

APRIL 2 - 8, 2026

FOUNDED  
1991

VOL. XXXVI  
No. 8

# Falls Church News-Press

Northern Virginia's Newspaper

FALLS CHURCH,  
VIRGINIA

WWW.FCNP.COM

FREE

*'Democracy Thrives In Sunshine'*

**Thiel Behind  
Deception  
Effort Soiling  
Current Vote**

*Referendum Underway to  
Counter Trump Elsewhere*

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

New election filings in Richmond show a group backed by Trump donor and tech billionaire Peter Thiel is pouring millions into a misleading ad campaign ahead of the April 21 referendum in Virginia. A \$2.5 million contribution ties Thiel's network to false and racially charged ads targeting Virginia voters.

Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones issued the following statement yesterday in response to the development:

"Peter Thiel, one of Donald Trump's top billionaire backers, is spending millions in Virginia to push a campaign built on lies and racial division. These ads deliberately exploit the history of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement to mislead Black voters and suppress participation. That is not just offensive. It is a modern playbook for voter suppression.

"My family lived through Jim Crow in Virginia. That history is not a political prop for Trump's allies to weaponize to rig elections and manipulate voters. Virginians deserve facts, not fear. I will continue to stand up for civil rights,

*Continued on Page 4*

## MAGIC TWANGER PLUCKED



**CHECK OUT THE FROG in the background here! Winning back the symbol! There's plenty of energy and joy in this photo typical of what was happening all the way up and down Broad Street in the City of Falls Church, and nationwide, even globally, as a matter of fact. See more photos on pages 10 - 11. (Photo: Falls Church Indivisible)**

## F.C. City Manager Shields Hailed by Array of Community

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

The announcement by long-standing Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields that he will be retiring from his post after 22 years caught many in Falls Church by surprise, according to first-hand City Hall reports, but the reaction has been nothing but heartfelt and positive. Shields plans to leave in September.

The News-Press elicited comments on the news from a number

of local movers and shakers, not the least being Mayor Letty Hardi and U.S. Congressman Don Beyer.

Here are the kinds of things that were said of Shields in the wake of his announcement:

F.C. Mayor Letty Hardi – Wyatt is the only city manager I've known in my 10 years on the City Council and what an incredibly high bar he's set. Anyone who knows the Manager-Council form of government knows that the City Manager, and not the Mayor, is actually the most important and hardest

job around (and this is the sort of comment that would make Wyatt cringe!) In all seriousness, Falls Church's success to date is directly owed to Wyatt's selfless service and steady leadership of the city. He is unflappable, smart, and the hardest worker in the city. He is the kind of City Manager who would take out a hornet's nest on the playground himself, handle nail biting, tough negotiations with developers, and somehow answer to 7 bosses while empathetically listen to community concerns without missing a beat.

So while Wyatt's much deserved retirement after 20+ years is a loss to Falls Church and the region, I know he can look back at his tenure and know he's left us immensely better than he found us.

U.S. Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr. – What a loss! Wyatt Shields has been the heart and soul of Falls Church for decades, the careful balancer of our modernization and our village character. He has survived many excellent mayors and council

*Continued on Page 9*

# OTHERING:

## THE DANGER OF “US VS. THEM” THINKING

### YOUTH-LED COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

How do we move from division to belonging?

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026**  
**1:00 – 3:30 PM**

- Interactive Activities
- Panel Discussion & Q&A
- Community Dialogue
- Music and Poetry Performance

**Meridian High School**  
121 Mustang Alley Falls Church, VA  
Marian Costner Selby Peace Garden  
Light lunch served Noon – 1:00

---

#### PANELISTS



**XAVIER SMITH**  
President,  
Black Student Union  
Meridian High School



**CHLO'E EDWARDS**  
Social justice advocate  
Founder of Her Changes



**MICHELLE GOLDBERG**  
Counselor, Mt Daniels  
Former Principal



**DR. TERRY DADE**  
Superintendent  
Falls Church Schools

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

✔ Childcare available    ✔ Free parking  
Hosted by the Tinner Hill Social Justice Committee

Registration: [thhf-sjc-othering.eventbrite.com](https://thhf-sjc-othering.eventbrite.com)








## Your Paper Without the Paper

See the News-Press Online  
Just Like you See it in  
Print With our *E-Issue*

[www.fcnp.com](http://www.fcnp.com)



## FALLS CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS & NOTES

### Preparing Your Pitch: Best Practices in Developing Your Business Briefing

Thursday, April 2, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm - This SBDC webinar is invaluable to startups, early-stage companies, growth, or even mature businesses. You will obtain a checklist of the 5 distinct filters or test and critical steps, obtain an actionable outline, receive a file with an actual local business briefing complete with speaker notes, and more. This is a live workshop and there will be time for questions. The link will be shared upon registration.

### Brain-Healthy Eating for Parkinson’s: MIND vs. PRO-21 Diets

Kensington kicks off Parkinson’s Awareness Month with a practical conversation on brain-healthy eating with nutrition coach Sabina Kelly of Future You Nutrition. During this session on Saturday, April 4, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sabina will introduce two evidence-informed dietary approaches — the MIND diet and the PRO-21 diet — and discuss how these nutritional frameworks may support cognitive health, energy levels, and overall wellness for individuals living with Parkinson’s and other neurological conditions. Participants will learn realistic, sustainable strategies that make healthy eating approachable and achievable to support brain health and build habits that promote long-term well-being. RSVP to Kayla Hulbert, [khulbert@kensingtonsl.com](mailto:khulbert@kensingtonsl.com).

### Are You in the Job Market?

Fairfax County is offering a session for those looking for career opportunities or guidance navigating the job market. The Fairfax County Department of Human Resources will host an information session on Tuesday, April 7, from 2–4 pm at 7611 Little River Turnpike, Suite 329W, Annandale, VA. Representatives will provide an overview of the county’s job application and hiring process and offer guidance for those interested in Fairfax County careers. Learn more via the link.

### Fitness Challenge Has Begun

The City of Falls Church Fitness Challenge kicks off soon, bringing a full month of movement, wellness, and community to The Little City. This year features even more new participating businesses, with local fitness studios offering special classes, discounts, and free trials alongside restaurants serving up dining deals that support healthy eating. The challenge runs throughout April. Be sure to visit chamber members for their classes. They are listed in the online chamber directory.

### New BAE Systems Agreement

BAE Systems signed a seven-year framework agreement with the Department of War (DoW) that will quadruple production capacity and accelerate delivery of the infrared seeker for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor missile in support of Lockheed Martin Corporation. The THAAD seeker provides critical sensing and guidance capabilities to help protect the United States and its global allies from ballistic missiles. This provides a long-term demand signal needed before expanding the capacity. The agreement also demonstrates the strength of collaborations with the Department of War.

► *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](mailto:elise@fallschurchchamber.org).*



Discover the Beauty & Durability  
of PuroStone



**CALL NOW**  
**(844) 945-1631**

**\$1500 OFF\***

PLUS  
**ZERO Interest,  
ZERO Payments  
Financing for 12 Months\*\***

Military & Senior  
Discounts Available

\*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/26. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2026 Bath Concepts Industries, LLC.



THE KENSINGTON FALLS CHURCH PRESENTS

# Ask a Neurologist

## Brain Health Guidance for Aging Adults & Caregivers

### An Educational Series Featuring Renowned Local Neurologists

Part I: April 29 with Dr. Pauldurai • Part II: May 20 with Dr. Gray

5:00pm-6:00pm • at The Kensington Falls Church

RSVP to Kayla Hulbert at [KHulbert@KensingtonSL.com](mailto:KHulbert@KensingtonSL.com) or (703) 992-9868

Our team at The Kensington Falls Church knows that getting an appointment with a physician sometimes takes longer than you'd like, so we're bringing physicians to you. In the springtime spirit of renewal, join us and learn new ways to preserve brain wellness. Get insightful advice about caring for your brain as you age; recognizing symptoms of illnesses such as dementia, Parkinson's or other movement disorders; and exploring care and treatment options currently available as well as those on the horizon.

**Our first featured physician, Jennifer Pauldurai, MD, will discuss the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach to memory disorders.** We encourage you to ask questions and share your concerns so she can provide expert information and guidance that you or your loved one needs. **RSVP and save the date for the next part of our series.** Light bites and beverages will be provided.



**Part I: Jennifer Pauldurai, MD**  
Neurologist, Inova



**Part II: Evan Gray, DO**  
Neurologist, Integrated Neurology Services



To learn more, please scan the QR code or visit our website.



**THE KENSINGTON**  
*An Assisted Living Community*  
FALLS CHURCH



ASSISTED LIVING • THREE TIERS OF MEMORY CARE • COUPLES CARE • PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

700 West Broad Street | Falls Church, VA 22046 | [www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com](http://www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com) | (703) 992-9868

# Virginia Atty Gen Jones Assails Pro-Trump Disinformation Ads

Continued from Page 1

defend the integrity of our elections, and call out any effort to deceive voters and undermine our democracy.”

Virginia House of Delegates Speaker Don Scott released the following statement in response to the news:

“Now Virginians know exactly who is behind these lies. Peter Thiel – a Silicon Valley tech billionaire, one of Donald Trump and JD Vance’s biggest donors, and someone who has openly questioned whether democracy even works – is now pouring millions into Virginia to mislead our voters.

“He thinks he can trick Virginians. Just like Trump, he thinks he can rig the midterms. And he’s doing it by funding a campaign built on deception.

“As the first Black Speaker in Virginia’s history, I don’t take this lightly. Our elections belong to the people – not out-

of-state tech billionaires using cheap tricks to manipulate voters.

Virginia can fight back by voting Yes. Reject Trump and Thiel’s anti-democratic agenda – and send a clear message: we will not bow down to billionaires trying to buy our democracy.”

The malicious text, digital, mail and TV campaign misleads Black and senior voters, invoking Jim Crow and lying about Obama and Spanberger Support for Yes on Redistricting Amendment.

The TV ad uses images of Martin Luther King and civil rights activists, falsely claiming that Vote Yes forces are threatening gains in the civil rights movement. It falsely claims “Black and Brown voices are being suppressed” by the Vote Yes effort.

A new Virginia State Board of Elections report shows a \$2.5 million contribution from

Thiel-funded group to the creator of the ads.

A \$2.5 million cash contribution reported Wednesday links Thiel’s network to the same campaign that’s been sending false and racist ads invoking Jim Crow and misleading Virginians in the final weeks of the referendum.

According to the filings, Per Aspera Policy Incorporated — a key part of Thiel’s network — is backing ads that revive imagery and language associated with the Jim Crow era to target Black voters while pushing false claims about the Vote Yes campaign. The ads deliberately distort what a Yes or No vote means, and use inflammatory and historically-charged imagery to mislead seniors and communities of color.

Other text messages and mailers by the group misrepresent both President Obama’s position and Governor Spanberger’s record to further

confuse voters.

Thiel, co-founder of Palantir and megafunder for Per Aspera Policy Incorporated, has become one of the most influential and aggressive financiers of Trump and the MAGA movement, using his wealth to support political operations that peddle in disinformation and attacks on democratic norms.

Statement from Keren Dongo, Campaign Manager for the Vote Yes Campaign:

“Now we know exactly who is funding this deceptive campaign. The same megadonor network backing Donald Trump and JD Vance’s agenda is now trying to manipulate Virginia voters with lies. But Virginians won’t be fooled — and now they have the chance to level the playing field and stop the MAGA power grab by voting Yes.”

Early voting is underway now through April 18. Election Day is April 21.

## Want To Empower Nova?

Part-Time Copy Editor Needed

We’re seeking a detail-oriented copy editor to join our team on a part-time basis, Wednesday afternoons.

The ideal candidate has a sharp eye for grammar, style, and consistency, and can quickly polish content for clarity and impact.

Responsibilities:

Edit and proofread articles, ads, and editorial content  
Ensure AP style consistency  
Fact-check and tighten copy as needed

Qualifications:

Strong command of grammar and usage  
Experience in editing or journalism preferred  
Ability to meet deadlines in a fast-paced environment.

Email: [ngatz@fcnp.com](mailto:ngatz@fcnp.com)



## Senior Living DONE BRIGHT

Check all your senior living boxes with a one-and-done move to Brightview Woodburn.

- ✓ 24/7 PEACE OF MIND
- ✓ CHEF-PREPARED, NUTRITIOUS MEALS
- ✓ PERSONALIZED CARE PLANS BY TENURED STAFF
- ✓ ROBUST DAILY PROGRAMMING
- ✓ SUPPORT, COMFORT, AND CARE FOR YOUR LOVED ONE

**BRIGHTVIEW**  
SENIOR LIVING  
WOODBURN

CONTACT US TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL VISIT!

571.540.8255 | [BrightviewWoodburn.com](http://BrightviewWoodburn.com)

3450 Gallows Rd | Annandale, VA  
Assisted Living | Memory Care



SCAN TO HEAR WHY RESIDENTS LOVE THEIR BRIGHT LIVES!

Brightview Senior Living is Ranked Amongst the Nation’s Best



# Check Out the New FallsChurchVa.gov!

Step through the City's new digital front door, reimagined for total ease of use. Find event info, access essential resources, and stay connected on any device.

We are proudly evolving, with ongoing updates to ensure a truly accessible experience for everyone.

Hey! It works on phones again!

A beast of a website... no more!

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability, call 703-248-5042 (TTY 711).



# Falls Church News-Press

Since 1991, an award-winning LGBT-owned general interest community newspaper.

Vol. XXXV, No. 8  
APRIL 2 - 8, 2026

- City of Falls Church
- Business of the Year 1991 & 2001
- Member, Virginia Press Association

**NICHOLAS F. BENTON**  
OWNER &  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
NFBENTON@FCNP.COM

**NICK GATZ**  
MANAGING EDITOR  
NGATZ@FCNP.COM

**SUE JOHNSON**  
ADVERTISING SALES  
SJOHNSON@FCNP.COM

**TED WHITE**  
COPY EDITOR

CIRCULATION  
DELIVERY@FCNP.COM

## TO CONTACT THE NEWS-PRESS

PHONE: 703-532-3267

EMAIL: FCNP@FCNP.COM

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**  
SJOHNSON@FCNP.COM  
703-587-1282

**CLASSIFIED & LEGAL ADS**  
CLASSADS@FCNP.COM

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
LETTERS@FCNP.COM

**NEWS & NOTES**  
NEWSANDNOTES@FCNP.COM

**OBITUARIES**  
OBITS@FCNP.COM

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**DISTRIBUTION & DELIVERY**  
DELIVERY@FCNP.COM

WWW.FCNP.COM

The News-Press is certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia to publish official legal notices including probate, abc notices, small and foreign estates. We will provide the appropriate paperwork. A comprehensive book on the 36 year history of the News-Press, "The Life and Times of the Falls Church News-Press": by Charlie Clark (History Press, 2023), can be purchased at local bookstores or online. The Falls Church News-Press is published weekly on Thursdays and is distributed free of charge throughout the City of Falls Church and the Greater Falls Church area to over 140 locations. Offices are at 105 N. Virginia Ave., #310, Falls Church, VA 22046. Reproduction of this publication in whole or part is prohibited except with the written permission of the publisher. ©2025 Benton Communications Inc. The News-Press is printed on recycled paper. A searchable archive of all issues of the Falls Church News-Press since 1991 can be found at bit.ly/44kt6Sc.

# EDITORIAL

## Spanberger Moves to Safeguard Elections

Virginia's Governor Abigail Spanberger last week signed an important executive order to strengthen Virginia's comprehensive approach to protecting election integrity, improve Virginia's election security processes and interagency cooperation at the state level, and reenter Virginia into the 26-state Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

Gov. Spanberger's executive order directs the Commissioner of the Department of Elections to certify each year that election security procedures are in place as it relates to ballot security, the testing and certification of vote counting machines ahead of each election in which the machines are used, and multi-level accuracy checks of results conducted by election officials.

"I know it feels like it is always election season in Virginia," said Governor Spanberger. "With even more days of voting on our calendar this year, I'm acting early to strengthen Virginia's transparent, robust voting process and protect the rights of all eligible Virginia voters. The actions Virginia is taking today are not only critical to allowing all eligible Virginia voters to register and cast their ballot, but to making sure that only Virginians who are eligible to vote are able to vote in our Commonwealth — this year, and in every election into the future."

### Accuracy and Integrity of Voter Lists

As part of her order, Governor Spanberger is directing the Department of Elections to certify that "any program for which the purpose is to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the voter registration system based on evidence of ineligibility — including evidence of lack of eligible residence or evidence of non-citizenship" has been completed "not later than 90 days prior to the date of a federal primary or general election."

Additionally, the Governor's order requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to certify that the agency shares information on a daily basis with the Department of Elections as it relates to new eligible voters, voters who have moved, updates to existing voter registrations, and ineligible voters. The order also requires the Department of Elections to certify that after receiving this information, the agency takes required list maintenance actions in compliance with state and federal law.

Gov. Spanberger also began the process for Virginia to rejoin ERIC — a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with 26 member states that share voter registration and identification data to better keep accurate voter rolls. In 2012, Virginia was one of the founding states to create ERIC under the direction of former Governor Bob McDonnell.

In May 2023, Governor Glenn Youngkin pulled Virginia out of ERIC — making it more difficult for Virginia's election administrators to identify voters who have moved out of Virginia, who have updated their contact information, who have duplicate registrations in Virginia, and who have passed away.

These are critical steps along the way to safeguard this November's vote from Trump and MAGA attempts to taint or disqualify it.

## PLATFORM

1. Keep the news clean and fair.
2. Play no favorites, never mix business and editorial policy.
3. Do not let the news columns reflect editorial content.
4. Publish the news that is public property without fear or favor of friend or foe.
5. Accept no charity and ask no favors.
6. Give 'value received' for every dollar you take in.
7. Make the paper show a profit if you can, but above all keep it clean, fearless and fair.



WHAT  
BURNED



WHAT  
THEY CLAIMED

Their lies come out of your wallet. Insurance fraud costs everyone in Virginia \$1,000 per year. Learn how to spot it and report it at [TheCostOfFraud.com](https://TheCostOfFraud.com).



GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

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

\*Terms & conditions apply

AM I OKAY TO DRIVE?  
BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING



# Easter Around Falls Church

## Columbia Baptist Church

103 W. Columbia St.,  
Falls Church

Easter Sunday  
Worship at 9:30 a.m. and  
11 a.m.

## Saint James Catholic Church

905 Park Ave., Falls  
Church

Easter Sunday Masses at  
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m.,  
10:30 a.m., 12 p.m.,  
and 2:30 p.m. (Spanish).

## The Falls Church Episcopal

115 E. Fairfax St.,  
Falls Church

Easter Sunday Services at  
9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

7426 Idylwood Rd.,  
Falls Church

Easter Sunday  
services at 8 a.m. and  
10:30 a.m.

## Dulin Church

513 E. Broad St.,  
Falls Church  
Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service: 7 a.m.  
Worship: 10 a.m.

## Holy Trinity Church

3022 Woodlawn Ave.,  
Falls Church  
Easter Services: Sunrise  
Service: 6:30 a.m. in the  
Traditional service: 10 a.m.

## Christ Crossman United Methodist Church

384 N. Washington St.,  
Falls Church  
Easter Sunday service from  
10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



Easter brings a welcome reminder of renewal, gathering, and fresh beginnings. Whether celebrating with family traditions, community events, or a quiet spring morning, the season offers a chance to pause and appreciate the simple joys around us.

He is risen! Easter is a celebration of hope, renewal, and the promise of new life. May this season fill your heart with peace.

Celebrate the season of renewal, bright blooms, and sweet moments.

## Holy Week and *Easter* at THE FALLS CHURCH *an Episcopal congregation*

### Palm Sunday March 29

Palm Sunday Liturgy with outdoor procession of palms along East Fairfax Street. *Bring your Noise Making Instruments!* beginning at the East Fairfax Street entrance to process, continuing in The Historic Church 10:00 a.m.

### Maundy Thursday April 2

Maundy Thursday Interactive Service with the washing of the feet 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Church

Maundy Thursday Liturgy with the washing of feet and procession of the reserved sacrament to the Memorial Chapel 7:00 p.m. Historic Church

### Good Friday April 3

Good Friday Liturgy 8:00 a.m. Memorial Chapel

Historic Church open for private prayer 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Historic Church

### Holy Saturday April 4

Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m. Historic Church

### Easter Sunday April 5

Narrated Resurrection Story & Holy Eucharist festive reception to follow in the Parish Hall 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Church

Festal Holy Eucharist festive reception to follow in the Parish Hall 11:15 a.m. Historic Church

WORSHIP AT 9:30AM & 11AM

**Easter Sunday**  
04.05.26

COLUMBIA CHURCH/HOLYWEEK

103 WEST COLUMBIA STREET  
FALLS CHURCH, 22046

# FALLS CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

## City of F.C. Launches New Municipal Website

The City of Falls Church announced yesterday that it has launched its updated municipal website at FallsChurchVA.gov. Twelve years in the making, according to the City's statement, the new platform is engineered "to be faster and more intuitive, serving as the center of an ongoing effort to ensure a digital experience that is accessible to all members of the community as the work continues to evolve."

The redesigned platform, according to the statement, "centers on user needs with a responsive interface that functions across different devices. By using data prioritized to high-traffic resources—such as early voting, solid waste schedules, and community events—the City now provides a more streamlined experience that delivers information with fewer clicks."

Additionally, a comprehensive overhaul of the website's search tools improves both internal and external discovery, helping users locate accurate City services whether they begin on a major engine or use the website's built-in search bar navigation.

The City's ongoing digital Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility effort is also impacted by the launch of this modernized platform. Rather than a static update, the website serves as a foundation for continuous optimization over the next year and beyond to ensure inclusivity for all users.

## Saturday's "No Kings" Rally Drew Thousands in F.C.

Thousands braved a cold and windy morning to line up on Broad Street from Haycock Road to Roosevelt Street last Saturday to once again proclaim "No Kings in America." They were part of a record-breaking number of more than eight million protesters who took part in "No Kings" demonstrations in more than 3,300 localities throughout the U.S.

Falls Church Indivisible organized "Hands Across Falls Church," the third since June 2025. Along with the morning rally, Falls Church Indivisible also hosted a Bridge Visibility event in the afternoon on a nearby overpass which drew 75 people holding signs and waving at drivers.

Local businesses and restaurants donated prizes for sign, costume, and car decoration contests. Prizes will be awarded at the next Falls Church Indivisible meeting on April 12. Event sponsors included Botanologica, Clay Cafe, Clare & Don's, Dude's Dog House & Spa, EconoLodge Metro Arlington, One More Page Books, Penzeys, Stylish Patina, TINT, The Neighborhood Barber Shop, and We Can Do Hard Things Podcast.

Also new were warm-up events on March 21, including a decorated car parade and sign and button-making workshops – all intended to get people excited about "Hands Across Falls Church."

## Creative Cauldron's 'Bold New Voices' Series Begins April 11

Falls Church's Creative Cauldron is proud to announce the launch of its "Bold New Voices" festival, running from April 11 through May 9. The festival is sponsored by Diener and Associates and is also funded by project grants from ArtsFairfax and the Arts and Humanities Council of Falls Church. This initiative, established in 2019, serves as a vital platform for women and playwrights and composers, with a dedicated focus on supporting women of color who are traditionally underrepresented in the theater industry. All tickets are free.

## McKay: Fairfax Relaunches Red Flag Awareness

Jeff McKay, chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, announced this week that Fairfax County has relaunched its Red Flag Law awareness campaign "to help residents better understand how this important tool works and the role it plays in keeping our community safe," he said.

The campaign focuses on increasing awareness of Emergency Substantial Risk Order (ESRO) which are temporary, court-reviewed measures used during moments of serious risk to prevent harm before it happens. Since 2020, Fairfax County has obtained 481 ESROs, resulting in 947 firearms being temporarily removed from situations where there was a credible risk of danger.

The orders are not permanent and are not criminal charges. They involve an

investigation by law enforcement, judicial oversight, and a follow-up hearing, ensuring due process while allowing for timely intervention in situations involving suicide risk, escalating behavior, or credible threats.

The relaunch, McKay said, "expands outreach efforts to better reach all residents, with campaign materials now available in English, Spanish, and Korean. You may also notice messaging across Fairfax County Connector buses, helping bring awareness directly into our community and meeting people where they are."

## New Thai Restaurant Opens This Weekend in F.C.

My Home Thai Bistro will have a grand opening this Saturday for its new restaurant at 1009 W. Broad Street. The new restaurant aims to bring "a modern take on Thai cuisine with a refined yet welcoming atmosphere," co-owner Anuchit "Andrew" Suthus-na-Ayuttaya said in an interview.

In Falls Church, My Home will offer lunch and dinner service, with an ongoing 20 percent off lunch special from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Options include pad thai and pad see ew, as well as green curry, Bangkok shrimp and duck ka-pow stir fry with bell pepper, onions, basil and a spicy garlic chili brown sauce. Other entrees are the "Crying Tiger" flank steak with toasted rice and chili powder sauce, and tom yom soup with mushrooms, cilantro, kaffir lime leaves, chili and lime.

The bistro's full-service bar will offer beers, spirits and soju, in addition to a variety of cocktails inspired by the solar system and zodiac. The "Virgo" is made with Bombay Sapphire, lemon, dry champagne and a cotton candy topping, and a blue-and-green "Earth" combines coconut rum, pineapple, amaretto and blue curaçao. The bistro will be able to seat about 120 guests across a 4,453-square-foot dining room. It also plans to offer delivery and takeout.

This is My Home Thai Bistro's fourth location in the area, joining locations in Reston, Stafford and Ashburn. This location will be open 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday.



**AN UNVEILING** of a portrait of Dr. Edwin B. Henderson was held at the Falls Church Community Center's gym, named for the pioneering force in advancing Black basketball in the U.S. Dr. Henderson also founded the first rural chapter of the NAACP in Falls Church over 100 years ago. (Photo: Gary Mester)

Visit us at  
fcnp.com

# F.C. Leaders Hail Shields After His Retirement News

Continued from Page 1

members, and always made sure Falls Church remains the best place to live in America.

F.C. Vice Mayor Laura Downs – Though I have not been on the City Council as long as most of my colleagues, during the past 18 months, I have enjoyed every minute working with Wyatt, especially in my new role as Vice Mayor. I have found him to be smart, savvy, kind, humble and always calm under pressure. He is well-respected by his peers across the Commonwealth and loved by his staff. When I served as Chair of the FCCPS School Board, he always listened to my feedback and made it clear how much he supported our schools. His ability to grow his staff to keep up with a growing city and oversee a funding plan that enabled us to build a 120M high school has been vital to the financial health of our city, quality of city services and investment in our schools all while keeping a Triple A bond rating. The City Council has a very tough task ahead in trying to find someone as effective as Wyatt has been for over two decades. He will be greatly missed.

F.C. Council Member Marybeth Connelly – Wyatt led the City of Falls Church through a time of unprecedented growth and change. He is not only an employee but a resident, parent, friend, and citizen who cares deeply about the City of Falls Church.

F.C. Council Member David Snyder – I would favourably comment on Wyatt's effective day to day management of our small but complex local government and his unfailing civility to all even when we disagreed. David Snyder

Former F.C. Mayor David Tarter – Wyatt has been a trusted leader through years of growth and transformation, helping to shape the City's direction while staying grounded in its values. Having had the privilege of working alongside him during my time as mayor, I saw firsthand the steady leadership he brought to Falls Church every day. He has an exceptional ability to take on complex challenges and navigate them with calm professionalism, integrity, and a clear focus on what was best for the community. The progress Falls Church has made over the years is in

no small part due to his dedication and vision, and his legacy will continue to shape the city long into the future. Wyatt has been a true friend to Falls Church.

F.C. Sheriff M. Kay – I have known Wyatt for many years during his tenure as City Manager. He has deftly steered the City through many changes and challenges and exhibited his characteristic collaborative approach in coordinating City services and resources to the tasks at hand. From the renovation of City Hall to the City's response to COVID 19 as well as the logistical hurdles of managing the City's unprecedented growth including the recent addition of four major mixed use developments, Wyatt's organizational and leadership skills were evident. His support of public safety further cemented his commitment to the residents of our City.

We wish him the best in his retirement and in all his future endeavors.

Arlington Circuit Court Clerk Paul Ferguson – In 2007, Wyatt invited me to speak to a group of administrators at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond when I was Chair of the Arlington County Board. I observed that Wyatt was highly respected by his peers. He played an active role in educational and training efforts for City/County Managers. Wyatt's status among his peers is one of the reasons the City of Falls Church is known on a national level. City Managers usually want to progress to larger jurisdictions that would bring them more prestige and money. Wyatt was loyal to the City of Falls Church and the skill and stability he provided is one of the reasons Falls Church is admired regionally and nationally. Whenever I needed to reach him, he responded quickly with a commitment to quickly address the issue. Wyatt Shields will be missed but will be remembered and credited for running one of the top local governments nationally for its size. He will also be recognized for his contributions to continuing education efforts for his profession.

F.C. Chamber of Commerce's Andrew Painter –

Wyatt's retirement marks the close of a chapter of good governance defined by integrity and commitment. Since

Continued on Page 14



## Proposed Constitutional Amendment To be voted on at the April 21, 2026, Special Election

### BALLOT QUESTION

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census?

**EXPLANATION FOR VOTERS** (Approved by House and Senate Privileges and Elections Committees on February 20, 2026)

#### Present Law

Virginia's eleven congressional districts are drawn once every ten years by the Virginia Redistricting Commission, a legislative body made up of eight legislators and eight citizens, with an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. Virginia's congressional districts were last redrawn in 2021 and will next be redrawn in 2031.

#### Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment would give the General Assembly the authority to redraw one or more of Virginia's congressional districts before 2031 in limited circumstances. In the event that another state redraws its own congressional districts before 2031, without being ordered by a court to do so, the General Assembly would then be able to redraw Virginia's congressional districts. The General Assembly's power to do so would continue until October 31, 2030, and the Virginia Redistricting Commission would reassume the responsibility of drawing the congressional districts in 2031.

The proposed district map has been approved by the General Assembly and would take effect only if the constitutional amendment is approved by the voters.

A "yes" vote would allow the General Assembly to redraw Virginia's congressional districts, since other states have done so, in addition to giving effect to the proposed district map in time for the 2026 Congressional elections, and return the responsibility of drawing the congressional districts in 2031 to the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

A "no" vote would leave the authority to draw congressional districts with the Virginia Redistricting Commission once a decade and Virginia's current districts would remain in place.

### FULL TEXT OF AMENDMENT

[Proposed new language is underlined. Deleted old language is ~~stricken~~.]

#### ARTICLE II.

##### Franchise and Officers

#### Section 6. Apportionment.

Members of the House of Representatives of the United States and members of the Senate and of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly shall be elected from electoral districts established pursuant to this section and Section 6-A of this Constitution. Every electoral district shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and shall be so constituted as to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district. Every electoral district shall be drawn in accordance with the requirements of federal and state laws that address racial and ethnic fairness, including the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and judicial decisions interpreting such laws. Districts shall provide, where practicable, opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to elect candidates of their choice.

The Commonwealth shall be reapportioned into electoral districts in accordance with this section and Section 6-A in the year 2021 and every ten years thereafter, except that the General Assembly shall be authorized to modify one or more congressional districts at any point following the adoption of a decennial reapportionment law, but prior to the next decennial census, in the event that any State of the United States of America conducts a redistricting of such state's congressional districts at any point following that state's adoption of a decennial reapportionment law for any purpose other than (i) the completion of the state's decennial redistricting in response to a federal census and reapportionment mandated by the Constitution of the United States and established in federal law or (ii) as ordered by any state or federal court to remedy an unlawful or unconstitutional district map.

Any such decennial reapportionment law, or reapportionment law modifying one or more congressional districts, shall take effect immediately and not be subject to the limitations contained in Article IV, Section 13, of this Constitution.

The districts delineated in the ~~decennial~~ any reapportionment law shall be implemented for the November general election for the United States House of Representatives, Senate, or House of Delegates, respectively, that is held immediately prior to the expiration of the term being served in the year that the reapportionment law is required to be enacted. A member in office at the time that a decennial redistricting law is enacted shall complete his term of office and shall continue to represent the district from which he was elected for the duration of such term of office so long as he does not move his residence from the district from which he was elected. Any vacancy occurring during such term shall be filled from the same district that elected the member whose vacancy is being filled.

#### SCHEDULE

#### Section 6. Application and duration of certain redistricting amendments.

The authorization in Article II, Section 6 authorizing the General Assembly to modify one or more congressional districts at any point following adoption of a decennial reapportionment law in the event that any State of the United States of America conducts a redistricting of such state's congressional districts at any point following that state's adoption of a decennial reapportionment law shall be limited to making such modifications between January 1, 2025, and October 31, 2030, in response to actions taken by another state between January 1, 2025, and October 31, 2030

# 'NO KINGS' ECHOES THROUGH FALLS CHURCH



# FALLS CHURCH COMES TOGETHER IN FORCE



PICTURES WERE TAKEN from around the City of Falls Church, capturing scenes from across the community. (Photo: Gary Mester, Falls Church Indivisible, Patricia Leslie and Nancy Adelman)

# Are You Ready For November?

NICHOLAS F. BENTON

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

The unabashed joy experienced among the over eight million Americans who turned out for “No Kings” demonstrations across the U.S., was joy of the common humanity experienced by all, with no questions asked about political affiliations as long as one stood with a “No Kings” sign among the hordes of others assembled in so many different urban and rural places.

It was, indeed, an uncommon human solidarity moment, or hour or so. This is what it is like when a portion of the 99 percent of us who are not part of the ruling elites, get together and agree on something. For all the billions the one percent at the top of our society spend trying to divide us, to cancel our political impact by such means, whenever a breakthrough occurs and our millions of people (rather than dollars) get a taste of what it is like to pull together, there is nothing that the ruling elites fear more. And the joy on our side is palpable.

Driving up and down the main street in my little home town, with everybody cheering, yelling, honking and waving their homemade signs, as I tried to document the occasion with picture taking, the overwhelming power of it all made me a bit, as they say, verklempt. A great sense of hope arose in my heart. It was beautiful.

It is what all our national holidays and gatherings are supposed to be like in tone and feeling. Ah, but to have this become true again for America! When we are in a generous and happy mood, we have so much to contribute to the good of humanity.

Just maybe it is fate’s plan to use the overreach of our would-be emperor and his team to draw the good out of the rest of us.

But I would caution against such a sentiment if only because the excesses of this foul regime at the top of our society right now has such heinous intentions yet even just for this year by ob-

structing, if not cancelling, this November’s midterm elections.

If anyone needed evidence of how deceitful and foul-spirited these forces are, one needs look no further than the campaign by pro-Trumpers to prevent the passage of a referendum on the ballot in Virginia to counter Trump’s re-drawing of congressional districts across the U.S.

The “Yes” on the special election ballot, seen as a temporary move to counter Trump’s despicable efforts in Texas, North Carolina and elsewhere, is being opposed by pro-Trump forces who are using the most egregious lying and misrepresentations to confuse and disenfranchise voters, especially minority voters.

They claim in a widely-used TV ad that the “Vote Yes” forces are trying to attack civil rights and the legacy of Martin Luther King. Nothing could be more the opposite of the truth!

More than anything, this case shows the abject moral depravity of the Trump forces.

The state NAACP was slated to hold a press conference in Richmond this week to call out the outrageous misrepresentations in the ad.

But this shows the depravity of the Trump forces is breathtaking. They have been, and will, stop at nothing to get their way.

In an op-ed in the New York Times this week, Virginia’s U.S. Senator Mark Warner wrote the following:

“According to recent reporting... allies of Mr. Trump’s working in coordination with people close to the White House have circulated a draft executive order that would declare a national emergency based on false claims of foreign interference in the 2020 election. That declaration would be used to unlock sweeping presidential powers over how Americans vote... There is no legitimate basis for such an emergency. That is not the point. The point is that the Trump administration could manufacture an impression of an emergency, creating a pretext for intervention.”

For all the joy of last weekend, the sobering reality remains. Doing what it will take to stop Trump will require more than most of us have ever had to do in our lives so far.



## A Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Gross

Former Fairfax County Supervisor

A recent announcement that Donald Trump ordered replacement of the flagstone pavers in the colonnade walkway outside the Oval Office with black granite, the latest of many Trump-inspired “renovations” to the historic Executive Mansion, caused an on-line inquiry: what will be left of the White House by 2028? Good question. Razing the East Wing for a gigantic ballroom. Tearing out the Jacqueline Kennedy Rose Garden in favor of a Mar-A-Lago-style concrete patio complete with resort umbrellas. Shiny gold gewgaws dominating the Oval Office. A plan to change out the mansion’s simple Doric columns for ones in the fancier Ionic style, and a rumored redesign of the historic Treaty Room into another guest bedroom and bath. These actions may reflect the efforts of a “builder-in-chief” known for hotels and golf courses but not the supposed leader of the free world. The White House better have its liability insurance policy up to date since granite can be very slippery in the rain or snow, leading to potential hard falls, especially for his female aides in stiletto heels or his cabinet members wearing those new Florsheims that don’t fit.

Every president since John Adams has been a steward, not the owner, of the Executive Mansion and its grounds, and every president until now has utilized discretion and respect for the history happening there for nearly 200 years under

their predecessors. Trump brags that he’s a builder, but he’s actually a destroyer. Like a small child, he delights in watching things blow up or crash down, and then, when he is bored with that toy, walks away to let others clean up the mess.

However, the destruction of treasured and familiar places in and around the White House epitomizes a grave and more insidious devastation of our government and democracy. The chaos and change that Trump has already done and is doing with bricks and mortar, is being replicated across multiple government departments that have long been relied on and trusted by the American people.

The list is long, beginning with the Department of Justice (DOJ), crucial to the operation of our legal system. Under unqualified Attorney General Pam Bondi, experienced lawyers are leaving DOJ in droves, the Civil Rights Division and other offices have been hollowed out, weaponizing investigations against Trump critics have hit a new low (or high), and the DOJ has become a private law firm with one client, Donald Trump. Rebuilding the values and expertise at DOJ will take at least a generation after Trump leaves office. The Department of Education is nearly gone, and the Environmental Protection Agency has removed longtime protections – curbing provisions for clean air and clean water, lowering pollution limits for coal plants, and reversing the

determination that greenhouse gases endanger human health. Quixotic Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has upended decades of scientifically-verified recommendations for childhood vaccinations and other medical practices, and destroyed trust in any information coming out of the department and related agencies. Trump and Kennedy also terminated U.S. membership in the World Health Organization (WHO) because of cost (the U.S. share estimated to be \$680 million annually). Instead, the Trump Administration proposes to spend \$2 Billion annually to create an alternative international agency. So much for reputation, efficiency, economy, and working collaboratively with our allies on health issues that can affect billions of people.

Then there are decreases in foreign aid that protected millions of lives overseas, losses of personnel tasked with maintaining safety and security at U.S. airports, rewriting of American history at the Smithsonian museums, and suggesting that the average American consumer save money and eat well for three dollars for a “piece of chicken, a piece of broccoli, a corn tortilla, and one other thing.”

Razing, redesigning, and rebuilding the celebrated physical structures that have defined the Nation’s Capital for decades is difficult to stomach, but it is the steady and insidious destruction of government policies and departments of our Republic that is most dangerous. Ordinary citizens may not be able to do much about the former, but we can do something about the latter – with our voices and our votes!

## CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CRIME REPORT

### Week of March 23 - 29, 2026

Destruction of Property, Mar 23, 9:00 a.m., multiple reports for graffiti were taken from various locations throughout the City. (Delayed report)

Domestic Assault and Battery, Timber Ln, Mar 23, 4:12 p.m., a 36-year-old of the City of Falls Church was arrested for Domestic Assault and Battery, Assault on Law Enforcement, and Public Intoxication.

Domestic Assault and Battery, S Maple Ave, Mar 24, 8:00 p.m., a 51-year-old of the City of Falls Church was arrested for Domestic Assault and Battery and Malicious Wounding.

Assist Fire, Wilson Blvd, Mar 25, 11:23 a.m., officers responded to a report of a hand grenade in the parking lot. Arlington County Fire and Rescue Bomb Squad responded. Investigation is ongoing.

Fraud – Identity Theft, Whittier Cir, Mar 26, 9:08 a.m., victim reported an unknown suspect used a driver’s license with their information to withdraw money at a bank.

Fraud – False Pretenses, Dulany Pl, Mar 26, 10:30 a.m., victim reported sending money to an unknown suspect claiming to be a law enforcement officer with a warrant for their arrest.

Fraud – False Pretenses, S Virginia Ave, Mar 26, 7:29 p.m., victim reported sending money

to an unknown suspect claiming to be an immigration attorney.

Simple Assault, N Roosevelt St, Mar 26, 7:58 p.m., a 54-year-old of the City of Falls Church was arrested for Simple Assault.

Possession with Intent to Distribute, W Broad St, Mar 27, 12:45 a.m., a 23-year-old of Clarksville was arrested for Possession of Controlled Paraphernalia, Sell/Give/Distribution of Marijuana, and Driving on Revoked License.

Shoplifting, Wilson Blvd, Mar 27, 12:07 p.m., a 31-year-old of Alexandria was arrested for Shoplifting, Public Intoxication, and Obstruction of Justice.

# Little Theatre of Alexandria's 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' Review

BY PATRICIA LESLIE

It's the swinging 60s, and a black man has come to court a white girl and her parents are, shall we say, caught off guard?

See how you like this, liberal mom and dad! (It's kinda like, "but, please, not in my backyard.")

"Whaaattt you say? What?" cries the mother (Rachael Hubbard) when she grasps what's happening.

Silence is golden and at Little Theatre of Alexandria's, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," nothing says it better than the mother's grimaces and her silent shocks as she recoils, shrinks, oohs and awes, puts her hands to her face, rolls her head back, clenches her teeth, shakes, smiles nervously and moves around the living room as if a stun gun is chasing her nonstop.

Mr. Drayton, the dad (Bruce Alan Rauscher), does a double-take: "Say, what? What did you say? Doctor, why are you here? You are what?"

After most of the initial shock has withered a bit, the parents say

they are worried about the future of their daughter, Joanna (Meghan Mohon); her mom timidly asks if they've, you know, have they, well, ...slept together? She finds out the couple has only been a "twosome" for ten days and are talking marriage.

Marriage? After ten days?

Yeeks! Help us!

You've got to hand it to director Adam Konowe for eliciting motherly emotions and expressions which also show up in the hilarious performance of the housemaid, Tillie (Eleanore Tapscott) who, once she's eavesdropped and gained information, gives the new boyfriend, John Prentice (Justin Oratokhai) a talking to, rolling her head around with hands on her hips.

She'll learn him a thing or two, all right.

But not to overlook one of the funniest, most exaggerated performers, Hilary (Gayle Nichols-Grimes) who, in fine garb with rich red fingernails to match the piping of her navy blue suit and headgear (with costumes by Michelle Harris),

is the epitome of a priggish lady who relishes the problems of others, waving her arms to match the wingspan of a condor.

Hilary is Mrs. Draper's partner in the arts who arrives at the Draytons just ahead of Joanna and John, their reception one might call: dy-no-mite, to put it in the vernacular.

Hilary's eyes almost catapult from the top of her head.

Finally, Mrs. Draper has all she can take of Hilary and throws her out...to audience applause.

(Later, after the show, Konowe said: "There was no question about who [Nichols-Grimes] would get the part. She had it, hands down.")

It takes a while for the heat to cool at the Draytons while Tillie prepares dinner for yet another couple whom Joanna has secretly invited: John's parents. Oh, my.

Mr. Prentice (Kevin Sockwell) is a bitter, angry dad who huffs and puffs and exclaims while he stumbles across the room looking for a hidden camera: "This has got to be 'Candid Camera!' and if this

is a surprise," he blusters, "Surprise is a retirement party. This is an ambush," before he launches into a tirade about the risks of interracial relationships.

With his wife (Gayle Carney), they, too, are worried about their child's future and the disadvantages the young couple face.

Suddenly, Mrs. Prentice finds her voice to take command and accuse both fathers of forgetting what love is all about, exclaiming that their children really love each other! Really? While nearby, Mrs. Draper nods.

Thank goodness for the presence of Monsignor Ryan (Marc Derks), Mr. Drayton's golf partner, who enters with a bit of levity and humor at precise moments to rescue conversations and diffuse tense exchanges.

In program notes, Konowe quotes Shakespeare that "what's past is prologue," and considering the Supreme Court's restriction on abortion rights, it is not past the realm of possibility that the Court may consider other civil rights

changes for those in love or not.

Things to think about while you laugh along.

Todd Kreidler wrote the book.

About two hours plus one 15 minute intermission. For mature teens; some adult language by Mr. Drayton.

All tickets, \$29 (with fee included), Thursday - Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.. through April 18 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria 22314, ph. 703-683-0496



Gayle Nichols-Grimes is "Hilary" in Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." (Photo: Matt Liptak)



## Diener & Associates

Certified Public Accountants



Local CPAs  
you can trust  
for all your  
business &  
personal  
financial  
needs

John Sterner

City of Falls Church Neighbor &  
Tax Manager of Diener & Associates

GovCon Consulting • Outsourced Accounting  
Tax Services • Advisory

125 Rowell Ct | 703.241.8807  
Falls Church, VA | diener.cpa



The SMILE you want.  
The attention you deserve.

Currently accepting new patients





703.532.3300 | [www.doughertyDDS.com](http://www.doughertyDDS.com)

200 Little Falls Street #506, Falls Church VA 22046

# Meridian Lacrosse and Tennis Still Remain Undefeated

BY RYAN McCAFFERTY

We're two weeks into spring sports season at Meridian High School, and the Mustangs will now have the next one off for break, giving us a good early gauge of where everyone is at. It's been a solid start to the campaign for many of the programs, so let's take a look.

Baseball played its first true home game in 22 months against Millbrook last Wednesday, and made it worth it in a 10-0 win. The boys lost a 10-9 heart-breaker at Kettle Run the next night, though, bringing them to 2-3 on the season. Softball took a pair of losses on the road, 17-3 to Liberty (Bealeton) on Monday and 17-1 to Millbrook last Wednesday, as the girls are still seeking their first victory of 2026.

It was a busy week on the soccer field, with the boys beating Dominion 2-0 on the road last Monday but then losing 2-1 at Park View last Wednesday. The girls lost 3-2 at Dominion last Thursday in their only action of the week. Both teams are 2-1 for the year,

and will be off until they each face Annandale on April 7th.

Boys' lacrosse stayed hot, beating Freedom 11-10 in overtime last Wednesday and then taking down John Champe 15-8 the next night, both at home. The girls won their only contest, an 8-7 dogfight on Monday at home against Alexandria City. They are now a combined 7-0 for the year, the boys with four wins and the girls with three as they will now get some much-needed rest.

Both tennis squads continued to roll as well, with the boys and girls both beating Millbrook last Wednesday 8-1, the former on the road and the latter at home. That brings each of them to a perfect 3-0 on the year, and they'll see their next action after the break against Warren County on April 9th.

Last but not least, track and field competed in a District meet at Manassas Park, and had a strong showing led by William Anderson individually winning the 3200 meter event. The Mustangs will be off until April 8th, when they travel to Brentsville.



Tested and proven gutter protection.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

LeafFilter®

Common hood style

Special offer - Save up to\*

**25% off**  
LeafFilter Gutter Protection

We install year-round - Exp: 6/30/26

Schedule your free inspection and estimate today!

**1-877-614-6667** Promo Code: 285

\*Promotional offer includes 15% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. See representative for full warranty details. AR 368920925, AZ ROC 344027, CA 1035795, CT HIC0671520, DC 420223E+H1, FL GC056678, IA C127230, ID RCE-51604, LA 559544, MA 213292, MD MHIC111225, HIC164488, MI 262300331, 262300330, 262300329, 262300328, 262300318, 262300173, MN IR810524, MT 2661922, ND 47304, NE 50145-24, 50145-23, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, NV 86990, OR 218294, PA PAT79643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10733658-5501, VA 2705169445, VT 174.0000871, WA LEAFLH-763PG, WI No. 537-DCFRR WV WV056912.

# Many Local Leaders Hail Shields' Career

Continued from Page 9

arriving from Scottsville in 2006 in 2006, he has grown alongside the City he managed with care and thoughtfulness. He oversaw tremendous growth, guided the City through a major recession and a pandemic, and delivered critical, first-class public facilities—no small feat for any municipal executive, especially in a small jurisdiction. Future generations of Falls Church residents will benefit from Wyatt's steady leadership and the trust he fostered. It was an honor to work with him; he will be missed.

Former F.C. Commissioner Debra Z. Roth - I can't imagine Falls Church City without Wyatt steering us along every day. He has been a significant force behind the Little City's growing into a bigger Little City, a smart growth, and still tight knit and vibrant. What I recall most fondly about Wyatt that I haven't yet told him was seeing him after an event picking up trash, not leaving it all to staff. He will still be around so we need to make sure we keep him in that part of the job.

Former F.C. Vice Mayor Hal Lippman - As a newly sworn member of the City Council in 2006 when the popular and widely esteemed city manager, Dan McKeever, unexpectedly passed away, I and my colleagues suddenly found ourselves faced with the need to quickly find a successor. It didn't take long for us to decide to ask Wyatt to step into that role on an interim basis. He agreed, and a little more than a year later the interim status was removed. And, as they say, the rest is history. Coming in as he did, Wyatt grew into the consummate professional he has become over the past 20 years. He has served Falls Church and its people for two remarkable decades, whereas he grew and prospered professionally, so has the city grown and prospered under his leadership. In coming weeks I'm sure his contributions and accomplishments will be remarked on by many. And so, I'll close this brief tribute with my deeply felt personal expression of gratitude for and appreciation of his service...ya done good, Wyatt!



## Hale Mini Honeybells

The once a year citrus sensation!

Buy 12 get 12 more **FREE!**

Call **1-855-693-0741**

to Order Item 2692X

or Visit **HaleGroves.com/H6YU11**

Only \$34.99 plus \$7.99 shipping & processing. Satisfaction completely guaranteed.



IC: H6YU11

**27% SAVINGS!**  
INCLUDING SHIPPING!

\*Plus \$7.99 handling per pack to the 48 contiguous states. Limited time offer, good while supplies last. Not valid with any other offer. Limit 5 boxes per customer.

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA GAY NEWS

## News-Press Launches “Northern Va. Gay News”

With this edition, the Falls Church News-Press and its parent company, Benton Communications, Inc., is launching the Northern Virginia Gay News with relevant news and events focusing on the needs and interests of the large LGBTQ+ population in Northern Virginia. Run in conjunction with LGBT Falls Church, the Gay News will offer reports every week. Persons and groups are encouraged to send in news and information for inclusion in the reports. Contact [fcnp@fcnp.com](mailto:fcnp@fcnp.com).

In particular, we appreciate Fabrice Houdart’s online newsletter for its contributions.

## Congressional Equality Caucus Assails Supreme Court Decision

Following the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Chiles v. Salazar*, a case on the constitutionality of Colorado’s ban on licensed mental health professionals engaging in conversion therapy for minors, Congressional Equality Caucus Chair Rep. Mark Takano released the following statement:

“Young LGBTQI+ will suffer because of today’s Supreme Court decision. This decision, however, doesn’t change the fact that conversion therapy is still dangerous, disproven, and denounced by every major medical association in the United States,” said Rep. Mark Takano, Chair of the Congressional Equality Caucus. “Providers who engage in these practices are actively endangering the wellbeing of young LGBTQI+ and defrauding their families by promising to “fix” something that is simply not broken. Young LGBTQI+ people should not have to be subjected to this kind of cruelty—especially by licensed health care providers. The Congressional Equality Caucus will continue to push federal legislation to address this harmful and fraudulent practice.”

## This Week’s Scheduled Events in N. Virginia

Friday, April 3, 7 p.m. – First Friday LGBTQ+ Community Social at Ballston Silver Diner. 4400 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.  
 Saturday, April 4, 12:00 p.m. Family Fun Story Time Brunch at Freddie’s Beach Bar & Restaurant, 555 23rd St. Arlington.  
 Saturday, April 4, 8 p.m. on – Weekly drag show at Freddie’s.  
 Sunday, April 5, 2 p.m. Punch Bowl Monthly Pop & Slay Drag Brunch, 4238 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.  
 Sunday, April 5, 8 p.m. – Monthly Zodiac Drag Show, Freddie’s.  
 Monday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ Community Happy Hour Meetup, Freddie’s.

## Dark & Unbound Bookstore Sets to Open in Falls Church

While the retail space in the 100 block of W. Broad in Falls Church remains unopened, the Dark & Unbound bookstore is active online.

It is advertised as “a uniquely atmospheric retail and gathering space in Falls Church Virginia, providing a curated book selection and aesthetically related merchandise in a cozy and moody environment that encourages customers to visit, browse, linger, and learn.”

It is promoted on its website as “a proudly feminist and queer fantasy bookstore, shop of miscellanea, and host for metaphysical and educational events.”

## Survey Finds 62% of LGBTQ+ Students Faced Harassment

The formerly GLSEN-branded organization Glisten released its 13th National School Climate Survey, revealing that 62% of LGBTQ+ students experienced verbal, physical, or online harassment based on sexual orientation, while 86% of trans students avoided certain school spaces out of fear. CEO Melanie Willingham-Jaggers called the findings a dual portrait of systemic failure and remarkable youth resilience. “Education is the cornerstone of democracy,” she said. “Education is its immune system against autocracy.”

## Finland Supremes Find Homophobe Guilty

Finland’s Supreme Court overturned two earlier acquittals to convict Christian Democratic parliamentarian Päivi Räsänen, ordering her to pay €1,800 for social media statements claiming

homosexuality is a developmental disorder. The court found her claim met the legal threshold for incitement against a group, as reported in *Attitude*.

## Amsterdam Celebrates 25 Years Of Marriage Equality

This week, Amsterdam marked the 25th anniversary of marriage equality with midnight weddings in the presence of out gay Prime Minister Rob Jetten. Since becoming the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001, the Netherlands has seen nearly 36,000 couples say “I do,” inspiring dozens of countries to follow.

## 500 Anti-LGBTQ Bills Active in U.S., ACLU Says

The American Civil Liberties Union’s live tracker has identified more than 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills active in U.S. state legislatures in 2026, covering healthcare restrictions, school bans, civil rights rollbacks, and identity documentation barriers. South Carolina, Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois are among the states with the highest volumes of legislation.

A Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation/SSRS poll conducted in February found a clear majority in support of trans equality across party lines, with 76% of Republicans and 92% of Democrats agreeing that trans people deserve equal rights. The survey also found that 41% of U.S. adults personally know a transgender person — and those with direct connections were consistently more supportive.

## Machiavellian? Is That A Bad Thing?

A 2021 study by psychologists Peter Jonason and Severi Luoto, revisited by Le Point this week, finds that bisexual and homosexual individuals score higher on Machiavellianism than heterosexuals — but the explanation is less damning than it sounds. The researchers suggest this may be adaptive: people forced to conceal their identity learn, out of necessity, to read and navigate hostile social environments with greater sophistication. In their words, higher Machiavellian behavior in non-heterosexual men would be “not a pathology, but instead, a pseudo-pathology” helping them survive dangerous social contexts.

## New Benton Book on Sale At One More Page Books

In addition to internet sites, the highly acclaimed new book by the News-Press’ Nicholas F. Benton, *Please Don’t Eat Your Children*, is available from One More Page Books on Westmoreland adjacent to the Falls Church city line.



**SUNDAY NIGHT** at Clare and Don’s in Falls Church a rousing Shack Style drag bingo event was held in the restaurant’s Swamp room, featuring the famous Katja Attenshun and drag jester Cammy Quandary. No date has been set yet for the next such event. (Photo: News-Press)

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) of the City of Falls Church, Virginia will hold a public hearing on April 9, 2026, at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 300 Park Avenue, for consideration of the following items:

-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 24.17 feet 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, continued from the February 12, 2026, BZA meeting by the applicant.

-Variance application V1676-26 by Stephen and Toby Hedger, (Applicants and Owners), for a variance to Sec. 48-238(3)(a) to allow a front yard setback of 24 feet instead of the 30 feet minimum allowed along Hillier Street to construct a sunroom and foundation at 116 South Oak Street, RPC#52-206-048 of the Falls Church Real Property Records, zoned R-1A, Low Density Residential District.

- Variance application V1677-26 by Andrew and Virginia Wright, (Applicants and Owners) for a variance to Sec. 48-238(3)(a) to allow a side yard setback of 9 feet instead of the 10 feet minimum allowed to construct a rear covered porch at 928 North Quesada Street, RPC#53-218-034 of the Falls Church Real Property Records, zoned R-1B, Medium Density Residential.

- Variance application V1678-26 by Michael and Molly Novotny, (Applicants and Owners) for a variance to Sec. 48-238(3)(a) to allow a side yard setback of 3.5 feet instead of the 10 feet minimum allowed to reconstruct an addition at 319 N. Maple Avenue, RPC#51-108-039 of the Falls Church Real Property Records, zoned R-1A, Low Density Residential.

Public comment and questions may be submitted to zoning@fallschurchva.gov until 4:30 pm on April 9, 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.

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](mailto:cityclerk@fallschurchva.gov), or [www.fallschurchva.gov/BC](http://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
- Housing Commission
- Library Board of Trustees
- Public Utilities Commission
- Towing Advisory Board
- Urban Forestry Commission

- Regional Boards/Commissions**
- Continuum of Care Board
  - Coordinating Council for the Aging and Adults with Disabilities
  - Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
  - Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
  - Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia
  - Northern Virginia Community College Board

[classads@fcnp.com](mailto:classads@fcnp.com)

**ABC NOTICE**

Peking Gourmet Inn Inc. trading as Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041 is applying to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Authority for a Restaurant with Caterer license, for wine and beer on and off premises and mixed beverage, to sell alcoholic beverages. Vicky Wang Tsui, President/Owner. 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](http://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. \$5995 each. Contact information: Richard Honaker 214-532-1420 [HONAKER@aol.com](mailto:HONAKER@aol.com)

Two funeral lots for sale at National Memorial Park, Valued at \$15,000. Best offer. 301-938-9806.

Two double depth lawn crypts in National Memorial Park in Falls Church Virginia. Located in beautiful Garden of Belvedere row South lots A,B@C,D. \$15,000 per double depth crypt. call 540-222-4205

**AUCTIONS**

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Evelyn Etienne at Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7580, [evelyne@commonwealthmediasolutions.com](mailto:evelyne@commonwealthmediasolutions.com)

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-947-1479 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! Leaf Filter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-877-614-6667 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-591-9950

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-844-746-2332

**LIVESTOCK SALES**

G&E Virginia Premium Assured Heifer/Cow Sale. March 28th, 2026, 12:00 noon. G&E Test Center Gretna, VA. Call George Winn at 434-489-4458.

**SERVICES**

DIVORCE-Uncontested, \$525.00 + \$86.00 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 888-608-4974

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-844-216-5028

[fcnp.com](http://fcnp.com)

*We are pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia's policy for achieving equal housing opportunity throughout the Commonwealth. We encourage and support advertising and marketing programs in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap. All real estate advertised herein is subject to Virginia's fair housing law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status or handicap or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the fair housing law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. For more information or to file a housing complaint call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at (804) 367-8530. Toll free call (888) 551-3247. For the hearing impaired call (804) 367-9753.*

**GUTTERWORKS**

**Gagnon's Gutterworks**

CLEANING/INSTALLATION/REPAIR  
LICENSED & INSURED  
POWER WASHING  
[WWW.GAGNONSGUTTERWORKS.COM](http://WWW.GAGNONSGUTTERWORKS.COM)

- New Gutter Installation, Gutter Cleaning and more
- Lawn Care Services - Mowing, Weed Control, Seeding
- Power Washing - Whole House Roof Cleaning, Concrete, Siding and Decks
- Free Estimates - Licensed and Insured, ALL Work Guaranteed
- Senior Citizen Discount
- \$5.00 Off for First Time Customers (Mention This Ad)

**703-716-0377 OR 571-421-3663**  
SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA [TGGUTTERS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:TGGUTTERS@YAHOO.COM)

[ads@fcnp.com](mailto:ads@fcnp.com)

**Classified Ad Rates**

**\$20 dollars for up to 20 words and \$0.50 for every word after.**

**Contact Us:  
classads@fcnp.com  
703-532-3267**

**SMOKEY**

**80 years**

of preventing wildfires together

KEEP TOW CHAINS FROM DRAGGING SO THEY DON'T SPARK

ad COUNCIL 80th Anniversary SMOKEYBEAR.COM

# This Week Around Falls Church

## Thurs, April 2

### New Yorker Discussion Group

2–3 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave. Monthly discussion of The New Yorker. In person and via Zoom (email for link).

### Falls Church Fitness Challenge

Month-long  
Various locations  
Community wellness initiative with pop-up classes and activities.

### Trivia Thursdays —

7–9 p.m.  
Solace Outpost,  
444 W. Broad St.

## Fri, April 3

### Andrew Acosta Trio

5:30 p.m.  
Clare and Don's Beach Shack,  
130 N. Washington St.

### Military History Forum:

#### Your United States Army, 250 Years of Service to the Nation

10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Falls Church Senior Center,  
223 Little Falls St.  
Part of Falls Church 250 programming.

## Sat, April 4

### Arlington Civitan Open Air Flea Market

7 a.m.–1 p.m.  
4001 15th St. N., Arlington  
Outdoor flea market.

### Falls Church Farmers Market

8 a.m.–12 p.m.  
City Hall Parking Lot, 300 Park Ave.  
Weekly market featuring local vendors.

### Annual Egg Hunt

9:15 a.m. activities;  
10 a.m. hunt  
Cherry Hill Park, 312 Park Ave.  
Egg hunts by age group, crafts, games, music, photos and magic show. No parking at City Hall 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

### Board Game Design Panel

2 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.  
Registration required. Panel on creating board games.

### The Pacsons —

5:30 p.m.  
Clare and Don's Beach Shack,  
130 N. Washington St.,  
Falls Church.

## Sunday, April 5

### Library Closed

All day  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.  
Library closed.

## Mon, April 6

### City Council Legislative Committee Meeting

10–11 a.m.  
Oak Room, City Hall, 300 Park Ave.  
Public meeting.

### Egg Hunt Rain Date (if needed)

4:30 p.m.  
Cherry Hill Park, 312 Park Ave.  
Rain date for Egg Hunt.

### Teen Craft Club:

#### Shrinky Dink Keychains

6:30–7:30 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.  
Registration required. Arts & crafts for grades 6–12.

### City Council Work Session

7:30–11 p.m.  
Dogwood Room A & B, City Hall, 300 Park Ave.  
Public meeting; watch online or FCCTV.

## Tues, April 7

### Poetry Reading with

#### Melanie McCabe

6:30–7:30 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.  
Registration required. Celebrate Poetry Month with local poet Melanie McCabe.  
Open to teens and adults.

## Weds, April 8

### LEGO Club

4–5 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.  
Drop-in program for grades K–5.

### WERQ Dance Fitness

6–7 p.m.  
Cherry Hill Park Basketball Court, 312 Park Ave.  
Fitness Challenge pop-up class.

### Ongoing

#### Spring Tree Rescue Extravaganza

Through April 12  
Various Fairfax County locations  
Volunteer registration required.  
<https://www.fairfaxprism.org/events/spring-2026-tree-rescuer-extravaganza>

### Have Events?

Send us an email to [calendar@fcnp.com](mailto:calendar@fcnp.com)



COMING SOON

APR 03	CHRISTOPHER TITUS
APR 04	THE LEGWARMERS LIVE 80S RETRO PARTY
APR 10	SOUTHERN ACCENTS TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
APR 11	GRATEFUL DUB REGGAE INFUSED GRATEFUL DEAD
APR 17	5 DOLLAR COMEDY NIGHT
APR 18	POLICE CARS TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE & THE CARS
APR 24	ALMOST QUEEN TRIBUTE TO QUEEN
APR 25	SHOT THRU THE HEART BON JOVI TRIBUTE
MAY 01	ABACAB TRIBUTE TO GENESIS & PHIL COLLINS

statetheatreva 703-237-0300
 statetheatredc  
 220 N WASHINGTON ST FALLS CHURCH, VA 22046

## Upcoming Issues

4/9

## Camps & Schools

For Advertising

Contact

Sue @ [sjohnson@fcnp.com](mailto:sjohnson@fcnp.com)

## IN MEMORIAM: BEVERLEY HERMAN

Beverley Toft Herman age 94 of Herndon, Virginia passed away March 24, 2026, at her home. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to George and Vera Toft on January 16, 1932, she was raised in Cincinnati, one of eight siblings in a lively and loving family.

Over the course of her life, she became known by many cherished titles—Mom, Grandma, Gigi—and even “General Manager” and “Grand Marshal,” roles she carried with strength, humor, and unwavering love.

She married in Cincinnati in 1953 and after brief stints in Chicago and Dallas, she settled with her family in Falls Church, Virginia in 1965. Northern Virginia, served as home since, allowing her to plant deep roots and build a lasting legacy. She was the proud mother of five children—Howard, Donna, Tom, Sue, and Joyce.

When life brought unexpected change, she faced it with remarkable courage. As a newly single mother raising five children on her own, without nearby family to lean on, she worked full-time and gave her children not just what they needed, but the very best she could provide—a warm home, steady support, and a foundation of love. She was strong, resilient, and, as many would say, one tough cookie.

Family was always at the center of her world. She held everyone together with a quiet determination and a generous heart, truly the cornerstone and matriarch of her family.

Her legacy lives on through her 5 children, 19 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild—each a testament to the life she built and the love she shared.

She created family traditions that will endure for generations—Sunday dinners, holiday parties, sporting events, birthday celebrations—moments that brought everyone together and made family the heart of every celebration. Her kitchen was a place of comfort and joy, and she will always be remembered as an incredible cook. Her potato salad,

potato soup, noodle dumpling soup, bean soup, coleslaw, spaghetti salad, and barbecue were more than meals—they were expressions of love.

She also had a sweet tooth and knew how to enjoy life’s simple pleasures. Mornings often began with a cup of coffee and a cookie by her side, a small ritual that brought her comfort. And she wasn’t one to turn down a Bloody Mary or a root beer float, enjoying both with the same warmth and appreciation she brought to everything in life.

While her family was her greatest joy, sports were a close second. A devoted fan of the Cincinnati Reds, she also loved tennis and golf, and her television was rarely without a game on. She delighted in spirited, playful debates with her grandchildren over favorite teams and players, always keeping things lively.

She found great happiness in watching her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren play, cheering them on with pride. And when it became too difficult for her to get to the games, she still stayed closely connected—expecting a phone call right after each one, eager for a full status report.

She also took great pride in watching her grandchildren perform in school plays, choir and band, celebrating their talents and accomplishments in every form.

Her generosity knew no bounds. She opened her home and her heart to anyone in need, offering kindness, support, and a place to belong.

Today, we remember a woman of strength, warmth, and deep devotion—a woman whose love shaped generations and whose spirit will live on in all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Celebration of Life: Saturday, April 18  
6:00 p.m. Falls Church Community Center  
223 Little Falls Street. Falls Church, VA 22046. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to: St. Jude Children’s Hospital Po Box 1000 Dept. 142 Memphis, Tennessee 38148-0142. 800-882-6344



## CRITTER CORNER



**COSETTE THE WONDER DOG** a 7 lb poodle has been know to defeat her elephant toy each morning.

### WE’RE LOOKING TO GROW OUR TEAM!

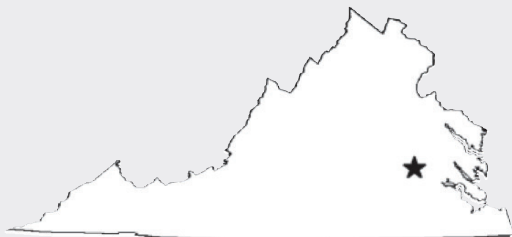
Sales experience is preferred—but not required. What matters more is that you’re tech-savvy, motivated, and interested in building a part-time income while helping expand our digital brand.

If you’re comfortable with digital tools, social media, and enjoy connecting with people, this could be a great fit. Flexible opportunity with real growth potential.

Interested? Send an email or reach out to learn more.

[ngatz@fcnp.com](mailto:ngatz@fcnp.com)

# Senator Saddam Salim



## On Iran, Trump Negotiating With Himself

After the strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June, I wrote in this column about the urgent need for a debate in Congress, and a vote on the prospect of a war with Iran. I wrote about the gravity of the decision to go to war, the lives at risk, and our obligation, especially to those who serve, to let the people speak through their representatives in Congress. This is fundamental to a democracy: the people, not just one person, should decide whether they want this or not.

Last week, nine months after the first strikes against Iran and four weeks into an active aerial and naval conflict, the Senate voted 53-47 against a measure to block President Trump from using military force against Iran without approval from Congress. This was a party line vote, with 52 Republican Senators voting to allow their leader, President Trump, to continue this undeclared war.

While we did get a vote in Congress, we have not had a full debate as a country, or even an honest explanation. The White House has offered different reasons for the war on different days, and as gas prices rise and polling shows just how unpopular the war actually is, President Trump is looking for the exits, even claiming to be secretly negotiating with Iranian leadership on a ceasefire.

For its part, Iran has denied that any negotiations have taken place, and when Israeli news reported on a 15 point Trump plan for peace, Iran replied that Trump was negotiating with himself - and issued their own five point plan calling for an end to "aggression and assassinations", war reparations, and a halt to the Israeli campaign in Lebanon.

By taking ownership of this 15 point plan, the Trump administration at least gave Americans, for the first time, a

concrete list of objectives for the war. There is no mention of the rights of Iranian women, political dissidents, or the rule of law - things that led many Iranians to take to the streets in opposition to the regime in the past year. Despite encouraging those Iranians to take over their government in the aftermath of this campaign, Trump has already negotiated himself into accepting the regime's continued existence.

The central demand is a new nuclear agreement to replace the one Trump tore up. Nuclear nonproliferation is a worthy goal, but by reneging on the previous agreement with Iran, Trump destroyed America's leverage. Why give up anything in a negotiation when you know the other side won't honor their end of the deal?

Trump also demanded the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, which had always been open before the war started. Earlier this week, Trump was reported to have told aides he was willing to end the war without reopening the Strait. These are not the demands of a true master negotiator.

With a ground invasion seeming more likely by the day, and with Trump negotiating away our nation's credibility, our strategic position in the Middle East and in the global community is damaged every day that this continues. With 13 US service members dead as of this writing and many more on their way to the battlefield, it is never too late for Congress to act - it only becomes more urgent.

In July, I wrote that Congress needed to vote to prevent another "forever war." Despite one failed vote in the Senate, Congress still has the power today to order President Trump to cease his campaign of aggression and assassination. If this Congress fails to do so, the American people will have the opportunity in November to elect a new Congress to show the world that this violence and reckless military adventurism does not represent who we are.

# Our Man In Arlington

## BILL FOGARTY

I am following up on last week's column about Columbia Pike, as I promised to provide a fuller description of the imposing public art installation located at the western end of Columbia Pike, at the Fairfax County border. If you are ever driving through the intersection of Jefferson Street and Columbia Pike, you may notice this 50-foot sculpture rising into the sky. You might ask, what is this supposed to represent? The answer is in its name: "The Pike."

Constructed from a 50-foot-tall wind turbine wing, and installed in 2022, this artwork by artist Donald Lipski is tied to the history of Columbia Pike. The sculpture is a playful nod to the "pikes" employed to stop travelers on the Columbia Pike toll road in the 19th century. The structure emulates the vertical standing position of a pike after travelers have paid their toll, enabling them to proceed into the county and beyond, as travelers could then cross the Long Bridge into Washington.

A remarkable detail is that the pedestal is covered with embedded coins from 117 countries. Residents of Columbia Pike collected, counted and sorted 4,784 coins from every continent except Antarctica. This use of donated coins reflects the diversity of the neighborhoods along Columbia Pike, which have been referred to as "the world in a ZIP code."

For those of you checking out the artwork on foot, there is some history to be seen: less than 200 yards from the artwork, in the median strip of South Jefferson Street, you will see one of the 40 sandstone boundary markers installed in 1791, denoting the perimeter of the 10 square miles that defined the area of the District of Columbia.

But getting back to public art, let me commend to you the Arlington County public art website, found at [arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Public-Art](http://arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Public-Art). Its "Permanent Collections" page provides photos and details of more than 70 permanent public art projects in the county. These works are commissioned by the county to be integrated into various capital improvement projects, often sponsored by developers as part of the

site plan process. Arlington's history of developer-initiated public art dates to 1979 with the commission of Nancy Holt's Dark Star Park in Rosslyn.

In checking out the artworks on the website, I came across another interesting installation from 2022, located within the John Robinson Jr. Town Square in the Green Valley neighborhood. Over the course of five years, artist and designer Walter Hood engaged residents in the design process. Hood was especially influenced by the historical ties between the neighborhood and Freedman's Village, the community for escaped slaves and free people established at the end of the Civil War on property that later became home to the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. Former Freedman's Village residents who remained in the area populated several of Arlington County's traditionally African American neighborhoods, including Green Valley.

The primary design feature of the Town Square is the FREED sculpture, a 30-foot-tall beacon that pays homage to the notion of freedom. Each letter of the golden sculpture incorporates laser-cut patterns featuring the names of historic subdivisions of Green Valley. The square also has several special features that incorporate the topography of Green Valley. This area has been named to honor John Robinson Jr., who was widely recognized for his community activism and was often called the "Mayor of Green Valley." Among his many accomplishments, Robinson published the Green Valley News, a free African American publication that circulated in Green Valley for more than 45 years. Robinson also founded and led the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in the neighborhood.

Here is a question that might be percolating in your mind: Exactly what is "public art"? Public artworks throughout the county have been located on private property and on public property. I would suggest that the determining factors in defining "public art" would be (1) art that requires county approval and (2) art that can be easily accessed by the general public. In any event, one more question for you: Do you have any favorite works of public art in the county? If so, let me know at [historybillfogs@gmail.com](mailto:historybillfogs@gmail.com)

Visit us at [fcnp.com](http://fcnp.com) for  
breaking news!



# FREE BIRD SEED!

Get a FREE 5 lb. bag of bird seed (\$21.99 value!) with any purchase when you mention Falls Church News Press in store!

Ask us about our Feeder Swap Sale  
HAPPENING NOW!

Limit one per household, now through  
4/30/26. Visit us at  
2437 N Harrison St, Arlington, VA



703-241-3988

## For Sale



1555 N. Colonial Terrace #500, Arlington

- ★ 2 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms
- ★ Meticulously Maintained



2960 Vaden Drive, #2-103, Fairfax

- ★ 1 Bedroom + Den | 2 Bathrooms
- ★ 55+ Luxury Condo Community

## Coming Soon ...



7805 Wendy Ridge Ln, Annandale

- ★ 5 Beds | 4 Baths
- ★ Outdoor Oasis w/Heated Pool



©2005-2026 Tori McKinney, LLC

Tori McKinney 703-867-8674

Tori@ROCKSTARrealtygroup.com  
ROCKSTARrealtygroup.com  
KVMETROCENTER

Scan Me

