, including this fall's critical mid-terms, is greater now than anything a hostile foreign power presents.

Warner's alarming comments came in response to the statement reiterated by President Trump that the Republican Party should "take over and run" national elections, despite the blatant unconstitutionality of the suggestion, as well as the unlawful FBI-led seizure of 2020 presidential election materials from an election center in Fulton County, Georgia last week.

Warner is slated to hold a telephone briefing for the Virginia press today.

In remarks made earlier this week, Warner remarked on "the alarming news that Director of National Intelligence Tulsi

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Camp Guide

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IN REFLECTIVE MODE



LED BY A FACILITATOR from the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Falls Church City Council and key members of the City staff participated in the five-hour "retreat" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Falls Church last Saturday to discuss a range of priorities for the City going forward. A number of Council members commented on the experience to the News-Press (see story, page 2), and a formal summary of the discussions is expected from the City Manager's office later this month. (Photo: News-Press)

F.C. Council, EDA Mull Virginia Village Affordable Housing

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

The Falls Church City Council's plans to adopt at its meeting this coming Monday a "memorandum of agreement" with the City's Economic Development Authority (EDA) on a way forward for the affordable housing plans at F.C.'s 4.5 acre Virginia Village development has been tempered by the EDA's decision this Tuesday to postpone its approval.

But an eventual approval will come soon, once aspects of the deal are worked through, both F.C. City Manager Wyatt Shields and EDA chair Russ Litkenhous noted at Tuesday's

EDA meeting held at City Hall.

In a statement to the News-Press yesterday, Litkenhous said, "There is still much public discussion to be had about the future of Virginia Village but the EDA remains committed to being good partners with the City to advance its affordable housing objectives."

With 159 out of 336 existing City-supported affordable housing units set to expire within five years, the City partnering with the EDA to transform the Virginia Village from its current 20 fourplex buildings on its downtown S. Maple St. According to comments made by Shields at the City Council

meeting last week, he would like to see the site become home to a new highrise residential affordably-priced apartment building.

It was noted by former F.C. Councilman Phil Duncan that the 4.5 acre site could easily hold hundreds of affordable units, being far larger than, for example, sites in Arlington currently being proposed where in excess of that number of affordable units are being advanced.

But such decisions remain down the road, subject to abundant public scrutiny and input. The City and EDA have, as of now, acquired 9 of the 20 fourplexes at the Virginia Village

site.

At a nearby location, between 2008 and 2010, the then-Falls Church Housing Corporation, led by Carol Jackson and with critical support from former EDA chair and developer, the late Bob Young, advanced plans for a modest 66-unit senior housing building, known as "The Wilden," but while it won initial City Council approval, significant local opposition produced a negative 4-3 Council vote in the summer of 2010 that led to the effort being scuttled.

In City Council developments from its work session this Monday:

Continued on Page 4

FALLS CHURCH News Briefs

Grocery Outlet to Open Feb. 12 With Gift Cards to 1st Customers

The Grocery Outlet Bargain Market will open its doors at 500 S. Washington Street, the site of the former Target, to the public at 7 a.m. next Thursday, Feb. 12, with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. A pre-opening for local leaders will be held next Wednesday afternoon.

For the opening, it will offer the public gift cards worth varying amounts to the first 100 customers, with the top prize at \$500. For the first month after the store’s grand opening, customers can also enter a sweepstake to win \$1,000 in free groceries, the company announced.

The Falls Church location will be Grocery Outlet’s first in Virginia. Unlike some other discount chains, Grocery Outlet carries name-brand goods. It offers lower prices because its inventory is primarily overstock or closeout items.

“Grocery Outlet is proud to be able to offer community members products at prices 40 to 70 percent below those of conventional retailers,” the company said.

F.C. Council Members Comment On Last Weekend's Retreat

The Falls Church City Council’s annual retreat last Saturday ran the full duration from 9 a.m. to over 2 p.m. and even at that, not all the topics on its agenda were fully discussed, participants told the News-Press.

Mayor Letty Hardi stated, “As with all of our past City Council retreats, this year’s was helpful for us to align on our collective priorities - housing, transportation, and economic development remain the top priorities so no large departures from the past 10 years. For me personally, cultural shifts in making government work better are just as important as the policies: a focus on outcomes, a responsive and accessible government, and a test and learn mindset.”

“I’m excited for the coming two years. Especially in these times, we have a huge opportunity to show that local governments can still work and deliver great results,” she added.

Council member Justine Underhill added, “The retreat reinforced how important it is for Council to stay focused on what kind of city we’re trying to build, and how decisions we make today shape daily life years from now. We reaffirmed many of the priorities we’ve set in previous years, while also recognizing the reality that there is far more we want to accomplish than our limited resources allow-- and that not every worthwhile project can move forward at the same time.”

She went on, “For me, the key takeaway was that follow-through matters just as much as vision. I was encouraged by how we worked to translate our shared priorities into a realistic set of goals and specific projects, with close attention to staff capacity-- especially when it comes to safety, walkability, and overall quality of life.”

Councilman David Snyder’s comment was, “I hope that some lessons were learned both from what unnecessarily divided the community—T Zones, and from what was based on compromise and community consensus—accessory dwelling units. There was widespread concern with traffic safety and the need to do more and more quickly as well as support for increased state and regional transit funding. Differences remain on many other issues.”I hope that some lessons were learned both from what unnecessarily divided the community—T Zones, and from what was based on compromise and community consensus—accessory dwelling units. There was widespread concern with traffic safety and the need to do more and more quickly as well as support for increased state and regional transit funding. While there was general agreement on priority areas, how best to address them in the context of economic conditions will take much more work.”

Councilman Marybeth Connelly added, “Doing the right thing isn’t easy, but it is always worth it. The Council and staff wrestled with big topics (affordable housing, transportation, environmental sustainability) that will take a lot of work and collaboration to solve.

“I am always impressed with the strengths and expertise of my colleagues on Council and staff. We never agree on everything, but we are willing to approach the big topics with positive intention, and are ready to work together for the good of the City.”

Beyer Assails Bezos’ ‘Slow Killing’ Washington Post

Falls Church’s U.S. Rep. Don Beyer yesterday issued the following statement after the announcement of mass layoffs at the Washington Post, which reportedly included the elimination of substantial portions of the newspaper’s desks covering local and regional news, international news, sports, and the arts, eliminating one third of the Post’s newsroom:

“I love the Washington Post. I have been a subscriber for many years, reading it cover to cover for much of that time. The Post’s coverage has enriched my life, and its reporting has been indispensable to my work as an elected leader and policymaker more times than I can count. I think I speak for many in our region when I say it is heartbreaking to watch Jeff Bezos run the Washington Post into the ground.

“Two new media trends have reshaped national American journalism over the past year. One is the relentless geyser of news driven by an authoritarian president and his administration, which expands consumption of political reporting but also shapes coverage of the economy, global affairs, health, technology, environment, local communities, and so much more. Competitors of the Post, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, have been successful in this environment.

“But this trend has been accompanied by another: a trend of media companies and other key institutions of civil society responding to Donald Trump’s efforts to bully and intimidate them by knuckling under, sucking up, and appeasing him. Over the past year we’ve seen media outlets try to protect the business interests and personal wealth of their billionaire owners by weakening or censoring journalism critical of Trump or his allies. This pervasive cowardice is deeply harmful to our country, and Jeff Bezos has been one of its chief practitioners.

“I don’t know whether investing tens of millions of dollars in a puff piece documentary about the First Lady is a savvy business move, but I know that Bezos’ well publicized meddling in and censorship of the Post’s editorial pages cost the paper hundreds of thousands of subscriptions. I strongly suspect that his decision to gut the Post’s staff rather than investing a tiny fraction of his vast personal wealth into growing it will deepen its financial problems, not improve them. Many readers who lose coverage of local issues and sports teams - the reason many subscribed to begin with – will respond by cancelling their subscriptions.

“The Washington Post is deeply important to our region. Instead of hiding in silence while he slowly kills one of the best newspapers in the country, Jeff Bezos should show the Post’s readers and employees basic respect by taking honest responsibility for his actions. Mr. Bezos has the wealth and resources to make the Post better than it is, but if he is unwilling to invest in his own newsroom or afraid of the risk associated with vibrant, critical journalism, I urge him to consider selling the Washington Post to someone who will be a better steward of this beloved and essential institution.

“My heart goes out to those who are losing their jobs today, along with my thanks for helping keep my constituents informed about their community. Your work has not been in vain.”

(Beyer strongly criticized Jeff Bezos’ overhaul of the Washington Post opinion section to espouse libertarian values last year).



AT MONDAY’S Falls Church City Council’s work session Monday, there to discuss modifications to the City’s Comprehensive Plan were (l. to r.) Environmental Planner Kurt Lawrence, Arborist Charles Prince, Planner Cameron Gahres, and Urban Forestry commissioners Sean O’Brien and Kathleen Norman. (Photo: News-Press)

Sen. Warner Sounds Alarm on Interference in Mid-Term Elections

Continued from Page 1

Gabbard facilitated direct contact between President Trump and FBI agents involved in a politically convenient federal investigation, as well as the president’s recent public calls for Republicans to ‘take over’ and ‘nationalize’ elections.”

According to Warner, “The strength of our democracy depends upon clear lines between politics and law enforcement, between intelligence and criminal investigations, and most importantly between the White House and the ballot box. What happened in Georgia last week erased those lines, they are simply unacceptable. And this is even a more heightened concern after the president’s comments last night. And let me be clear about why this matters.

“Regardless of what has been stated, this is not about the 2020 election. That election has been litigated, audited, recounted, and repeatedly upheld by courts and election officials, including lots and lots of Republican election officials. This is frankly

about what comes next.

“It is deeply alarming that the president has called for Republicans, his words, to take over and nationalize voting in multiple states. That statement alone makes clear that this threat to our election security, the basic premise of our democracy, is forward-looking to 2026, into 2028 and candidly to the institutions that safeguard our democracy.

“This is about whether these same tactics we’re seeing now, or worse, will be used to disrupt free-and-fair elections. One of the reasons why as we think about ICE reform, the notion of roving ICE patrols parading around election polling stations is a very real and legitimate concern.

“And truthfully, as we’ve seen, it is about whether the very institutions meant to protect our democracy will be misused to upheaval. So, let’s be clear. It is inappropriate for a sitting president to personally involve himself in a criminal investigation tied to an election he lost. It is inappropriate for

the president to advocate for actions that are wholly at odds with the Constitution and two and a half centuries of state and local elections.

“It is inappropriate for the director of national intelligence to insert herself into a domestic law enforcement operation far outside her statutory role. And it is profoundly inappropriate for either of them to blur the lines between intelligence, law enforcement, and partisan politics. But that is exactly what happened last week in Fulton County.”

“As vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I want to underscore a core legal boundary. US intelligence agencies are structured to operate overseas, not on domestic soil. The National Security Act and other laws exist precisely to prevent election officials or intelligence officials from surveilling or intervening in domestic political matters. I am old enough to remember that a lot of this came about because of actions of the Nixon administration back in the 60s. Those

actions that literally resulted in the creation of the oversight committee that I now sat as chair and now vice chair. We know when intelligence personnel are inserted into domestic criminal investigations, especially one launched under such a thin veil of legitimacy, it raises serious legal and constitutional questions and politicizes an institution that must remain neutral and apolitical.

“The director of national intelligence does not conduct criminal investigations. She has no role in executing search warrants. And she does not belong on the scene of a domestic FBI search, particularly one tied to the president’s personal grievances carried out under the pretense of normal law enforcement.”

“Now, Director Gabbard argued that her presence was just justified by broad statutory authority. But broad authority to analyze intelligence is not a license to participate in a sham investigation. And it certainly does not justify facilitating direct contact between the front-

line FBI agents doing this investigation directly to the president of the United States. That phone call alone should concern every American because it didn’t occur in a vacuum.”

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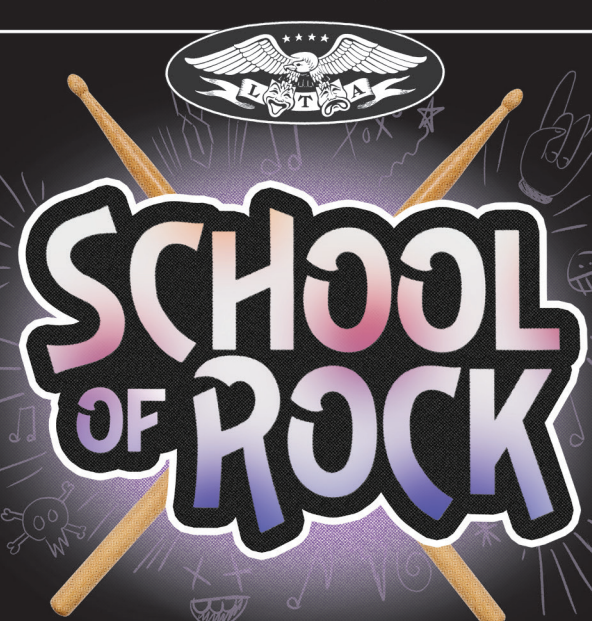
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Virginia Village Plan for
Affordable Housing Awaits
Council-EDA Pact

Continued from Page 1

It was announced that a second meeting between City officials, the EDA and restaurant owners will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Viget, 105 W. Broad.

Plans for an east-west pedestrian and bicycle connection between the W&OD trail and the City's secondary school campus, aimed at safe student travel to the Henderson Middle School and Meridian High School, is now estimated to be upwards of \$2 million, depending on which one of three prospective routes is chosen.

Plans for the "Greening of Lincoln" project aimed at resolving storm water issues as well as roadway and sidewalk improvements now faces a jump from an original \$500,000 estimate for its first phase to \$3.7 million.

Both projects will be funded with a lot of outside money, however. Some \$1.5 million of the east-west trail project will be paid for out of Northern Virginia Transportation Association "30 Percent" funds, and the first phase of the Lincoln Avenue project will be paid for by federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from 2021.

On the latter project, the Council is being impelled to move quickly to contract the Sagras Company to move ahead due to the fact that the ARPA funds, totalling \$4 million, must by law be deployed by the end of this year, or be lost. It will take the matter up formally for a vote at this coming Monday's business meeting.

This phase includes the installation of new underground stormwater pipes in the area of Lincoln Park at Great Falls.

Amanda Stout Brain, the City's Public Works Director, said that due to the increased cost, the ARPA money will not be available for other stormwater components including at the American Legion Hall and at Walden Court at Lincoln, another \$9 million in Virginia state so-called Stormwater Local Assistance funds (SLAF) obtained for the City by former State Sen. Dick Saslaw will be deployed in later phases of the project, but will still not be enough to complete it in its entirety without additional resources.

On the east-west trail project, Stout

Brain presented three options for its route, with a final choice predicated on responses from area homeowner associations, including those representing the Gates of Falls Church, Falls Plaza and residents of Offett Street, members of whom have to date voiced ranges of concern including privacy, liability, loss of trees and litter.

While the City has retained Rinker Design Associates, the Falls Plaza Condo Association has so far not granted permission for the City to access their property, she reported.

Costs of that project are projected at \$283,525 for engineering and design, \$284,447 for right of way, and \$1,391,748 for construction.

On another subject taken up at Monday's lengthy work session, City residents may find themselves facing another one-year pilot project for scooters and electronic bicycles (called "shared mobility devices") as early as the end of next month.

Right now, the City's Environmental Planner Kurt Lawrence told the Council, the 2.2 square miles of the City is formally off limits to scooter providers that operate throughout the rest of the Northern Virginia region, because it is the only jurisdiction that does not have a formal policy permitting their use, and as such is the only "no ride zone" in the region.

Scooter users, if they come into the City limits from Fairfax or Arlington counties, are notified on their devices that they must leave right away.

Lawrence proposed that the City adopt a one-year pilot program as a way of moving toward a formal policy to allow scooter and e-bike uses, and that it could start by the end of March.

He said the City would offer the pilot to one of the four provider companies in the area to permit up to 100 rider units with a permit fee of \$5,000 and a cash bond of \$2,500. A lot of advances have been made in the technology since the City last tried a pilot in 2019 that kind of fell by the wayside with the onset of the Covid pandemic.

Mayor Letty Hardi said she is "optimistic" the project will work, as was Councilmember Justine Underhill, who announced that she has her own e-bike she loves to ride around town.

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The Post & Kennedy Center ‘Die in Daylight’

NICHOLAS F. BENTON

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Comes the terrible news this week that many saw coming weeks ago if not longer: Washington Post billionaire owner Jeff Bezos has moved to decimate that once-great newspaper, firing a third of the staff and effectively jettisoning its local, regional and international news coverage, not to mention its sports coverage and book reviews.

The Post’s demise since Bezos’ acquisition was sealed in November 2024 when Bezos ordered its editors to kill an editorial endorsing Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris. The egregious move led to countless subscription cancellations from rightfully angry readers such that the few left have had to pay over \$800 a year for its home delivery.

Still, the latest news is shocking and demoralizing. It follows right after news of the death of another treasured Washington, D.C. institution, the Kennedy Center.

Again, it was the stunning vandalism perpetrated by President Trump more directly, in this case, when the exterior of the great memorial to President Kennedy was defaced with Trump’s name, and long-time lovers of the musical and theatrical offerings there were compelled to protest with their feet. The huge loss of revenue that resulted has now caused Trump, in a peak of anger, to shut the place down completely (for renovations, he contends).

Credit Trump with both acts of wanton civic destruction. He pressed the spineless Bezos into demolishing The Post, which began when Bezos hired British rightwinger Will Lewis as its publisher.

“As a business decision, the hire made no sense. Lewis was a disgraced Brit with no experience in American media and no track record of success in digital publishing. He was a reliable hack, though: He would do whatever he was told and clearly he had been told to make the paper friendlier to Donald Trump, no matter the cost,” as The Bulwark’s Jonathan Last put it. Yesterday, Last came up with the apt headline, “The Washington Post Dies in Daylight.”

Sadly, it was a reference to The Post’s popular slogan, “Democracy

Dies in Darkness,” which, ironically, former Post editor Marty Baron said in his memoir that Bezos had a personal hand in crafting in his early days there.

Yesterday, Baron posted online that Bezos now is unrecognizable from when he first took over the paper. Back in the day, “Bezos,” Baron wrote, “often declared that The Post’s success would be among the proudest achievements of his life. I wish I detected the same spirit today. There is no sign of it,” he wrote.

“Yes,” Baron wrote, The Post has “acute business problems.” But those challenges “were made infinitely worse by ill-conceived decisions that came from the very top.” Subscribers “were driven away, by the hundreds of thousands,” Baron added, citing the axed endorsement, “Bezos’s sickening efforts to curry favor” with Trump, and other factors.

Former Post fact-checker Glenn Kessler wrote in a recent column, “Bezos is not trying to save The Post. Trimming the Post’s sails sends a message to an audience of one.”

Congressman Don Beyer, who lives in The Post’s distribution area in Northern Virginia, wrote, “I think I speak for many in our region when I say it is heartbreaking to watch Jeff Bezos run the Washington Post into the ground.”

But, on the upside, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote this week, “One of the biggest political lessons I learned covering the Middle East for four-plus decades is that there is only one good thing about extremists: They don’t know when to stop. As a result, they eventually go too far and drive themselves over a cliff.”

Friedman added, “I think many Americans are growing both exhausted and frightened by Trump’s scorched-earth, hyperpartisan, fire-ready-aim approach to the presidency, in which he’s been treating Democrats not as political opponents but as “traitors,” wiping out Democrats from previously bipartisan boards, slapping his name on the Kennedy Center ahead of JFK’s and lately even accusing President Barack Obama of “treason” — to name just a few of his inflammatory, divisive actions.

“I think a lot of Americans are tired of being pitted against their neighbors and hunger to be brought together for a common purpose; they want common-sense solutions and to preserve our most cherished public institutions.”

COMMENT



A Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Gross
Former Fairfax County Supervisor

You don’t have to be a constitutional scholar to recognize the stunning hypocrisy of the Trump Administration regarding the Second Amendment last week. Mr. Trump took umbrage at the notion that Alex Pretti, the Minnesota ICU nurse killed by ICE agents last week, was legally carrying a gun at the community protest. Pretti had a permit to carry a concealed weapon and, according to witnesses and video views of the incident, never brandished or even touched the weapon before he was shot. Following Trump’s comments, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent doubled down and said he, himself, would never take a gun to a protest. A sign, perhaps, but never a gun. Quite frankly, I have trouble even imagining Mr. Bessent attending any kind of protest. Such activity might muss up his hair or Savile Row suit!

And yet, Trump apparently saw nothing wrong when thousands of rioters, brandishing guns, flagpoles, bear spray, and other weapons, attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential

election in Trump’s favor. Evidently the Second Amendment -- the right of the people to keep and bear arms -- should be honored when Trump agrees, but dishonored when he does not. It’s no wonder that the National Rifle Association and other gun advocates went ballistic (pun intended). That’s not the way the Constitution works – the president doesn’t get to decide when constitutional safeguards apply and when they don’t. Either the Constitution protects all of us, or it protects none of us.

Within a day or two of the Second Amendment impasse, the First Amendment-- the one that protects freedom of religion, freedom of speech, of the press, and of the right of people peaceably to assemble – came under attack by Attorney General Pam Bondi, who ordered the arrest of Black journalist Don Lemon for covering a non-violent protest during a Minneapolis church service. Bondi’s net included three other journalists of color although it is unclear why the four were targets, other than their persistent criti-

cism of the Trump Administration. Citing the FACE Act (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act), which was enacted in 1994 to protect access to all health care facilities, not just reproductive health care, a secondary provision protects the lawful exercise of First Amendment rights of religious freedom at a place of religious worship. Lemon said that he and his producer were “chronicling” the protest and livestreaming it, not participating in it. A previous attempt to press charges against Lemon by the Department of Justice was rejected by a magistrate judge.

It is doubtful that the Founding Fathers ever imagined the weaponizing of the First Amendment, pitting the basic freedoms of speech, religion, and the press against one another. But perhaps that’s one of the beauties of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, with its ten amendments. It’s no accident that the First Amendment addresses basic freedoms, the building blocks, the foundation, of our democracy. The First Amendment is not a tool to be used against free speech, religion, and the press in America. It is a defense against those in power who would abuse the inalienable rights that many Americans have fought for, and died for, in overseas wars and on Minnesota streets.

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CRIME REPORT

Week of
Jan 26 - Feb 1, 2026

Fraud – False Pretenses, Midvale St, Jan 27, 3:10 p.m., victim reported sending money to a suspect claiming to be a law enforcement officer with a warrant for their arrest.

Driving Under the Influence, S Washington St, Jan 31, 4:45 p.m., a female, 57, of Olney, MD, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence and Refusal to Submit Breath Test.

Shoplifting, Hillwood Ave, Jan 31, 5:58 p.m., three unknown suspects stole merchandise. The first suspect is described as a Hispanic male, wearing a black and gray jacket, blue jeans, white sneakers, with a black backpack. The second suspect is described as a Hispanic male, wearing a black jacket, black boots, and gray pants. The third suspect is described as a Black male, wearing a black jacket, black pants, brown boots, and a white hat.

Larceny/Fraud – Credit Card, E Broad St, Jan 31, 7:22 p.m., victim reported their wallet was stolen, and fraudulent transactions were charged to their credit card.

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EDITORIAL

Gabbard, Trump
& Moscow

Today, the world stands speechless and with mouths agape at the latest news of the veritable demise, or next stage of “slow killing,” as U.S. Rep. Don Beyer put it, of one of America’s great institutions, The Washington Post.

It happens at the same time that Virginia U.S. Senator Mark Warner is going all over the media to sound the alarm, as the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, that this year’s midterm elections are in grave peril.

In Warner’s case, his concerns are taken from news coverage of Trump’s brazen call to “nationalize” elections under Republican control and his deployment of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard to Fulton County, Georgia to oversee the FBI’s illegal confiscation of voter records from the 2020 presidential campaign.

Warner is as concerned with the role of Gabbard as anything else in this week’s bizarre set of developments. There is news of a whistle blower report on Gabbard that is being held away from the public as extremely “classified” because of its sensitive nature.

But we recall that during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, when Hillary Clinton ran against Trump and lost, that Clinton warned then that Gabbard, who was considering running for president herself at the time, was a Russian asset.

Now, everything that Clinton said about Trump’s ties to Russia, and what was included in the Mueller Report at the time about those ties, has turned out to be true, even if Trump and his allies have succeeded in burying them under mounds of obfuscation, denial and pressures against the media.

Still, the story won’t go away about Trump’s visit to Moscow in 1987 and the reports that he was recruited then to be an asset of Moscow. Journalist Luke Hardin reported in his 2017 book, Collusion: How Russia Helped Trump Win the White House, that the (then) Soviet Union, specifically the KGB, began cultivating and identifying Trump as a potential asset as early as 1987. Craig Unger, in his book American Kompromat, makes the same claim, and at the time, the Executive Intelligence Review, a U.S. magazine with a Moscow tilt, first reported it in 1987.

According to Hardin, in 1987, the KGB-controlled travel agency Intourist arranged Trump’s visit to Moscow, where Soviet officials wine and dine Trump to explore hotel deals, a typical tactic used by the KGB to “work” foreign targets.

Harding noted that the KGB’s recruitment strategy under Vladimir Kryuchkov sought Americans with traits such as vanity, narcissism, and a lack of scruples. He then noted that immediately following the trip, Trump took out full-page newspaper advertisements in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe criticizing U.S. foreign policy and NATO, talking points that aligned with Soviet interests.

Former KGB sources such as Yuri Shvets and Alnur Mussayev, have further alleged that Trump was formally recruited in 1987 under the codename “Krasnov.”

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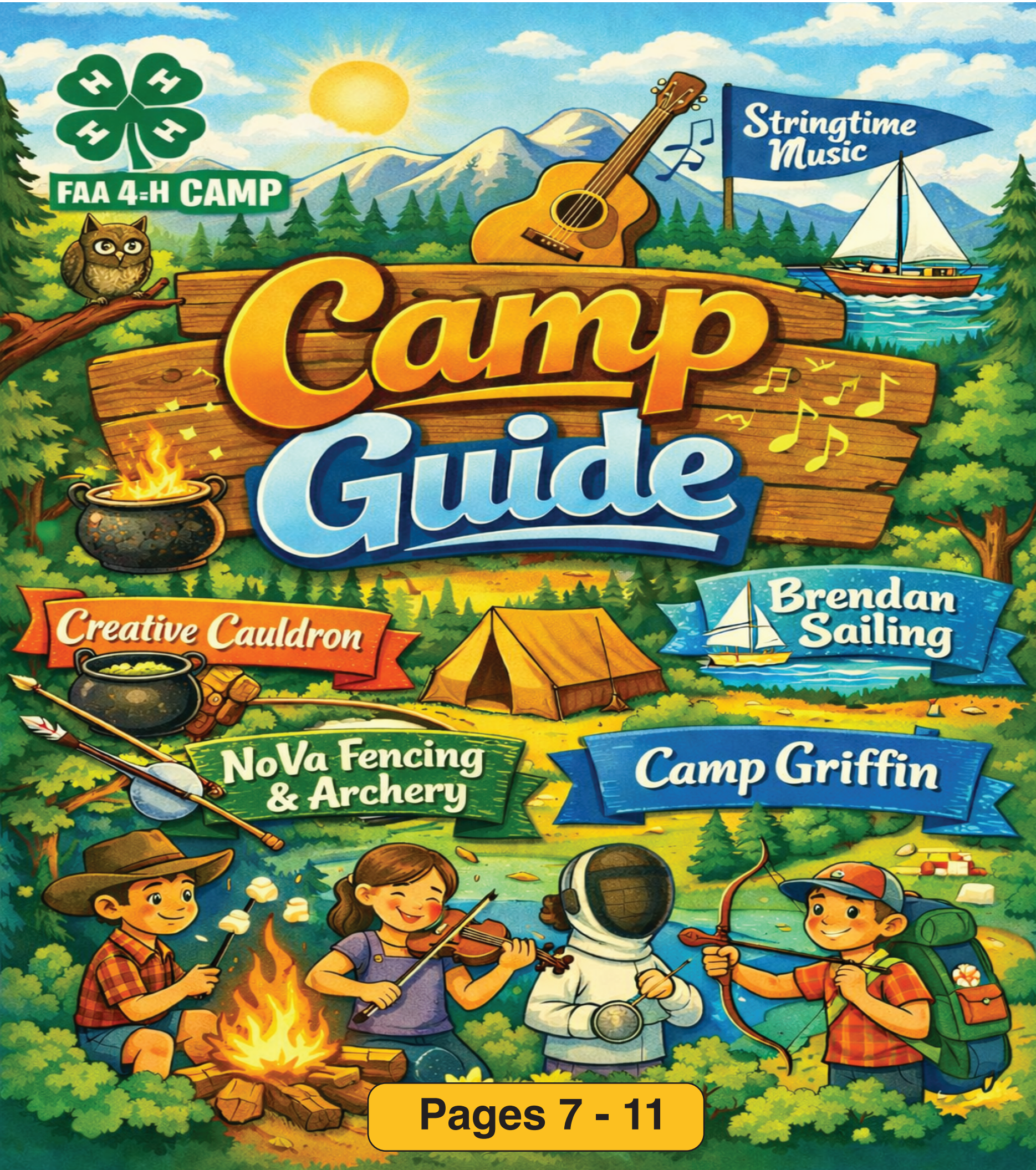
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Where Falls Church Kids Find Their Summer Groove

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

It starts innocently: “We should look at camps.” Ten minutes later you’ve got 14 tabs open, three wait-lists, and a growing suspicion that summer break is actually a full-time administrative job. Here’s the good news: Falls Church families have options and not just the same old stuff. These camps hit different lanes: 4-H, music, sailing, theater, fencing, archery, and a solid all-summer anchor.

First up: FAA 4-H Camp, the classic summer reset button. This is the kind of camp where kids get a little sun, a little dirt, and a lot of confidence without needing a screen or a fancy pitch. It’s teamwork, cabin friendships, camp traditions, and the kind of independence that shows up when your kid suddenly starts packing their own bag like it’s no big deal. FAA’s setup is also very parent-friendly: there’s an orientation listed in early June, and families handle transportation to camp and pickup at the end of the week. Translation: it’s structured, it’s real, and it’s the kind of camp that makes kids feel older in

the best way.

If your child is even slightly music-curious, or you’ve been hearing a lot of “I want to learn violin!” followed by immediate abandonment of the idea, StringTime Music is a low-pressure doorway into the world of strings. This is not a “you must already be amazing” situation. It’s the opposite: try it, play it, see what happens. Beginners are welcome, and by the end of the week kids have something to show for it, usually a performance that’s equal parts adorable and legitimately impressive. It’s a great fit for families who want their child to learn something new without committing to a full year of lessons before they’ve even touched the instrument.

Now for something genuinely special: Brendan Sailing. If you’ve got a kid with learning differences, especially a kid who sometimes gets overlooked or boxed into the wrong kind of structure, this program is built for them. Brendan Sailing focuses on tailored instruction and confidence-building through sailing, and the magic is in how personal it is. Sailing isn’t easy. It’s wind, balance,

coordination, and decision-making all happening at once. But that’s why it works. When kids master it, even just a little, you can see the posture change. It’s not just “camp was fun.” It’s “I can do this.”

On the complete other end of the spectrum, in the best way, is Creative Cauldron, which is basically Falls Church’s answer to “my kid needs to create something.” These camps mix theater, music, movement, and art, usually built around a theme, and they wrap with a final performance and art show. That’s the sweet spot for a lot of kids: not just games and activities, but a project, a team, a build-up, and then the big moment. If your child loves costumes, characters, storytelling, or just thrives when they can be expressive and loud, or quietly brilliant in the corner designing something, Creative Cauldron is a summer win.

If your child is more action and precision, let’s talk NoVa Fencing & Archery. First: yes, this is as cool as it sounds. Second: it’s not just for kids who already know what a foil is. Beginners are welcome, equipment is provided, and it’s structured so

kids learn real skills while still getting the camp energy of games, challenges, and friendly competitions. The week-ending tournament is the kind of thing kids will replay in their heads like a movie scene, especially if they get a dramatic comeback win. It’s focused, it’s physical, and it has that rare combo of discipline and fun that parents love because it wears kids out and teaches them something.

And if you’re looking for the dependable, all-summer anchor, something that covers a wide range of ages and runs like a well-oiled machine, Westminster School’s Camp Griffin is that option. It stretches across most of the summer, uses age-based groups so your rising 1st grader isn’t stuck doing the same thing as your rising 8th grader, and it’s built for families who want flexibility. Camp Griffin is the kind of place that becomes part of a family’s summer rhythm: same place, same people, different weekly adventures, and a lot fewer “what are we doing this week?” moments.

Here’s the real takeaway: these camps aren’t competing for the same

kid. They’re different lanes: outdoor growth, creative performance, music discovery, adaptive skill-building, and sporty precision. That’s not to say your kid can’t fit into more than one. Most kids do. Summer’s long, interests overlap, and growth doesn’t happen in just one lane. The trick is matching the camp to your child’s favorite kind of challenge at this moment.

If you want your kid to come home dirt-covered and confident: FAA 4-H.

If you want a beginner-friendly “try music” week that actually sticks: StringTime.

If your child thrives with individualized support and big confidence gains: Brendan Sailing.

If your house is currently full of drama, songs, and storytelling: Creative Cauldron.

If your child wants a sport that feels like a movie: NoVa Fencing & Archery.

If you need a reliable summer backbone with options: Camp Griffin.

And yes, your “we’ll figure it out later” week is coming fast.



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When It's Time to Recruit And When It's Time to Be Real

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Every spring and summer, families across Northern Virginia and the broader DMV hear the same pitch: If your kid wants to play in college, you need the right travel team, the right camps, the right showcases, now. Add in constant NIL headlines and social media highlight reels, and it becomes easy to believe scholarships and money are everywhere.

They are not. Recruiting is real. Opportunity is real. But so is another reality: youth sports has become a profit-driven industry that can drain families financially while selling expectations that do not match the math.

The money side of youth sports is no longer minor.

According to the Aspen Institute's Project Play parent survey, the average sports family spent \$1,016 on a child's primary sport in 2024. That represents a 46 percent increase since 2019, rising roughly twice as fast as inflation during that same period.

That figure is only the average. Once travel schedules, hotel weekends, private training, equipment, and showcase fees are added, many families spend several thousand dollars per year. For some elite club

programs, annual costs can climb well into the five figures.

This is how families get pulled into the sports rat race. Not because they are careless, but because the system is built to make every additional expense feel necessary.

When does recruiting actually start?

Despite the hype, recruiting generally starts later than many parents expect.

Freshman year should focus on development. That includes skill-building, strength, academics, and learning how to compete at the high school level.

Sophomore year is when targeted camps and showcases may make sense, but only if the athlete is ready to compete and stand out.

Junior year is often the most important recruiting year, when evaluations, communication, and offers are most common.

Senior year still presents opportunities, particularly at the Division III, NAIA, and junior college levels.

The families who navigate this best are not the ones doing the most. They are the ones doing the right things at the right time.

The odds of playing in college are smaller than many think.

According to NCAA estimates, only a small percentage of high school athletes go on to compete at the NCAA level. In many major sports, the number ranges from roughly 3 to 8 percent, depending on the sport.

Scholarships are even rarer. The NCAA recruiting fact sheet states plainly that only about 2 percent of high school athletes receive athletics scholarships.

Those numbers are not meant to discourage capable athletes. They are meant to ground families in reality, because chasing long odds can carry real financial and emotional costs.

Who should first-time families listen to?

For families new to recruiting, honest guidance matters more than hype.

Travel or club coaches often play a major role because they operate on the same circuits as college coaches and understand where athletes realistically fit.

High school coaches remain important for development, mentorship, and recommendations, even if college coaches scout fewer high school games than they once did.

Athletes themselves must also learn to advocate. College coaches

want communication from the player, not just parents. A clear email, a short highlight video, and genuine interest go a long way.

NIL remains the most misunderstood part of the process.Name, Image, and Likeness has changed college athletics, but it has not turned college sports into a paycheck for everyone.

Data from NIL platforms consistently shows that the majority of NIL money flows to football and men's basketball at the highest levels. Other sports share a much smaller slice, and many athletes receive modest deals or none at all.

Here is the uncomfortable truth families need to hear: if a child is not among the best players on their own team or trending toward the top tier in their region, NIL should not be part of the plan. That is not a judgment on effort. NIL rewards elite performance and market demand, not participation.

High school sports has changed too.

Lost in the recruiting conversation is another reality. High school sports itself has changed.

In many communities, high school athletics used to be the center of local sports culture. Today, travel

teams, club seasons, and year-round schedules have shifted attention away from school teams and toward private circuits.

That is a loss, because high school sports is not supposed to exist only as a recruiting pipeline.

For most kids, high school sports is about community. It is about wearing school colors, playing with friends you grew up with, seeing familiar faces in the stands, and building memories that last long after the final whistle.

Those seasons matter. You do not get them back.

Keeping it affordable, realistic, and meaningful.

For many families, the healthiest approach is also the most sustainable. Stay within your means. Choose camps strategically. Focus on development over exposure.

The DMV is rich with opportunity. Colleges across Virginia and Maryland host summer camps and prospect events that allow athletes to learn, compete, and be evaluated without spending a fortune or living out of hotels.

Families can give their kids a summer to remember without mortgaging their future or setting expectations built on social media myths.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2025 DSM UPDATE PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 5 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00210

AND

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL
OF ITS VIRTUAL POWER PLANT PILOT PROGRAM UNDER § 56-585.1:16 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00211

On December 1, 2025, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion” or “Company”) made a filing pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 5 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”); the State Corporation Commission’s (“Commission”) Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities; the Commission’s Rules Governing Utility Promotional Allowances; the Commission’s Rules Governing Cost/Benefit Measures Required for Demand-Side Management Programs; the Commission’s Rules Governing the Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification of the Effects of Utility-Sponsored Demand-Side Management Programs; and the directive contained in Ordering Paragraph (5) of the Commission’s August 13, 2025 Final Order in Case No. PUR-2024-00222 (“2024 DSM Order”). Specifically, Dominion filed with the Commission an application requesting: (1) approval to implement demand-side management programs (individually, “DSM Program” or “Program” and collectively with other DSM Programs, the “DSM Portfolio”) as “Phase XIV,” which includes new DSM Programs to supplement the overall DSM Portfolio (“Phase XIV programs”); (2) extension of the Company’s DSM Phase XI Residential Income and Age Qualifying (“IAQ”) Bundle Program and Non-residential IAQ Bundle Program for three years; and (3) approval of an annual update to continue the rate adjustment clauses designated Riders C1A and C4A (collectively, the “DSM Application”).

Additionally, on December 1, 2025, Dominion made a filing pursuant to Code § 56-585.1:16 and 5 VAC 5-20-80 A of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”), 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*, for approval of the Company’s Virtual Power Plant Pilot program (“VPP Pilot” or “Pilot”) and proposed tariff (“VPP Application”). Dominion represents that it filed its VPP Application in response to the recent passage of the Community Energy Act, Code § 56-585.1:16, which requires the Company to submit a pilot program to the Commission to evaluate methods to optimize system demand through various technology applications and distributed energy resources, including the establishment of virtual power plants. Dominion states that at a high level, the VPP Pilot proposes to aggregate demand response (“DR”) and DSM programs for eligible customers through a distributed energy resource management system. The specific programs within the Pilot are noted with “VPP” in the list of DSM programs that the Company has requested approval to implement in its DSM Application. Further, if approved, the Company expects to launch the VPP Pilot in the first quarter of 2027, and for it to last through mid-2028.

On December 1, 2025, the Company also filed a Motion to Consolidate the DSM Application and VPP Application proceedings for procedural and hearing purposes only (“Consolidation Motion”). Dominion states that several of the DSM Phase XIV programs are also a part of the proposed VPP Pilot program, and the Company is seeking approval and cost recovery of those underlying programs in the DSM Application proceeding, through the DSM riders.

In its DSM Application, the Company requests approval to implement the following DSM Programs as the Company’s Phase XIV programs, which include energy efficiency (“EE”) and DR DSM Programs, as these terms are defined by Code § 56-576:

- DSM Phase XI Residential Income and Age Qualifying Program Bundle extension (EE)
- DSM Phase XI Non-residential Income and Age Qualifying Program Bundle extension (EE)
- Residential Home Energy Services (EE)
- Non-residential Energy Services (EE)
- Residential Battery Storage Pilot (DR/VPP)
- Residential Electric Vehicle Managed Charging Pilot (DR/VPP)
- Residential Electric Vehicle Managed Charging Pilot TOU (DR/VPP)
- Residential Income and Age Qualifying Battery Storage Pilot (DR/VPP)
- Residential Income and Age Qualifying Battery Storage Purchase Pilot (DR/VPP)
- Non-residential HVAC for Small and Medium Sized Business Customers (DR/VPP)
- Bring your own device (BYOD) Aggregator Access Pilot (DR/VPP)
 - a. Residential Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Aggregator Access
 - b. Commercial Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Aggregator Access
 - c. Industrial Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Aggregator Access
 - d. Vendor Managed Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Aggregator Access

Dominion requests authorization to operate the non-pilot Phase XIV DSM Programs without predetermined closure dates.

Dominion proposes an aggregate total cost cap for the Phase XIV programs in the amount of approximately \$220.6 million. Additionally, the Company requests the ability to exceed the spending cap by no more than 15%.

The Company asserts that the total amount of spending proposed in the DSM Application on EE programs, when combined with the Company’s prior requests for EE spending since the passage of the 2018 Grid Transformation and Security Act (“GTSA”), consists of approximately \$1.091 billion compared to the required \$870 million, excluding any amount of projected lost revenues. Further, the Company asserts that the total amount of spending proposed in the DSM Application on EE programs targeting low-income individuals, when combined with the Company’s prior requests for EE spending since the passage of the GTSA and the Virginia Clean Economy Act, consists of approximately \$163.8 million of the proposed \$1.091 billion, excluding any amount of projected lost revenues.

The Company requests, through revised Riders C1A and C4A, recovery of projected costs for September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027 (“2026 Rate Year”), associated with the Phases II through XIV programs.

The two key components of the proposed Riders C1A and C4A are the Projected Revenue Requirement, which incorporates operating expenses for all programs and capital costs (including amortization expense related to the Phase X – Voltage Optimization Program) that are projected to be incurred during the 2026 Rate Year, and a Monthly True-Up Adjustment, which compares actual costs for the calendar year 2024 True-Up period to the actual revenues collected during the same period. In the DSM Application, Dominion requests the following:

Rider	Total Revenue Requirement	Projected Revenue Requirement	Monthly True-Up Adjustment
C1A	\$29,641,265	\$31,852,397	(\$2,221,131)
C4A	\$83,912,020	\$115,833,428	(\$31,921,408)
Combined	\$113,553,285		

If the proposed Riders C1A and C4A for the 2026 Rate Year are approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on the customer’s rate schedule and usage. According to the Company, implementation of the proposed Riders C1A and C4A, once effective, would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month by \$0.20. The Company represents that it has calculated the revised rates for Riders C1A and C4A in accordance with the same methodology approved in the 2024 DSM Order.

Dominion asserts that the Company has complied with the Commission directives and filing requirements relevant to the instant filing, specifically the Commission’s directives in its Final Order in the Company’s Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (“EM&V”) proceeding, Case No. PUR-2020-00156. The Company requests Commission approval of the Phase XIV Program EM&V Plans.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the DSM and VPP Applications (“Applications”) and supporting documents for additional details of the Company’s proposals.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, granted the Company’s Consolidation Motion. Case Nos. PUR-2025-00210 and PUR-2025-00211 were consolidated for procedural and hearing purposes only.

In the foregoing Order, the Commission also scheduled public hearings on Dominion’s Applications. On May 18, 2026, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to these matters will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before May 11, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Hearing Examiner to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting/.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on May 18, 2026, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On May 18, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

Electronic copies of the public versions of the Applications may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or vlink@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public versions of the Applications and other documents filed in these cases from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/.

On or before May 11, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Applications by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/

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LEGAL NOTICE

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submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All comments regarding Dominion's DSM Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00210, and all comments regarding Dominion's VPP Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00211.

On or before March 16, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, any other respondents, and Commission Staff as described above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings regarding Dominion's DSM Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00210, and all filings regarding Dominion's VPP Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00211. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy

of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before March 23, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on Commission Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, including 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*; and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings regarding Dominion's DSM Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00210, and all filings regarding Dominion's VPP Application shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00211.

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

The public versions of the Company's Applications and other documents filed in this case, the Commission's Rules of Practice, and the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Shakespeare Theatre’s ‘Paranormal Activity’ Delivers Terror

BY PATRICIA LESLIE

We sat on the edge of our seats, waiting, waiting, waiting for the bad to come: We didn’t know where or when but shrieks and yells soon filled Shakespeare Theatre Company’s Harman Hall.

At “Paranormal Activity,” I was not prepared for the siege and feared I would upend my drink (covered, if you will) on the head of the person in front of me, but I was able to maintain control when we all let loose and screamed at an unexpected scene, one which still occupies my mind days later.

“Paranormal” begins calm enough, notwithstanding the loud encounters before the curtain rises to set the stage, in case you thought this might be of milder content.

Eerie lighting goes off and on in the new London dwelling of James (Travis A. Knight, also assistant director) and Lou (Cher Álvarez) who have relocated from Chicago after Lou’s mental state took a dive which continues, but, please, don’t tell Mom, the nosy but initially pleasant mother-in-law (Shannon Cochran) who arrives via video to check on the couple, Mom, perfectly “normal,” or so it seems, but who’s “normal” nowadays?

She’s also a Bible thumper.

Please! Mama! Stay home. We don’t need you! We don’t want you, evil monster!

Something’s wrong here; James and Lou have “difficulties.”

The lights go on, the lights go off, and soon, a vibrating noise like Edgar Allan Poe’s tell-tale heartbeat, becomes deafening, akin to an airplane on a runway getting ready to soar into the sky, but it’s in your kitchen instead.

Egads!

(For those with sensitive ears, you may want to take ear plugs.)

The quaking from the beginning grows louder, the lights flicker through the window. That no one mentions these strange happenings befits the bizarre surroundings.

Theatregoers, in case you haven’t caught my drift: This is not for the squeamish or for children.

A medium (Kate Fry) is summoned to rid the house of evil spirits. She lights candles and waves her magic wand, but sizzle, sizzle... You tense up, on edge, like everyone else nearby, all quiet as a ghost until suddenly...!!!

Poof! How did they do that?

The “New York Times” named illusions director Chris Fisher’s scene one of the “16 Best Theatre Moments of 2025.” You’ll know it when you see it.

Folks, this is a classic with the award for best sound design going to two-time Tony winner Gareth Fry, and best lighting, to Anna Watson.

Fly Davis presents an excellent, complex, residence of two-floors with hallway, stairs, kitchen, den, bedrooms and more.

Felix Barrett directs “Paranormal Activity” which Levi Holloway wrote and re-staged.

Other production members are Luke Hall, video/projections; Chels Morgan, intimacy and fight coordinator; Susan Gosdick, dialects; Melanie J. Lisby, production stage manager; Julie Jachym, assistant stage manager.

The show is presented by arrangement with Paramount Pictures and Melting Pot in co-production with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Center Theatre Group, and American Conservatory Theatre.

The play is one of the most profitable films ever made, part of the “Paranormal Activity” film franchise beginning with a \$15,000 budget in 2007 and since earning \$200 million.

It’s a short run here, closing Saturday night with seats starting at \$43 for tonight, weekend mati-

nees and evenings before the tour moves to San Francisco and closes in London’s West End.

About two hours plus one intermission at Shakespeare Theatre Company, 610 F Street NW, Washington, D.C.

On its website the theatre lists a “content transparency” which is “intended to inform interested patrons that a show may contain sensitive content.”

You’ve been warned.

Whoops! And there went my drink, splat! Calling for a medium to rid me of my spirits.



TRAVIS A. KNIGHT and Cher Álvarez in Paranormal Activity. (Teresa Castracane Photography)

This Week Around Falls Church

Feb. 4–28
McLean Art Society’s
“From the Heart”
Exhibition and February
Members Show
Wednesday–Sunday,
12–6 p.m.
McLean Art Gallery, 6224B Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA (Chesterbrook Shopping Center)
Free and open to the public. Featuring more than 170 works from over 40 local artists in painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, and mixed media.

Thursday, Feb. 5
Thursday Night District
Trivia
7–9 p.m.
Clare & Don’s Beach Shack, 130 N. Washington St., Falls Church
Weekly trivia night.

Friday, Feb. 6
“From the Heart”
Opening Reception
5–7 p.m.
McLean Art Gallery, 6224B Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA (Chesterbrook Shopping Center)
Meet the artists and enjoy live music, wine, and light refreshments. Free tickets available via Eventbrite.

Live Music at Clare & Don’s Beach Shack
6:30 p.m.
Clare & Don’s Beach Shack, 130 N. Washington St., Falls Church
Live local music.

Saturday, Feb. 7
Falls Church Farmers Market
8 a.m.–12 p.m.
City Hall Parking Lot, 300 Park Ave., Falls Church
Year-round Saturday farmers market featuring local vendors and producers.

International Night
5–7:30 p.m.
Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School & Meridian High School,

105 Mustang Alley, Falls Church
Annual celebration of Falls Church’s diversity with cultural booths, international food, and performances by students and professional troupes.
FocusMusic presents
ilyAIMY (robDay Celebration)
7:30 p.m.
Island Pride Oasis, 617 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
Special FocusMusic show celebrating Executive Director rob Hinkal’s birthday. Tickets \$25 advance / \$30 at the door.

Sunday, Feb. 8
McLean Art Society
Exhibition Open Hours
12–6 p.m.
McLean Art Gallery, 6224B Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA
“From the Heart” exhibition open to the public.

Monday, Feb. 9
Falls Church City Council Meeting
7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, 300 Park Ave., Falls Church
Public hearings, second readings, and City Council actions.

Tuesday, Feb. 10
City Council & EDA Restaurant Roundtable
7:30 p.m.
Location: Viget 105 W Broad St 4th floor
Discussion organized by City restaurant owners with invited City Council and Economic Development Authority members. Open to the public.

Wednesday, Feb. 11
LEGO Club
4–5 p.m.
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave., Falls Church
Drop-in LEGO building program for children.

Justin Trawick’s
Listening Room
7 p.m.
Clare & Don’s Beach Shack (The Swamp), 130 N. Washington St., Falls Church
Listening-room style performance featuring singer-songwriters.
Weekly Pub Quiz
9 p.m.
Ireland’s Four Provinces, 105 W. Broad St., Falls Church
Weekly pub quiz night.

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FEB 07	CAPTAIN MIKE JIMMY BUFFETT PARTY
FEB 14	NASHVILLE NIGHTS 90S COUNTRY NIGHT
MAR 06	NIGHTRAIN GUNS N ROSES TRIBUTE
MAR 20	FOLSOM 4 JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE
MAR 21	THE STRANGER BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE
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FALLS CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS & NOTES

K9 Club Ribbon Cutting

A new dog daycare, The Giving Tree K9 Club, has opened at 130 W. Jefferson and the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce will celebrate with a ribbon cutting on Monday, February 9 at 4:00 pm. This is the third location with others in Reston and Alexandria. The club offers boarding, grooming services, day camps and a pet taxi to assist busy professionals. The community is invited to join the Chamber and City Council and congratulate Young Kim and his team and tour the facility. Follow the signs as the site is at a lower level than the street.

Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening for Grocery Outlet

The Falls Church Chamber invites the community to the grand opening of Grocery Outlet. The event kicks off with a ribbon cutting on Thursday, February 12 at 10:00 am. Meet owner Prince Wafa and tour the store at 500 S. Washington where the former Target was located. This is the first site in Virginia with a second planned for Manassas.

Restaurant Week Extended

Due to the snowstorm, a majority of restaurant participants have agreed to an extension of Restaurant Week and the Passport Program. The promotions will run through Sunday, February 8. Among those continuing are Thompson Italian, Scramble, and Café Kindred.
arlingtonmagazine.com/falls-church-restaurant-week/

Washington Sinfonietta Family Holiday Celebration

Saturday, February 14, 4:00 pm – Falls Church Episcopal - The Washington Sinfonietta presents a concert of Beethoven and Mozart featuring three returning musicians. Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 features Rachel Franklin, Beethoven Violin Concerto features Ava Pakiam, and Mozart Piano Concertos features Alon Goldstein. A reception follows. Tickets are available online in advance (<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6714847>) and at the door. All youth under 18 and under are admitted free.

Providence Players Receive WATCH Nominations

Our local theatre group, Providence Players, was honored with nine Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) nominations. Nominations were announced on January 18, and the awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 22 at the Birchmere in Alexandria. The full list of nominees, broken down by category and by organization, is available online and via the link. Congratulations to Providence Players!
<https://www.washingtontheater.org/wp-content/uploads/CurrentNominations.pdf>

Hidden Eats is Local

Ike Allen of Washingtonian shared his discovery of another great Eden Center restaurant. Wandering through the indoor hallways, he found Bánh Cuốn Saigon. He favors the bánh bột lọc, similar to that he has enjoyed in a Manhattan restaurant. His praised them for the consistent, highly specialized Vietnamese cooking.

► *Business News & Notes is compiled by Elise Neil Bengtson, Executive Director of the Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce. She may be emailed at elise@fallschurchchamber.org.*

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Our Man In Arlington

BILL FOGARTY

It has been said that the most difficult task in the public eye is related to “snowstorms and school superintendents.” Decisions about school closures seem to result in a 100% chance of making at least 25% of the people very unhappy. I have much sympathy for school superintendents, but based on the recent snowstorm, I may nominate a new “most difficult task” — being responsible for clearing snow after a storm.

Last week’s column began with a reference to the snowstorm getting started in the Arlington area, with an initial forecast of 18 to 22 inches of snow. Well, it’s a week later, and the one thing certain about this storm is that it has brought a new word into our everyday lexicon: “snowcrete.”

I will leave it to those with more expertise in the snow removal industry to voice their opinions about how well the Arlington government, and our community, responded to the thick coating of ice we were left with (and likely will still have by the time you read this). I thought our family’s approach to our sidewalk situation was a smart one — shovel a few inches at a time, take a rest, go back out, repeat as necessary. But that left us with the most impenetrable ice I have ever tried to deal with. We finally cracked the case, so to speak, but it wasn’t easy.

It also seemed to me the snow plows did a good job (sure, one of them placed a decent-sized ice boulder in the opening created for one of our cars, but I did not take it personally — snow plowing is not a job I would ever want).

Normal life is slowly returning, and it turns my attention to other tasks entrusted to the county government. The first attention-getter came with the news that the 2026 real estate assessment statements have been mailed. This is a matter that affects individuals and businesses that own real property in Arlington — depending, of course, not only on assessed value but also on the ultimate tax rate passed by the County Board.

To be more accurate, assessed values and tax rates affect everyone in the county, even renters, as any tax increases for apartment owners can get “passed on” to tenants through rent increases.

But I digress. As to the county’s assessment statement, the first line announces that “... property values see overall increase of 1.1%.” But that figure requires much more nuance (which, to be fair, is supplied by the county). Residential values increased by an average of 3.2%, while commercial properties decreased by an average of 1.5%.

Even more nuance is needed. Office properties — a subset of commercial properties — decreased by 19%. The values for apartment properties — another subset of commercial properties — increased by an average of 6.2%.

Of course, property owners are focused on the bottom line: Will tax bills go up this year? That depends on the dollar amount of the budget approved by the County Board, which is then fed into a formula based on assessed value and the tax rate imposed by the board.

Bottom line: Don’t expect tax obligations to go down this year, especially for residential properties and apartments. In its assessment statement, the county notes that it is “facing significant challenges in next year’s budget because expense growth is outpacing revenue growth.” For the County Board, estimating revenue growth will be tricky business, and coming to agreement on the size of the budget will be a political hot potato.

As a matter of civic education, note these important dates: Feb. 21 (County Manager releases proposed budget); Feb. 26 (Arlington Public Schools release their budget); March 24 (County Board budget hearing); March 26 (County Board tax rate hearing); April 18 (County Board adopts budget and sets tax rates).

That makes for eight weeks of intensive action by the county — and intensive advocacy by civic groups and individual citizens communicating their opinions. It will be a challenging budget season.

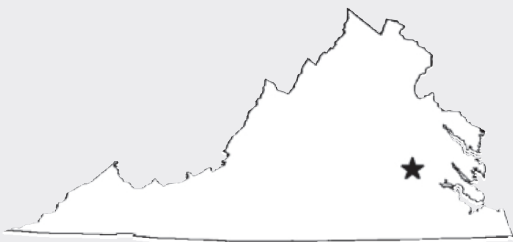
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Senator Saddam Salim Richmond Report



Senate District 37 sent me to Richmond to fight for you, and in the opening weeks of the 2026 General Assembly, I have tried to show exactly what that means in practice.

At the top of my agenda this year is my assault weapons bill, SB 749, which would stop the sale, manufacture, and new transfer of the kinds of high-capacity firearms that turn everyday disputes into mass-casualty events.

I wrote this bill very deliberately so that we are not criminalizing current lawful owners. Instead, we draw a line going forward, so that over time, the most lethal weapons gradually become less common in our communities. In a commonwealth that has lived through Virginia Tech, Virginia Beach, and too many smaller tragedies to count, this is not an abstract debate for me, it is about whether we are willing to accept another decade of preventable grief.

If SB 749 is my answer to the gun violence epidemic, my three-bill “End ICE Abuses” package is my response to a different kind of fear: the fear that walking into a courthouse, talking to the police, or simply going about daily life could put you or your family in the crosshairs of federal immigration enforcement. One bill bars civil immigration arrests in and around courthouses without a true judicial warrant, so victims and witnesses can seek justice without worrying that ICE agents are lying in wait. A second limits the use of face coverings by law enforcement officers and creates a civil cause of action when officers violate those transparency rules, because anonymity in routine policing undermines public trust. A third bill restricts which state and local officers can act as de facto immigration agents, making clear that Virginia’s job is to keep people safe, not to do Washington’s bidding in the most heavy-handed way possible.

I know some critics have tried to caricature these efforts as “soft on crime” or “lawless.” I see them very differently. Communities are safer when witnesses are willing to testify, when victims feel comfortable reporting abuse, and when people trust that the person knocking on their door in a badge and uniform is there to uphold the law, not to hide behind a mask or misuse their power. My goal is a system where the law is enforced in a way that is visible, accountable, and focused on genuine public safety, not on stoking fear in already vulnerable communities.

Alongside these high-profile fights, I am also carrying quieter but important bills that address the day-to-day concerns I hear from you. I am working on measures to help localities tackle invasive plant species, clearing a path for students, affordable housing and tackling emerging tech and its unintended consequences we see every day.

In past Richmond Reports, I promised to defend fundamental rights, strengthen our schools, improve affordability, and invest in cleaner, safer communities. This year, those promises are taking the form of concrete bills, hearings, and votes. I know not every bill I introduce will pass on the first try. But I also know that you did not send me to Richmond simply to manage the status quo, you sent me to push for a fairer, safer, and more welcoming Virginia. That is the standard I am holding myself to this session, and it is the kind of representation I will keep working to deliver for you.

Hurst Scores 18, Meridian Girls Rout Manassas Park

RYAN McCAFFERTY

Eleven girls suited up to play basketball for Meridian High School against Manassas Park on Tuesday night, and all eleven of them scored as the Mustangs won 91-6.

After a hard-fought 40-30 win over Millbrook on Monday, it was a quick turnaround for head coach Chris Carrico and Meridian’s girls, but they could afford the lack of rest for the second half of their back-to-back. Facing a Manassas Park squad that didn’t have enough players to field a JV team and was forced to use an extremely short rotation, this one was never remotely in doubt.

Meridian scored the first six points before the Cougars made it 6-2

with one of two field goals they made the entire game. After that, it was a 31-0 Mustang run spanning until Manassas Park knocked down a pair of free throws late in the second quarter, and the girls led 43-4 at the half. Then, following a Cougar basket early in the third period, Meridian scored upwards of the game’s final 40 points.

Ella Hurst led the way with 18 points for the Mustangs, while Bridget Creed (13) and Aldyn Friesen (11) each got into double figures as well. Nine different players scored at least six points for Meridian.

Next, the Mustangs will head on the road to visit Brentsville tomorrow. In their previous meeting at home, Meridian beat the Tigers 37-27 in a tense low-scoring affair.

Lieu’s Propels Meridian Girls Over Millbrook

RYAN McCAFFERTY

Charlotte Lieu scored 22 points, 13 of which came during the third quarter, and the Meridian High School girls’ basketball team beat Millbrook 40-30 in their return from last week’s snow break.

After all basketball activities were canceled for an entire week due to heavy snow, the Meridian Mustangs were finally back on the court as they faced the visiting Millbrook Pioneers on Monday night. Entering the game at 13-1, this would be a tough matchup against an opponent much better than its 7-11 record.

Both teams got off to a slow start, which was probably to be expected after the extended time off. Meridian trailed 4-7 after a quarter and 13-16 at halftime,

with no Mustang scoring more than four points in the first 16 minutes. Then, Lieu decided to take matters into her own hands.

Millbrook opened the third quarter with a three-pointer to reach their largest lead of the night, but then Meridian’s star junior point guard led a 15-1 run in which she was responsible for all but two of the points. The Mustangs led 30-22 with a frame to go, and midway through the final period, Lieu hit a three to give the home team its first double-digit lead at 36-26. The margin of ten would be the same as the final result.

In addition to Lieu’s scoring punch, head coach Chris Carrico credited a key defensive adjustment as one of the biggest factors in the win. After Millbrook’s Jane Moreland scored 11 points

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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) of the City of Falls Church, Virginia will hold a public hearing on February 12, 2026, at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 300 Park Avenue, for consideration of the following item:

- Variance application V1667-25 by Kiara Ventura-Lopez (Applicant), on behalf of Tracy Montgomery (Owner), for a variance to 1) Section 48-238(3)(a) to allow a front setback of 17 feet 4 inches instead of the 30 feet minimum and 2) Section 48-238(3)(a) to allow a side yard setback of 9 feet 6 inches instead of the 13 feet minimum to construct a covered front porch at 509 S Spring Street, RPC#52-602-025 of the Falls Church Real Property Records, zoned R-1A, Low Density Residential District, continued from July 10, 2025 by the applicant.

- Variance application V1675-26 by Joel Jermakian, (Applicant and Owner), for a variance to Section 48-238(3)(a) to allow a rear yard setback of 24 feet and 2 inches instead of the 40 feet minimum to construct a proposed 16 feet by 18 feet screened-in porch at 303 E Broad Street, RPC#53-117-033 of the Falls Church Real Property Records, zoned R-1A, Low Density Residential District.

Public comment and questions may be submitted to zoning@fallschurchva.gov until 4:30 pm on February 12, 2026. Agenda and application materials will be available the week prior to the scheduled hearing at: http://www.fallschurchva.gov/BZA

Information on the above application is also available for review upon request to staff at zoning@fallschurchva.gov.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

The following was given first reading at the January 27, 2026, City Council meeting. Public hearings, second readings, and possible City Council actions are scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

(TO26-01) ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2090 AND ORDINANCE 2103 REGARDING THE BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026: GENERAL FUND, SCHOOL OPERATING FUND, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

All public hearings will be held in the Council Chambers, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, Virginia. All persons desiring to present their views on the items will be heard. Comments may also be sent to cityclerk@fallschurchva.gov. Remote participation information at www.fallschurchva.gov/publiccomment. For copies of legislation and other information, contact the City Clerk's office at 703-248-5014 or cityclerk@fallschurchva.gov or visit www.fallschurchva.gov/councilmeetings. The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 703-248-5014 (TTY 711) or e-mail cityclerk@fallschurchva.gov.

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Volunteers who live in the City of Falls Church are needed to serve on the boards and commissions listed below. Contact the City Clerk's Office (703-248-5014, cityclerk@fallschurchva.gov, or www.fallschurchva.gov/BC) for an application form or more information. Positions advertised for more than one month may be filled during each subsequent month.

Architectural Advisory Board
Arts and Humanities Council of Falls Church
City Employee Review Board
Environmental Sustainability Council
Board of Equalization
Historic Architectural Review Board
Human Services Advisory Council
Public Utilities Commission
Towing Advisory Board
Urban Forestry Commission

Regional Boards/Commissions
Coordinating Council for the Aging and Adults with Disabilities
Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

A Planning Commission public hearing and possible recommendation to City Council is scheduled for February 18, 2026, at 7:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on the following:

(TR24-28) RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY OF FALLS CHURCH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO UPDATE CHAPTER 8, "COMMUNITY BUILDING BLOCKS: COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The update to Chapter 8 of the Comprehensive Plan, "Community Building Blocks: Community Facilities, Infrastructure, Utilities, and Government Services" plans for the next 20 plus years using the most recent demographic projections, industry-specific best practices, and the existing infrastructure. The Chapter contains an overview of existing facilities, an evaluation of needs, and recommended next steps for the City's government services and facilities, public safety, City utility services, and third-party utilities. More information can be at: https://www.fallschurchva.gov/2283/Chapter-8-Update-Community-Facilities-In.

The materials for the above item will be available on the city's webpage prior to the public hearing: http://www.fallschurchva.gov/PC. All persons desiring to present their views on the items will be heard. For copies of materials and other information, contact Jack Trainor jtrainor@fallschurchva.gov.

All public hearings will be held in the Council Chambers, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, Virginia. All persons desiring to present their views on the items will be heard. Comments may also be sent to jtrainor@fallschurchva.gov. Remote participation information at www.fallschurchva.gov/pc. For copies of legislation and other information, contact Jack Trainor jtrainor@fallschurchva.gov. The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 571-421-7943 or e-mail jtrainor@fallschurchva.gov.

ABC NOTICE

West Falls Community Association Inc, trading as West Falls Community Association, 7120 Leesburg Pike, Suite 101B, Falls Church, Fairfax County, VA is applying to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Authority for a Commercial Lifestyle Center, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On Premises to sell alcoholic beverages. 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 2 required newspaper legal notice. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Cemetery Plots For Sale

1-4 cemetery plots in National Memorial Park in Falls Church Virginia. Beautiful cemetery with a serene, quiet location for these plots. \$7995 each. Contact information: Richard Honaker 214-532-1420 Honaker@aol.com

AUCTIONS

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IN MEMORIAM: JAYNE LEWIS DAY

Jayne Lewis Day of Peconic, NY, and formerly of Fairfax, VA, passed away at home on Friday, January 9, 2026. She was 80 years old.

Jayne was born on December 11, 1945 in Charleston, WV to Jeanne M. (née Hambrick) and Harold C. Lewis. She was one of two children. She attended George Mason University where she attained her Bachelors in History and her Masters in History, while raising three children, an impressive accomplishment.

On March 23, 1973, in Fairfax, VA, she married the love of her life Overton Day. Together they would eventually make their home in Peconic. Prior to living in Peconic, Jayne and Overton lived in Germany from 1978 to 1980 and Falls Church, VA from 1980 to 2012. In her professional career, Jayne worked for the US Government for several different agencies in Washington D.C., Germany and Iran. However, her real love was volunteerism. She volunteered for more organizations than can be mentioned. A few notable volunteer efforts include working in numerous capacities for The Falls Church Episcopal with their children's programs/ministry and wedding planning. She also served as a Girl Scout leader, volunteered with her childrens' swim team at Fort Myer Officers Club and served on the PTA at George Mason

High School. For many years, she served at Miriam's Kitchen for the Homeless Breakfast Program, and was awarded the "Sous Chef" honor. Locally, she was a member of the Southold Historical Museum, and volunteered for C.A.S.T.

Jayne is survived by her husband Overton; children Christopher Perrin of Charleston, SC and Sasha Day of Phoenix, MD; grandchildren Erika Guzman, Riley Perrin, Zoey Perrin, Madison Shultz and Claire Shultz; great-grandchildren Koda Guzman, Luca Guzman and Luna Guzman; and

sister Donna Lewis of Hampton, VA.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. at The Falls Church Episcopal, 115 E Fairfax Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. Reception to follow (will share details at the service.) Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Blood Cancer United in Jayne's memory.

DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Home in Southold, NY is serving the family.



IN MEMORIAM: JULIE ESTILL GUINANE

Julie Estill Guinane passed away in San Diego, California at the age of 83 years in September 2024, with her daughter and son by her side. Julie was preceded in death by her mother, Estill (Morgan) Guinane and Edward Patrick Guinane. She is survived by her two children, Michael Hinchey (Triana) and J. Christine Hinchey, as well as three grandchildren, Quinlan, Kian and Lucy. Julie's father moved around a lot with his work in the FBI and when Julie was born, they were in Birmingham, Alabama, but soon moved back to the Northern Virginia area set-

ting in Falls Church when Julie was a toddler. Julie attended school in Falls Church and eventually graduated from William & Mary. She moved to New York City right after college, worked for USAID spending time in Vietnam, moved to various cities throughout the USA, but was always there for her parents living in Falls Church and loved raising her family in Virginia. Julie always loved to travel and in retirement, she spent many summers volunteering at various state and national parks. She ended her life living near her children, enjoying her grandchil-



If you have someone you would like to remember or need to publish an obituary in the News-Press, please contact us by email at obits@fcnp.com.

Include the name of the deceased, preferred publication date, and any questions you may have about formatting or length. Our team will follow up with next steps.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
FOR REVISION OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE, DESIGNATED RIDER RPS, FOR THE RATE YEAR
COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
CASE NO. PUR-2025-00221

On December 9, 2025, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion” or “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) a petition (“Petition”) for revision of a rate adjustment clause, designated Rider RPS, pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 5 d of the Code of Virginia (“Code”). Through its Petition, Dominion seeks to recover projected and actual costs related to compliance with the mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard program (“RPS Program”) established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act (“VCEA”).

Pursuant to Code § 56-585.5 C, Dominion is required to participate in an RPS Program that establishes annual goals for the sale of renewable energy to all retail customers in the Company’s service territory, with certain limited exceptions. To comply with the RPS Program, Dominion must procure and retire renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) originating from qualifying sources. The RPS Program requirements “shall be a percentage of the total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year” and must be implemented in accordance with the schedule set forth in Code § 56-585.5 C. The statute permits Dominion to apply renewable energy sales achieved or RECs acquired in excess of the sales requirement for a specific year’s RPS Program to the sales requirements for certain future years. Code § 56-585.5 C further provides that, to the extent Dominion procures RECs for RPS Program compliance from resources it does not own, the Company shall be entitled to recover the costs of such RECs pursuant to Code §§ 56-249.6 or 56-585.1 A 5 d.

Code § 56-585.1 A 5 d, as amended by the VCEA, provides that a utility may petition the Commission for approval of one or more rate adjustment clauses for the timely and current recovery from customers of:

[p]rojected and actual costs of compliance with renewable energy portfolio standard requirements pursuant to § 56-585.5 that are not recoverable under subdivision 6. The Commission shall approve such a petition allowing the recovery of such costs incurred as required by § 56-585.5, provided that the Commission does not otherwise find such costs were unreasonably or imprudently incurred

In its Petition, Dominion states that it will meet the annual requirements of the RPS Program through the retirement of RECs that will be sourced from a combination of RECs generated from Company-owned renewable energy facilities (including the “CE Projects” and “CVOW Project”), RECs generated from renewable energy facilities owned by an entity other than the utility with which the Company has entered into a power purchase agreement (including the “CE PPAs”), long-term REC-only contracts, and market purchases of RECs. Dominion states that the Company has banked RECs generated by Virginia facilities in previous years for use starting in 2025 when the requirement for Virginia-located resources begins.

To determine the total cost of RECs to be recovered through Rider RPS, the Company states that it first determined its projected RPS Program requirements for 2026, and then used those projections to determine the estimated volume of RECs needed during the rate year of September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027 (“Rate Year”). Dominion asserts that it then determined the projected volume of RECs that the Company would need to utilize from its bank or purchase from the market. For any RECs that Dominion would need to purchase or utilize from the bank, the Company states that it multiplied the volume of RECs by a weighted average price in order to determine the cost of the gross purchases and banked RECs needed for the Rate Year. The Company expects to need approximately 17.3 million RECs during the Rate Year, approximately 173,000 of which it says must come from distributed energy resources. According to the Company, once it determined the total costs of RECs to be recovered in this proceeding, it applied a Virginia jurisdictional allocation factor.

Based on the framework approved in Case No. PUR-2020-00134, the Company asserts that the “costs” of RECs generated by the CE Projects, CE PPAs, and the CVOW Project will be recovered through the Company’s Rider RPS at an established REC proxy value, while an offsetting incremental “revenue” amount will be credited to Rider CE and Rider OSW, as applicable, as if those RECs were being “sold.” The Company then states that the REC proxy value and transfer of the REC cost from Rider CE and Rider OSW will ensure that the nonbypassable costs of RPS Program compliance are recovered from all retail customers regardless of electric supplier within the limits provided in the VCEA. For purposes of this Petition, the Company states that it utilized the REC proxy value as determined by the methodology approved in Case No. PUR-2021-00156.

According to the Company, the revenue requirement for Rider RPS includes both a Projected Cost Recovery Factor and an Actual Cost TrueUp Factor. According to the Company, the Projected Cost Recovery Factor calculation results in the operating income necessary for recovery of the cost of RECs purchased or utilized during the Rate Year. The Actual Cost TrueUp Factor, Dominion explains, recovers from, or credits to, customers any under- or overrecovery of costs from the most recently completed calendar year. The Company states that actual revenues recovered during the test year are compared to actual costs incurred during the test year, and that any difference in these amounts becomes the Actual Cost True-Up Factor recovered from, or credited to, customers through the total revenue requirement requested for recovery during the Rate Year, including carrying costs. Dominion further states that the Actual Cost TrueUp Factor incorporates the reversal of the Interim Correction from the Company’s 2024 Rider RPS Update proceeding.

In this proceeding, the Company seeks approval of a Projected Cost Recovery Factor revenue requirement of \$483,288,882 and an Actual Cost True-Up Factor revenue requirement of (\$41,199,483), for a total revenue requirement of \$442,089,399 for the Rate Year. If the proposed Rider RPS for the Rate Year is approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on the customer’s rate schedule and usage. According to Dominion, implementation of its proposed Rider RPS on September 1, 2026, would decrease the monthly bill of a residential customer using

1,000 kWh per month by approximately \$2.16 compared to the current Rider RPS. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents for additional details of the Company’s proposals.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on Dominion’s Petition. On May 19, 2026, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before May 12, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on May 19, 2026, the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above. This public witness hearing will be webcast at <https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting>. On May 19, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene the evidentiary portion of the hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission’s Staff (“Staff”).

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and has required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Elaine S. Ryan, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or eryan@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

On or before May 12, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments). Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00221.

On or before March 19, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling). Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Notices of participation shall include the email address of the party or its counsel. The respondent shall serve a copy of the notice of participation electronically on counsel to the Company, any other respondents, and Staff. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00221. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before April 17, 2026, each respondent may file electronically with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling) any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2025-00221.

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

The Rules of Practice, the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing, the public version of the Petition, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](https://www.scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

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