

MAY 14 - 20, 2026

FOUNDED
1991

VOL. XXXVI
No. 14

Falls Church News-Press

Northern Virginia's Newspaper

FALLS CHURCH,
VIRGINIA

WWW.FCNP.COM

FREE

'Democracy Thrives In Sunshine'

F.C. Budget Adopted as Expected: Down 1/2c

Major Role for Recent
Years' Growth Push

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

As expected, the Falls Church City Council moved through the final seven of its votes smoothly Monday night to adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget and six-year Capital Improvement Project budgets with a net half-cent drop in the residential real estate tax rate.

All the votes were 7-0 unanimous with the exception of the one setting the tax rate, which was 6-1 due to opposition to cutting the rate at all by Councilman Arthur Agin. The half-cent cut amounts to about \$50 on average to tax bills that on average top \$12,000.

If there is anything remarkable about this year's budget season, it was how painless it was for the City of Falls Church, as Mayor Letty Hardi remarked prior to the final vote (see the full text of Hardi's remarks elsewhere in this edition). The record layoffs of government and government contract employ-

Continued on Page 3



Senior Living

7-14

YOUNG WOMEN OF ACTION



FALLS CHURCH "YOUNG Women of Action" were recognized during a Women's History Month ceremony in Cherry Hill Park last weekend that was emceed by Council member Marybeth Connolly. The middle and high school students honored were (not in order of their standing in this photo) Myla Mahr; Brynn Iglehart; Jane Braun; Alba Selle; Michelle Malheiro, Anna Gray; Leah Tysse; Maya Anderson; Ela Reese and Rachel Grooms (not pictured: Elise Davis). (Photo: Don Foley)

Mayor Hardi on Budget: 'This One Was Relatively Easy'

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

The following remarks were delivered at the conclusion of Monday's Falls Church City Council vote on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget by F.C. Mayor Letty Hardi:

"To echo my colleagues' comments, first of all, congrats to David and Art for your first

budget, and congrats, Wyatt, on your final one. And thank you for all the public comment that we've received. And for all the hard work behind the scenes as well - I know that budgets are never easy and budget seasons are really intense. That starts with staff, even back before December when we had our first discussion.

"Not to disparage any of that hard work, this was actually not a hard budget. We've had three rounds of good news, and I want us to pause to recognize that because it's important to set the stage for the future.

"I remember when we sat together in our December meeting - 'the only thing that's certain is more uncertainty'

was the headline. And then it turned out that our residential assessed values came in quite strong, like almost twice what our neighbors were seeing. And then our commercial assessments in February turned out actually better than we thought. And then in April, we saw that

Continued on Page 4

FALLS CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

Spanberger Signs New Health Care Legislation

Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger yesterday signed a package of health care bills at Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Arlington aimed at capping insulin costs, expanding insurance benefits and limiting how insurers use prior authorization and artificial intelligence.

Speaking at the hospital in Annandale, Spanberger said rising costs for housing, energy and health care are a top concern across Virginia and framed the legislation as part of her “Affordable Virginia” agenda.

“Because of these bills, when your family needs care you can get it, when your doctor writes you a prescription, you should be able to afford it,” Spanberger said. “When you get sick, the cost of getting better shouldn’t break a family’s bank.”

Va. Governor Signs Bills Impacting Energy Costs

Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger yesterday signed a package of bipartisan legislation focused on addressing high energy costs for families, increasing energy generation in Virginia, and putting the Commonwealth on the path to greater energy independence.

In Charlottesville, Governor Spanberger joined bill patrons — Majority Leader Scott Surovell, Senator Creigh Deeds, and Delegate Paul Krizek — state and local leaders, and families to sign bipartisan bills encouraging greater investment in nuclear and fusion energy and streamlining permitting so homeowners can save money when installing rooftop solar panels.

The Governor also signed legislation to permit balcony solar — part of her joint Affordable Virginia Agenda with General Assembly leaders, giving renters and condo owners a simple, affordable way to generate their own electricity.

“Virginians know energy costs have been skyrocketing in recent months. But even before the Trump Administration’s reckless war in Iran disrupted global markets, the truth is that monthly bills have been hard to manage for a long time,” said Governor Spanberger. “The legislation we’re signing today represents solutions we can provide at the state level to make a tangible difference.”

Spanberger continued, “By diversifying our energy usage, we can make sure that Virginia families are less exposed to volatility. That is what energy independence means in practice, and that is exactly what we are building toward. These bills will mean real money in people’s pockets. They are long-term investments to lower costs for Virginians in every corner of the Commonwealth.”

“These are true energy affordability bills. These are what voters are asking for and allows us to not only address high costs but also expand generation opportunities at a time where we know there is pressure on our grid,” said Majority Leader Scott Surovell. “Solar is the fastest energy source to deploy, and I am excited to be here with the Governor and my colleagues in the General Assembly to celebrate these new laws.”

Harvey’s Restaurant Kicks Off Summer With Its ‘Summer Stomp’

Harvey’s Restaurant’s Summer Stomp is gearing up to be an evening of discovery and celebration for families. Local child-focused businesses will set up displays and games for children and families. A lot of fun, paired with useful information.

Thomas Harvey, owner of Harvey’s Restaurant said, “We are all about community and great food. I can’t think of a better way to kick off the summer season than connecting our local businesses with Falls Church families, while supporting Our Stomping Grounds in its mission to serve adults with developmental disabilities.”

Nearly two dozen local businesses, including Clay Cafe, Creative Cauldron, Founders Eye Care, KiPS Family Gymnastics, Scramble and Mary Riley Styles Public Library will be there, each sharing a bit about themselves so that neigh-

bors new and old can discover more of what this thriving community has to offer.

The goal of Summer Stomp is two-fold: gather the community together before the summer holidays are in full swing and support OSG, a local non-profit that supports adults with developmental disabilities access affordable housing, integrate with neighbors and enjoy what many of us take for granted – the dignity of choice and living interdependently. Harvey’s will be donating 10 percent of proceeds to OSG all day long.

OSG’s Executive Director Margot Greenlee said, “What moves me most about Summer Stomp is seeing the Falls Church community open its arms. At OSG, we work every day to make sure adults with developmental disabilities have the same choices we all want for the people we love. Watching local families and businesses come together to support our mission is incredibly meaningful.”

The stomp will take place next Thursday, May 21, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at Harvey’s Bar and Restaurant, 513 W Broad St., Falls Church, VA 22046

Participants are OSG, Acton Academy, Clay Cafe, Creative Cauldron, Dulin Preschool, Easter Seals Child Development Center, Founders Eye Care, Harvey’s, KiPS Family Gymnastics, Kysela Imports, The Learning Quest, Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Penzeys Spices, Pro Health Medical, Scramble, Seven Corners Psychotherapy, Sylvan Learning Center, The Toy Nest and Tutor Smart.

Sheriff Says No Details Out Yet on Winter Hill Action

Falls Church Sheriff Metin Cay responded to an inquiry by the News-Press that “details have not been released” concerning a report from the City of Falls Church posted on social media Monday that read as follows: ““For your situational awareness, on Monday, May 11 at 8 p.m. the City of Falls Church Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in the Winter Hill neighborhood. While you may see an increased presence of marked and unmarked police and law enforcement vehicles around this neighborhood throughout the evening, there is no threat to the public.”

Is N. Virginia at a ‘Structural Inflection Point?’

Last week, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors’ (NVAR) annual Economic Summit welcomed Northern Virginia Chamber President and CEO Julie Coons on a panel to discuss business sentiment and housing affordability.

The findings from NVC’s latest Business Leader Survey helped guide the conversation on the cautious but stable economic outlook in Northern Virginia. While business leaders anticipate slowing or stagnant growth in the region, they remain confident in their own companies due to steady hiring projections.

Coons emphasized that Northern Virginia is at a structural inflection point, requiring a shift from a federally-dependent economy to a more diversified, innovation-driven model focused on sectors like AI and biotech.

Beyond economic shifts, she called for greater regional unity to effectively influence policy. She underscored housing as an economic imperative, noting that housing affordability challenges undermine the region’s ability to attract top talent, and shared NOVA Roadmap recommendations for streamlining zoning and permitting, and shared the importance of increasing density near job centers.

Stobo Leads Successful Push to Restore Watch Night

Longtime Falls Church resident Kimberly Stobo successfully spearheaded efforts to revive the City’s annual New Year’s Eve Watch Night celebration for the 2026 – 2027 holiday season after the event was defunded last year for the first time in decades. The cancellation sparked significant public backlash from residents who viewed the celebration as a cherished community tradition. Following months of advocacy and public support, funding for the event was restored in the City’s newly approved budget, paving the way for Watch Night to return this coming New Year’s Eve.

Final F.C. Budget Includes Half-Cent Cut in Real Estate Tax Rate

Continued from Page 1

ees in the wider region resulted in budget processes much more painful for Falls Church's neighbors, especially Arlington and Fairfax counties.

While the half-cent cut in Falls Church was largely symbolic, it did point to something much more important: namely, the City's two-decade push for aggressive economic development has paid off for City residents, as the commercial component of the revenue picture here has mitigated the burden on local residents, even as the City has built important new infrastructure, such as a new high schools, major upgrades to its other public schools as well as to City Hall and the public library. Once again this year, the City was able to fully fund the School Board's request. In this context, the overall real estate tax rate has dropped in the last half-dozen years from \$1.355 to \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Hardi cautioned in her remarks that commercial sources of revenue to the budget cannot be expected to help meet the City's needs much longer, however, and that tougher times loom on the horizon that could

require the City to reconsider its revenue sharing agreement with the schools and perhaps into new tax option, a Commercial and Industrial (C&I) real estate tax allowed by state law that members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority can use to impose a C&I tax up to 12.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value of commercial and industrial property, excluding commercial property that is used for residential purposes, such as apartments and senior living establishments. These taxes would be used for transportation projects only.

The Falls Church City Council took an initial look at this option last fall when the outlook for the City was far more uncertain and potentially troubling. But while it was not seriously engaged in this budget cycle, it came up repeatedly as something the Council should not ignore going forward.

During Monday evening's City Council meeting, the Falls Church City Council voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY2027) budget and six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

The General Government operating budget (not including debt service) for FY2027 provides for operating expenditures of \$59.5

million — an increase of 3.4 percent over FY2026. The FY2027 transfer to schools from general tax revenues is \$58.1 million — an increase of 4.8 percent over the FY2026 transfer. The total School Division operating budget, including state and federal revenues, is \$71.9 million — a 3.6 percent increase over the FY2026 budget.

The budget provides a reduction to the real estate tax rate by half a penny to \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed value. The median

homeowner's real estate tax bill will increase by \$557 — or 4.6 percent, owing to the rising assessed value of homes due to market appreciation.

The Capital Improvements Program provides a six-year plan for investment in City roadways, schools, parks, and utilities. Transportation projects total \$100.6 million, City and School Facilities \$19.7 million,

Continued on Page 22



TINA
ARETHA
DIANA
PATTI
GLADYS
DIONNE
ROBERTA
DIONNE
ANITA
WHITNEY

SOU DIVAS

JUNE 6 & 7, 2026
LINCOLN THEATRE
1215 U STREET NW
TICKETS AND INFO AT GMCW.ORG
ASL TICKETS OR GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE,
CALL 202-293-1548




GAY MEN'S CHORUS
OF WASHINGTON, DC

creativecauldron stage® presents

LITTLE WOMEN

THE MUSICAL

May 14 – June 7, 2026
Tickets Now On-Sale!

Bring a group of 5 or more to ANY show
and automatically save \$10 per ticket!

Info: www.creativecauldron.org

HIMSS NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER

4th Annual
HIMSS NCA Charity
Golf Scramble

Proceeds will be donated to the Boulder Crest Foundation & the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

June 1, 2026

Army Navy Country Club's Fairfax Course

Player Registration **Become A Sponsor**

For More Information
nationalcapitalarea.himss.org

Mayor Hardi Cautions Next Year's Budget Will Be More Challenging

Continued from Page 1

our Q3 local revenue results were better than what we had a year ago, when it required us to adjust our budget mid-season.

“This good news is because we have been ‘the Little City that could’ - the investments we made in diversifying our tax base with mixed use development and the desirability of the city has grown beyond the schools’ reputation. The growth of the city is paying off. I know we’ve had some surprise expenditures this year, but in terms of revenues, we actually have a pretty good news story. And the half penny tax cut is a small nod that we should be able to reduce the tax burden because of that growing revenue.

“I think that’s important to acknowledge as we wrap up this year, because as we’ve seen from our neighbors, they’ve had a much harder budget season. There are a lot of headwinds in the region that I want to make sure we don’t forget. Locally, we’re not going to have as many new revenues with no commercial development coming online next year. So we should go into this year expecting that FY28 is going to be harder and I want us to keep a few things in mind:

“First, this year we have mostly been debating new spending decisions. How are we going to spend the better than expected revenues? We really haven’t had to actually make any expenditure cuts beyond the ones that the city manager and school board originally proposed. And so that is an important muscle we

need to keep in mind, because if future revenues are not going to be growing at 6 or 8 percent as we’ve had this year or the past several years - how do we live in a 3 percent revenue growth year? What really are our priorities if we have to live in that kind of revenue constrained environment?

“Second, I’m feeling deja vu from 2017 when we had ambitious capital needs and had to figure out how to afford those through more constrained operating budgets. As we’re expecting this facilities conditions assessment at the end of this year - and I expect we might get some big bills from that - how do we balance those costs with operating budgets?

“Third, which relates to the earlier point - how do we really do true needs based budgeting? Many of us, I think nearly unanimously, have said we should revisit revenue share and see how it can be more flexible in light of both the economic headwinds as well as the capital and operating needs. The needs across the city are not always going to be 50/50, and I think revenue share with the schools needs be modernized to account for that. And I’m glad this summer that the Budget and Finance Committee is going to take a look at other revenue levers - hopefully we don’t use any of them. But I do think it makes sense to be proactive this summer to look at what those levers might be should we need them.

“Fourth, finally, as I reflect on my 11th budget - I’ve realized that for the seven of us up here, it’s always natural to respond and fund the most

important and urgent things - what are the most pressing or acute needs we hear about? But I think it is equally important for the governing body to think about the important, but not so urgent, priorities that are long term, generational investments for the city. And I think doing our part on climate change is one of those. We’ve had some very good advocacy this budget season on the community center solar project. One idea that we can look at outside of budget season is, how do we look at a report card, similar to what we’re looking at for housing or for transportation improvements so that investments to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions continue to get attention from us every budget - not just when we have strong advocacy. That is something future generations are going to look to this City Council to have made serious progress on.

“Overall, I think this is a balanced budget and doing a lot of good here. There’s always going to be unfunded needs, but I do think that this one overall balances a lot of what we’re trying to accomplish in the community, while being pragmatic and realistic about what’s coming ahead. I want to thank my colleagues and the community, for joining in the discussions and all the hard work. I think 104 questions in our budget Q&A - the most ever - clearly reflects how much this Council likes to dig in, asks hard questions, and really makes sure that we’re being good stewards of taxpayer dollars and reflective of community priorities.”

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel

Safety. Style. Stress-Free Installation.

CALL NOW
1.866.608.4972

SPECIAL OFFER
Waiving All Installation Costs!

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 12/27/26.

Visit us at fcnp.com

When 9 Monarchs Came Together & Didn't Stop It

NICHOLAS F. BENTON

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Putting the current Trump era into historical perspective, which also helps to clarify what the real issues are behind all the daily noise, needs to gain traction in our culture. It continues to amaze me how misunderstood our last hundred and fifty years or so has been. Somewhere shortly after the turn from the 19th to the 20th century there was a cosmic shift in western civilization.

I start with the funeral of Britain's King Edward VII on May 20, 1910, as good a turning point to highlight as any. That is described as the last great gathering of the Old Order in Europe as nine kings of European nations attended, mostly related to a greater or lesser degree. The future King George V of England and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany were there as direct cousins, and a third cousin, Czar Nicholas II of Russia, could not make it but sent a representative.

King Edward's title was technically the King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India. There is a famous photo of all nine monarchs together all regaled in their military dress, covered in medals and sashes. They were all there together, attending banquets, drinking the same lemonade, making the same small talk about this and that, taking countless stiff photos and even some early silent films.

It was a cool, damp day so there were not more images of all the inbred royals playing croquette or romping on a lawn.

There had been a proto-revolution in Russia, including the famous mutiny on the battleship Potemkin, in 1905 that Tsar Nicholas put down with considerable effort, and there were political storm clouds everywhere that arose from the widespread Gilded Age abuses of labor and the working classes. The Second International confederation of pro-worker organizations, founded in 1889, was gaining strength, as was its ideological grounding in Marx's Communist Manifesto.

It would be simple to say that

the nine monarchs at that 1910 funeral came together to plot a massive offensive against the rising tide of worker revolts. But the historical record seems to show they were much too narrow minded and petty for that. They were more like ego-centered buffoons playing off each other, none with a wider global perspective.

But I contend that there still was a shared, if unwritten, bond which led, lacking a major intervention, into the unfolding of the Great War only four years later. It wasn't their vision, but their lack of it, that defined what was to come. It was like a powerful form of entropy was being set loose. In fact, the outbreak of World War I is often analyzed through the lens of social, political, and thermodynamic entropy. This view describes how a highly organized, predictable system of European empires dissolved into complete, chaotic disorder between 1815 and 1914.

So maybe I am starting too late marking the turning point at 1910. Still, the momentum proceeding to the Great War could have been undone then, when they were all together, and there was not the slightest indication that anyone wanted to think in such a fashion.

So, the laws of entropy acted out from that point forward to the all-out human slaughter that defined the next three dozen years, increasingly driven by selfish self-interests and political superstructures that advanced them.

Yes, the Great War and World War 2 were part and parcel of the same dynamic, with the infamous "long weekend" between them, also likened to a second 30-Years War. The most advanced scientifically-grounded cultures in the history of humanity were pulverized and over 100 million people killed. Fascism, the most purely nihilistic and cruelly self-serving political system, formed and gained traction during that era, along with its equivalent on the other side, Stalinist totalitarianism. Both "systems" of brutal nihilism remain with us.

It brings us to those today who insist the wrong people won World War 2, like the Russian oligarchs and their cohorts in the West, like Donald Trump and his sad party. Looking at that photo from 1910, we can ask, "Have we learned nothing?"



A Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Gross

Former Fairfax County Supervisor

Gasoline prices continue to rise precipitously. Food prices are rising, too, affected by the cost of transporting products to the grocery store (a container of store-brand cottage cheese at my local Giant cost 40 cents more this week than last). Cuts to federal funding for health care are compelling rural hospitals to close, forcing patients to travel great distances both for emergency and general health needs. The White House continues to scramble for a way to end the war it declared on Iran, a war costing America taxpayers billions of dollars each week. Allies in Europe and the Middle East watch with trepidation as America, once their most dependable supporter, devolves as Donald Trump tries to remake the world order to meet his own bizarre vision of "America First." We are living in a hallucination of Mr. Trump's choosing, and it appears that no one in the White House has the courage to wake up and stand up to a manchild's temper tantrums.

And what is Mr. Trump doing? Anything to avoid tackling the very real challenges facing ordinary Americans. Anything to avoid more discussion of the Epstein files. Anything gimmicky to distract and minimize the crisis facing our

democracy. He ordered painting of the hallowed and historic Reflecting Pool at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial swimming pool blue and then drove down the almost half-mile-long empty pool in the 20,000-pound armored presidential limousine, and a motorcade of nine more heavy vehicles, just because he could. Nearby, he wants to paint the noble and historic Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) bright white, asserting that the gray granite facade is dull and gloomy. In earlier times, the building was called the "wedding cake" because of its fancy decorated facade. A color-matched photo of the building in white does make it look like a wedding cake, something you'd visit in a Florida fantasy theme park, not in the Nation's Capital.

Hmm-m-m. The Reflecting Pool blue. The EEOB white. Is there a 250th anniversary theme here? What will he paint red? Maybe his nose – for the daily lies he tells a la Pinocchio. Or the Pentagon, to represent the red ink of his and Secretary Hegseth's Iran war, and the tangible sacrifices made by American troops and their families throughout history. Or the Commerce Department, to commemorate the embarrassing gaffes made by Howard Lutnick,

his Commerce Secretary, about nearly anything.

Closing the Kennedy Center for supposed renovations. Constructing a huge and completely inappropriate Arc de Trump adjacent to the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. Razing the historic East Wing for a 90,000-square foot ballroom at the White House. Converting the public golf course at East Potomac Park into a private Trump-managed golf course. Adding his signature to the Treasurer of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury on U.S. currency. Creating a new U.S. Passport with his picture on it in addition to the traveler's photo. Hanging stories' high banners of his image on government buildings. It's obvious that Mr. Trump's focus is on himself, not on his job as president. Not on lowering prices. Not on improving health care for millions of Americans. Not on ending wars. Not on mending fences with allies. Not on ensuring that the United States is on a path to move forward and remain the world's preeminent leader. The U.S. Constitution outlines the role of President as Commander-in-Chief, appointer of ambassadors, judges of the Supreme Court, giver of pardons, and other duties. It doesn't include a designation as Builder-in-Chief but, since Mr. Trump famously doesn't read much, it looks like he makes it up as he goes along, Constitution and law be damned!

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

CRIME REPORT

Week of May 4 - 10, 2026

Shoplifting/Destruction of Property, E Broad St, May 3, 11:50 a.m., a staff member that was in the process of being fired stole merchandise and destroyed equipment. (Delayed report)

Larceny from Building, S Washington St, May 3, 12:07 p.m., victim reported an unknown suspect stole two bass guitars. The unknown suspect is described as a black male wearing a headwrap and a Green Bay Packers green sweatshirt.

Domestic Assault and Battery, Founders Ave, May 4, 7:47 p.m., officers responded for a delayed report of domestic assault. On May 6, a female, 33, of the City of Falls Church, was arrested for domestic assault and battery.

Assault and Battery, Kennedy St, May 5, 9:27 p.m., victim reported an unknown sus-

pect assaulted them. The unknown suspect is described as female, wearing black clothing and a ski mask.

Obscene Sexual Display, W Broad St, May 6, 7:10 a.m., victim reported a ride-share driver engaged in sexual activity in front of the victim. Investigation is ongoing.

Larceny from Vehicle, Wilson Blvd, May 7, between 10:20 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect broke the rear passenger window of the victim's vehicle and stole money from the center console.

Fraud/Wire Fraud, Irving St, May 7, 11:10 a.m., victim reported an unknown suspect accessed their online banking account and wired money from the victim's account.

Shoplifting, Wilson Blvd, May 7, 5:42 p.m., two unknown suspects stole merchandise.

Driving Under the Influence, S Washington St, May 9, 12:24 a.m., a male, 30, of Catonsville, MD, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Driving Under the Influence, W Broad St/S Spring St, May 9, 2:30 a.m., a male, 27, of Fairfax County, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Shoplifting, S Washington St, May 10, 1:26 a.m., an unknown suspect stole merchandise. The unknown suspect is described as a male, approximately 25-35 years of age, approximately 5'6" in height, wearing a black t-shirt, black shorts, white socks, and black shoes.

Trespassing/Disorderly Conduct/Assault on Law Enforcement, S Washington St, May 10, 2:17 a.m., a female, 38, of no fixed address, was arrested for trespassing, disorderly conduct, and four counts of assault on law enforcement.

Larceny from Vehicle, E Fairfax St, between 7:00 p.m. on May 9 and 5:15 a.m. on May 10, an unknown suspect stole belongings from the victim's unsecured vehicle.

Falls Church News-Press

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

Vol. XXXVI, No. 14
MAY 14 - 20, 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

AMY BOWKER
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

Beyer to F.C.: 'Very Happy to Be Back'

In an uncommonly candid and personal response to a query by this newspaper on the collateral consequence of what the redistricting referendum was designed to cause, namely, the moving of the boundaries of his 8th Congressional district out of the City of Falls Church, in an exclusive remark to this newspaper U.S. Rep. Don Beyer said the following:

"I was grief-stricken to lose Falls Church! I am very happy to have the opportunity to represent this wonderful community again."

So were we, Don, even as we, like you, put the good of the country ahead of ourselves to support the referendum, and still hold out hope that somehow the U.S. Supreme Court will reverse the ill conceived 4-3 decision by the Virginia Supreme Court.

But should the current ruling stand, and the state be required to deny the clear expression of the will of its people as expressed in the April 16 referendum vote, we will take it as a wink from cosmic fate that Beyer stays to represent his original home town, where he launched such a successful political career by first being elected president of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce for a year in the mid-1980s before stunning everybody with a successful underdog run to be elected Virginia's lieutenant governor in 1990.

Beyer's statement on last week's ruling included the following:

"Over the last several weeks and through today, Virginians cast their ballots to defend fairness in the upcoming midterm elections by temporarily adopting new congressional districts. I am grateful to the volunteers, organizers, and everyone else who worked tirelessly to inform voters and drive turnout across the Commonwealth to deliver this result.

"Virginia's election today stands in stark contrast to Donald Trump's efforts to influence November's Congressional elections by bullying Republican-led legislatures into mid-decade redistricting. Here in Virginia, voters were given the opportunity to decide.

"As I seek re-election in Virginia's 8th District, I look forward to working to earn the trust and support of communities in the new district – from Arlington to Yorktown – while reconnecting with those I have had the honor of serving, including communities I previously represented as Lieutenant Governor.

"The work we are doing in Congress to protect Virginians from Trump's attacks is more important than ever, and I am as committed to it today as I have ever been. I will continue to put the needs of Virginians first and fight for progress in our community and our country."

It is worth noting that the vote in favor of the redistricting effort was more overwhelming in Falls Church and its immediate environs than in almost anywhere else in the state (the Charlottesville area, home to the University of Virginia, slightly exceeded the Falls Church margin) because it is so well understood here the menace and deceit that Trump and his organization represents.

The referendum vote was all about Trump, and so was the vote of the Republican majority Virginia Supreme Court.

Our Man In Arlington

BILL FOGARTY

Following up on last week's column about murals, I received good feedback (and photos) from readers with information about other murals in Arlington. Thank you for your responses. My favorite was a beautiful farm-like mural with a cow in it --- and it turns out to be painted on a local residence! The award for a mural furthest from Arlington was one from Thailand.

As promised last week, I would like to share an interview with the artist of the John Mercer Langston mural. Kaliq Crosby talked about the challenges of creating a mural of a politician who lived in the 19th century. After a good deal of research, he decided to center John Langston's striking image in the mural, and then added the scales of justice symbol, referencing Langston's legal accomplishments. To capture Langston's educational work (as dean of Howard Law School, and president of a Black college in Virginia), Crosby depicted children approaching a school building. This image has a double meaning for those who remember Langston Elementary School, which was located near the current mural, on what was then Lee Highway. It was one of the few schools for African Americans during the long period of school segregation.

The history of public murals in Arlington starts with the lobby of the Central Post Office in Clarendon, which contains seven New Deal murals by artist Auriel Bessemer. The murals were installed in 1940, and it certainly is a relic of its era, with panels that depict indigenous peoples, slaves, and Robert E. Lee (in addition to polo players at Fort Myers). The murals are surprisingly small in size, located high on the walls of the post office.

Within walking distance of the Post Office, two large public murals happen to be on the walls of American Legion posts. The General Billy Mitchell American Legion Post 85 at 919 North Kansas Street has a mural honoring General Mitchell, who served in the military from 1898 until the 1920s, relentlessly pushing for an expanded air corps. He was perhaps not diplomatic enough, as Mitchell ended up being court-martialed on the

charge of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." He died in February 1936, but the events of World War II validated his efforts, and he was posthumously restored to the rank of Brigadier General in 1942. The mural was painted by Falls Church artist Mary Tjeng. On Washington Boulevard, near Monroe Street, American Legion Post 139 has its own mural. In 2023, this mural was designed and executed by Retired USAF Master Sergeant Patrick Sargent and community volunteers. The mural highlights three American Legion members, with imagery of local military monuments.

These murals led me to do some research on our other local veterans' organizations. American Legion Dorie Miller Post 194, located at the Carver Community Center, was created in 1946, in a time of racial segregation. The post honors Doris "Dorie" Miller, the first African American to receive the Navy Cross for his bravery at Pearl Harbor. Another veterans organization is the John Lyon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3150, established in 1934. John Lyon, the son of developer Frank Lyon, died in 1918 in France, while attempting to rescue a wounded officer in an open field.

Writing about veterans' organizations is my lead-in to a reminder that Memorial Day is approaching. Originally established as a day to pause and honor those who died in military service, the reason you might see red poppies that day is that they are traditionally worn as a sign of remembrance and respect. The holiday itself has also widened into a community day, and to that end, I will put in a plug for the City of Falls Church Memorial Day Parade, with the Quantico Marine Band stepping off the parade at 2:00 p.m. on May 25. Their parade feels nicely old-fashioned for me, as it brings back fond memories. My hometown of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, had a similar parade during my formative years, with veterans' organizations leading the way, along with local bands and civic organizations (including my Little League team) marching in the parade. Here's hoping for good weather on the 25th!

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.

Visit us at fcnp.com

Senior Living

Spring 2026

Pages 7 - 14

Wellness-Focused Retirement Redefines Aging in America

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Retirement is no longer viewed simply as a time to slow down. Across the United States, older adults are increasingly embracing a wellness-focused lifestyle that prioritizes physical health, mental stimulation, social engagement and long-term independence. From fitness-centered retirement communities to age-friendly neighborhoods and preventive healthcare programs, the concept of aging well is becoming a major focus for both families and policymakers.

Experts say the shift reflects changing expectations among Baby Boomers, many of whom are seeking active lifestyles rather than traditional models of senior care. According to the National Institute on Aging, healthy aging involves maintaining physical, mental and social well-being as people grow older.

A growing number of retirement communities now emphasize

wellness amenities such as walking trails, aquatic centers, yoga classes, nutrition counseling and lifelong learning opportunities. Continuing Care Retirement Communities, often called CCRCs, are also evolving to provide residents with flexible healthcare and wellness services while encouraging independent living. Harvard Health notes that CCRCs offer a “continuum of care” designed to meet residents’ changing needs over time.

Research increasingly supports the benefits of these environments. A 2025 study conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago found that older adults living in senior communities experienced improved health outcomes, increased longevity and lower rates of hospitalization compared to peers living independently in the broader community. Researchers also found residents received more preventive and home-based healthcare services, helping reduce vulnerability over time.

Physical activity remains one of the strongest predictors of healthy aging. Federal health agencies continue encouraging older adults to remain active to help prevent chronic disease, falls and cognitive decline. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that regular exercise, preventive screenings and community engagement are all essential elements of healthy aging initiatives nationwide.

Mental and emotional wellness have also become central priorities. Healthcare experts increasingly recognize that social isolation and loneliness can negatively affect older adults’ health. Wellness-oriented retirement communities are responding by creating opportunities for social interaction through clubs, volunteer programs, educational courses and group fitness activities.

The Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention emphasizes that maintaining cognitive health requires attention not only to medical care but also to lifestyle choices such as exercise, smoking cessation and cardiovascular health management. CDC researchers note that early intervention and preventive care can improve quality of life while helping older adults maintain independence longer.

Communities nationwide are also adapting to support aging populations. The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities encourages local governments to improve transportation, housing, accessibility and social opportunities for residents of all ages. The initiative promotes the idea that cities designed for older adults ultimately benefit everyone.

Falls Church and Northern Virginia already reflect several of these broader trends. The region’s walkability, healthcare access, parks and civic engage-

ment opportunities make it attractive to older adults seeking an active retirement lifestyle close to family and urban amenities. As the population ages, local planners and healthcare providers are expected to place even greater emphasis on wellness-centered services and infrastructure.

Federal leaders are likewise preparing for a rapidly aging population. A recent Strategic Framework for a National Plan on Aging calls for improving health, independence and economic security for older Americans while combating ageism and barriers to healthy living.

For many Americans, retirement is no longer defined by withdrawal from daily life. Instead, it is increasingly viewed as a new chapter centered on vitality, connection and purpose. As wellness-focused retirement options continue expanding, aging itself may become less about limitation and more about opportunity.



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

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





Scan QR Code to RSVP:



A SUMMERTIME INVITATION

Celebrating Memorial Day with Our Upcoming Events

Step Into a Bright Summer at The Kensington Falls Church

Discover Our Signature Events for Caregivers & Aging Adults

As the bright, sunny days of summer unfold, our team at The Kensington Falls Church welcomes you to savor the warmth and energy of the season together. Share time with us at upcoming gatherings, thoughtfully designed to feed your mind, offer trusted advice, strengthen connections and foster a deep sense of community. With our heartfelt guidance, positive spirit and joyful outlook, we are here to walk alongside you throughout your entire caregiving journey. **We promise to love and care for your family as we do our own.**

<p>Ask a Neurologist: Brain Health Guidance <i>featuring Dr. Evan Gray</i> Wednesday, May 20th, 5pm - 6pm On-Site</p>	<p>Visit Us at the Memorial Day Parade & Festival <i>Celebrating Community & Remembrance</i> Monday, May 25th, 9am - 5pm Falls Church City Hall</p>	<p>Self-Care for Caregivers: Strategies to Stay Healthy & Resilient <i>led by Melissa J. Long, CTRS, CDP</i> Thursday, June 4th, 5pm - 6pm On-Site</p>	<p>Summer Concert Series Kick Off <i>Live Music, Dancing & Light Bites</i> Friday, June 5th, 4pm - 5pm On-Site</p>
--	--	---	---

For questions, please email Kayla Hulbert at khulbert@kensingtonsl.com

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



700 West Broad Street • Falls Church, VA 22046
703-992-9868 • TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com





Improving Your Quality of Life

With Full-Service Mobility Solutions

Repairs • Rentals • Sales • Sanitization

**Wheelchairs • Lift Chairs • Scooters • Power Chairs
Rollators • Hospital Beds • Battery Packages
We Come to You!**

alexandriava.mobilitycity.com

702-772-5030

bennet.helfgott@mobilitycity.com

**5586 General Washington Drive
Alexandria, VA 22312**

**Monday - Friday:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Saturday:
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Sunday:
Closed**



alexandriava.mobilitycity.com

Transportation Challenges Leave Many Seniors Cut Off

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Falls Church and Northern Virginia are aging into a transportation problem that is quietly becoming a public health issue. For many seniors, losing the ability to drive no longer means simply giving up convenience. It often means losing independence, social connection and access to daily life.

According to the Administration for Community Living, Americans age 65 and older made up 17.3 percent of the U.S. population in 2022, totaling nearly 58 million people. That number is expected to continue growing as Baby Boomers age. In suburban communities like Falls Church and Fairfax County, where daily life depends heavily on automobiles, the challenge is especially serious.

Many seniors eventually stop driving because of declining vision, medical conditions, mobility limitations or fear of increasingly congested roads. Once that happens, even routine errands can become difficult. Grocery shopping, doctor visits, church services and social outings often require arranging rides days in advance or relying on family members.

And isolation carries consequences.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that social isolation and loneliness increase the risk of depression, anxiety, dementia, heart disease and premature death. Former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy also identified loneliness as a growing public health crisis in a 2023 advisory, linking social disconnection to serious health risks.

Transportation sits at the center of the issue.

For seniors, mobility is not simply about getting from one place to another. It is the bridge to friendships, health-care, volunteer activities and community involvement. When transportation disappears, social contact often shrinks with it.

Fairfax County does provide services for older adults, including Fastran, TOPS and mobility management programs. Volunteer organizations like NV Rides also help seniors with transportation and companionship. But many services require advance scheduling and have limited flexibility, especially during evenings and weekends.

Cost is another challenge. Ride-share services like Uber and Lyft provide convenience but can become expensive for

seniors living on fixed incomes. Some older adults also struggle with smartphone apps and digital payment systems required to access those services.

Meanwhile, Northern Virginia traffic continues growing worse. Even healthy older adults who once drove comfortably now report anxiety about navigating crowded roads, aggressive traffic and nighttime driving conditions.

Families often absorb the burden. Adult children frequently spend hours transporting aging parents to appointments and errands while balancing work and family responsibilities of their own. A single medical appointment can consume much of an afternoon when transportation logistics are involved.

Despite the growing problem, senior transportation rarely receives the same attention as larger transportation debates involving highways, Metro expansion or development projects. Yet advocates say improving mobility for seniors could significantly improve quality of life and reduce healthcare challenges tied to isolation.

Possible solutions already exist. Expanded neighborhood shuttle programs, volunteer driver networks, safer sidewalks and mixed-use development designed for aging residents could help seniors remain active and connected longer. Communities that prioritize aging in place may ultimately save money by reducing healthcare and long-term care costs associated with isolation.

Technology may also eventually help. Some experts believe autonomous vehicles could restore independence for seniors unable to drive themselves, though affordable widespread use likely remains years away.

For now, communities like Falls Church face a more immediate challenge: recognizing transportation as more than infrastructure policy. For seniors, transportation is closely tied to physical health, emotional well-being and independence.

Because for many older adults, losing mobility does not just mean losing a car. It means slowly losing connection to the world around them.

Sources: Administration for Community Living, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Surgeon General Advisory on Social Connection, Fairfax County Department of Family Services, NV Rides.

Miller & Smith.

ONLY A FEW REMAIN

Final 55+ Elevator Brownstones
BIRCHWOOD AT BRAMBLETON



Why settle for a condo at this point in your life?

Dream bigger.

Only 5 Elevator Brownstones remain! These are our final homes designed for the way you want to live now—and for years to come. With a private elevator—you'll enjoy everyday ease, comfort, and the freedom to live beautifully on every level. Inside, discover open-concept layouts, seamless indoor-outdoor living, dual primary suites, and flexible spaces that adapt to your life.

- Award-winning clubhouse with indoor & outdoor pools, fitness center, and social spaces
- Miles of scenic trails, lakes, and green spaces
- A vibrant 55+ community built for connection, wellness, and effortless living

This is more than a home—it's a lifestyle designed around you.
The grand finale is here. Once these are gone, Birchwood is sold out.
Tour today. **Elevator Brownstones from the upper \$800s.**

CONTACT:

Eric Hansen
571-835-4422

Sales Office
23695 Hardesty Ter.,
Ashburn, VA 20148
Open Daily 11 am - 6 pm

MillerandSmith.com/Birchwood



The Future of Senior Living Is Taking Shape Across The DMV

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Northern Virginia is aging and that's not a crisis. It's a transformation already reshaping communities like Falls Church, where longtime residents increasingly want to remain active, independent, and connected to the neighborhoods they helped build.

By 2030, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, one in every five Americans will be of retirement age. Fairfax County already counts roughly 186,000 residents age 65 and older, and county officials project that population will grow by more than 40 percent between 2020 and 2040. That demographic shift is fueling rapid growth in senior housing, healthcare services, mobility support, recreation programming, and caregiving resources throughout the region.

The question is no longer

whether aging services are needed. The question is whether communities are prepared to help older adults live with dignity, independence, and quality of life.

Fortunately, much of the Falls Church region is beginning to answer that challenge.

The old stereotypes surrounding retirement communities are disappearing quickly. Today's seniors are healthier, more active, and more engaged than previous generations. Many are looking not for institutional care, but for walkable neighborhoods, wellness programs, cultural opportunities, and flexible support systems that allow them to remain socially connected while adapting to changing health needs over time.

Organizations like Mather LifeWays are helping redefine what senior living can look like. The nationally recognized

nonprofit has built a reputation for creating wellness-centered communities focused on lifelong learning, fitness, hospitality, and purposeful aging. Rather than emphasizing limitations, communities such as Mather focus on independence and engagement — reflecting a broader national trend toward active aging models designed for older adults who still want vibrant, connected lifestyles.

That same philosophy can be seen at The Kensington Falls Church, where assisted living and memory care services are increasingly important as more families confront the realities of dementia and cognitive decline. Alzheimer's disease currently affects nearly seven million Americans, according to the Alzheimer's Association, and Virginia's aging population means those numbers are expected to rise sharply in coming years.

Communities like The Kensington are responding by combining professional healthcare support with residential environments designed to feel warm, personal, and family-oriented. Staff members work closely with residents and families while providing specialized care that balances safety with dignity and compassion. For many local families navigating difficult caregiving decisions, those services have become essential.

Housing trends themselves are also evolving. Developers such as Miller & Smith are responding to growing demand for "55+ living" communities that allow older adults to simplify life without giving up comfort or independence. These neighborhoods are not traditional retirement facilities. Instead, they offer modern homes, low-maintenance living, walking trails, fitness

centers, clubhouses, and social activities designed for active adults who want freedom from home upkeep while remaining close to shopping, restaurants, healthcare, and family.

Similarly, communities such as The Reserve reflect growing demand for upscale senior living environments that combine hospitality and wellness with flexible care options. Residents increasingly expect chef-prepared dining, wellness classes, transportation services, cultural programming, and opportunities for social connection — all within communities designed to support aging in place.

But aging successfully is not only about where people live. It is also about whether they can remain mobile, connected, and independent.

That is where companies like Mobility City play an


Continued on Page 14

City of Falls Church Senior Center

 <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Musical Performances, Sing A Long, Name that Tune</p>	 <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Conversation Groups in Italian, French, Spanish and German</p>	 <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Card Games Like: Bridge, Hand and Foot, Pinochle and More</p>
 <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Art Open Studio using Watercolor, Oil and Acrylic Paints</p>	 <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Educational and Military History Programs</p>	<p style="margin: 5px 0; font-size: 1.2em;">... and more!</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Fitness Programs, Tennis Club, Dance Lessons and More</p>




fallschurchva.gov/SeniorCenter
703-248-5020 (TTY 711)



Reliable help when you need it.

Our personalized in-home care services empower your family to live life with peace of mind.



home instead.

703.533.7368
homeinstead.com/512

Each Home Instead® office is an independently owned and operated franchise of Home Instead, Inc., an Honor Company.
©2025 Home Instead, Inc.



LEASING SHOWROOM
7115 Leesburg Pike, Unit 104
Falls Church, VA 22043

A NEIGHBORHOOD YOU'LL LOVE. THE LIFESTYLE YOU DESERVE.

ALL-NEW SENIOR LIVING IN FALLS CHURCH CITY

Opening in Early 2027, The Reserve at Falls Church places you in the all-new West Falls neighborhood, a walkable urban environment filled with shops and restaurants, from casual cafes to upscale dining. It's a destination location that's minutes from Downtown Falls Church, and with convenient access to greater D.C.


The Reserve offers a range of exceptional amenities, from wellness and fitness programming in our smart fitness center, to lifestyle concierge services, a screening room, and a recording studio. Or enjoy chef-prepared meals in one of our six distinct, on-site restaurants where every detail is designed to reflect your taste for elegance.

Live the life you deserve, within our walls and outside your front door.



1 INDEPENDENT LIVING | 2 ASSISTED LIVING | 3 MEMORY CARE

MAP KEY

-  The Reserve at Falls Church
- 1. Local Markets
- 2. Curated Restaurants & Boutiques
- 3. The Commons
- 4. Medical Offices
- 5. West Falls Church Metro Station



571-297-7233
ReserveAtFallsChurch.com





personalized care.
quiet luxury.

Kokua at The Mather redefines assisted living and memory support in Tysons—now welcoming residents with limited-time move-in incentives and unique inclusive pricing.

What sets us apart is a distinct culture of wellness that fosters curiosity and transformation. With equine therapy to poetry workshops, art + music therapy, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, and zero-proof craft cocktails, Kokua creates an environment where vitality and indulgence coexist.

KOKUA
AT THE MATHER

themathertysons.com/kokua | Inquire today. (571) 282.3650
7929 Westpark Drive, Tysons, VA

The Senior Boom Reshapes the DMV

Continued from Page 12

increasingly important role. The company provides wheelchairs, scooters, stair lifts, walkers, lift chairs, and accessibility equipment that allow older adults and individuals with disabilities to navigate daily life more safely and comfortably. Just as important are repair and maintenance services that help ensure mobility equipment remains reliable.

As many caregivers know firsthand, even relatively minor mobility challenges can dramatically impact independence and quality of life. Accessibility support has become a critical part of helping seniors remain active members of their communities.

For many older adults, however, the preferred option remains staying at home altogether.

AARP surveys consistently show that nearly 80 percent of seniors want to age in place rather than move into institutional settings. That preference has fueled rapid growth in in-home care services throughout Northern Virginia. Companies like Home Instead Senior Care provide companionship, meal preparation, transportation, medication reminders, dementia care, and respite support for family caregivers.

The demand reflects changing realities for families balancing work, childcare, and caregiving responsibilities simultaneously. In many cases, professional in-home support allows seniors to remain independent longer while giving families much-needed peace of mind.

Public investment also plays a major role in healthy aging.

The City of Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department continues expanding programs and activities that benefit residents of all ages, including older adults seeking fitness, wellness, education, and social engagement oppor-

tunities. Parks, trails, exercise classes, arts programs, and community events may seem secondary to healthcare services, but researchers increasingly recognize their importance in combating social isolation and maintaining both physical and mental health.

According to the National Institute on Aging, loneliness and isolation among seniors are associated with increased risks of depression, cognitive decline, heart disease, and other serious health concerns. Recreation and community programming help address those challenges while strengthening the social fabric that has long defined Falls Church itself.

Communities such as Brightview Woodburn are also placing growing emphasis on engagement, enrichment, and connection rather than simply providing care. That shift reflects a larger understanding that quality of life matters just as much as healthcare itself.

And the need for all of these services will only continue growing.

The oldest Baby Boomers are now approaching 80. Local governments, healthcare providers, developers, and families are all under pressure to adapt to an aging population that is living longer and expecting more choices than previous generations ever had.

Falls Church has long prided itself on being a close-knit community where neighbors know one another and civic life matters. Supporting older adults must remain part of that identity. Whether through innovative housing, caregiving services, recreational programs, or accessibility support, the organizations working throughout the region are helping ensure that seniors can continue not simply living longer but living better.

That investment benefits everyone.



AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME! ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY SUPPORT

Celebrating Falls Church Women's History at Cherry Hill



IN A CELEBRATION of its past and future at the historic Cherry Hill Farmhouse, the Falls Church Women's History Group inducted four new "Grand Marshalls" at the Women's History Walk. Honorees Marty Behr, Sharon Schoeller, Sandy Tarpinian and Melissa Teates joined 71 previous honorees during a ceremony emceed by Sally Ekfelt. The event also featured historical exhibits and displays recognizing women who have shaped Falls Church history. (Photos: Don Foley and Gary Mester)

FALLS CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS & NOTES

Pint Hosts Wine

The Casual Pint Falls Church hosts a free wine tasting with new vintages and an expanded selection tonight, May 14, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Ed Foxwell from Kysela Pere et Fils will be pouring and sharing information on the wines.

Girl Dinner Pt 2 at GrillmarX!

Girl Dinner is returning tonight, May 14, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at GrillmarX in Falls Church. Enjoy a side of Mac & Cheese, Caesar Salad, and Truffle Fries with your choice of a Sea Cucumber Martini, and Espresso Martini, and a Dirty or Straight Martini for just \$28 on our adorable Girl Dinner Flight!

The Alchemy of Grief

The Center for Spiritual Enlightenment hosts a workshop for transforming grief into healing and personal growth this Sunday, May 17, noon – 1:00 p.m. The session will share transformational exercises, help you connect with your higher self to gain clarity, and offer resources for navigating the journey. Sharon Moore presents the session and registration is open online. Visit thesece.org.

Spring 2026 VA250 Tourism Marketing Program

The VA250 Commission continues to plan programs and activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. The VA250 Tourism Marketing Program assists communities and sites with marketing commemorative events, locations, and destinations related to history, freedom, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The grant round is open and closes May 28 at 5:00 pm. Official VA250 committees, historic sites, and museums are eligible. Visit their site learn more. vatc.org/vtc-va250-tourism-marketing-program-grant/

Welcoming Falls Church

Welcoming Falls Church has two new partnerships with opportunities for involvement. Welcoming Falls Church is now working with Comunidad to support their large-scale, monthly food distribution on the 3rd Saturday of the month, beginning May 16. They are also partnering with Rides for Refugees. Send an email to learn more and to volunteer. welcomingfallschurch@gmail.com

Interactive Data Walk on Local Prosecution & Diversion Programs

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church announces Pathways to Progress: a free, interactive community data walk designed specifically for Arlington County and Falls Church residents. The exhibit presents local prosecution data, initiatives and reform policies implemented by Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti. Community members will learn how the Commonwealth Attorney's Office approaches local cases, how diversion programs are working in Arlington and Falls Church, and how data is used to promote fairness, safety, and accountability in the local justice system. Falls Church residents must register by May 16. arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Courts/Commonwealth-Attorney/Pathways-to-Progress-Data-Walk

Good Neighbor Day

Everyone is invited to participate in Good Neighbor Day America, a national movement inspiring simple acts of kindness that strengthen our communities. Join partners and neighbors on Saturday, May 16 across the country by pledging your own act of kindness. goodneighbordayamerica.com

In Restaurant News

Arlington Magazine included a number of local restaurants in the article, The Best Restaurant Patios in and Around Arlington. Among them were Thompson Italian, Godfrey's, Little Falls Café, Stratford Garden, Northside Social, Harvey's, and Clare & Don's Beach Shack. In a separate article, 17 New Restaurants to Try, several more were highlighted. The Little Beast, The Cheese Cartel, Helena's Mexican Restaurant, and Westover Taco. While Westover Taco isn't new, it has become the area's first women's sports bar and offers a new menu. Read more in their latest issue.

► *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.*

IN MEMORIAM: UZIEL AWRET

Uziel Awret, beloved father, grandfather, scientist, teacher, traveler, and lifelong seeker of beauty and meaning, passed away at the age of 73 at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel, from peripheral artery disease. Even in the emergency room, in the midst of war, he carried the unmistakable Cheshire Cat smile that so many who loved him will remember.

Uziel was born on July 7, 1953, in Safed, Israel, in an artist colony, to Azriel and Irene Awret. His parents, both survivors of the Holocaust, met in a concentration camp in Mechelen, Belgium. From them, Uziel inherited not only a deep reverence for life, but also an extraordinary capacity for resilience, imagination, and joy.

At the age of 19, Uziel served in the Israeli military during the Yom Kippur War. While stationed near the Suez Canal, he was severely injured when his tank was hit. In a split-second decision, he buried his head in the sand and saved his own life. He spent 18 months recovering in a burn ward and underwent reconstructive surgery on both hands. True to form, even in pain, he found humor in the moment, famously telling one surgeon that the other had done a better job. That experience gave him a new lens through which to see the world: one grounded in presence, gratitude, humor, and a refusal to surrender to bitterness.

After his recovery, Uziel attended the Technion, often described as Israel's MIT, where he studied physics. He later moved to Falls Church, Virginia, where he lived for many years, and pursued graduate studies in biophysics at Georgetown University. A lifelong enthusiast of mathematics, physics, philosophy, and consciousness, Uziel devoted much of his life to education and service. He taught and mentored students across many levels, from high school to college and graduate education, and worked to make complex scientific ideas accessible, alive, and meaningful.

Uziel published in major academic venues and helped pioneer conversations in the emerging field of the biophysics of consciousness. He was a regular participant, pre-

sender, contributor, and organizer in communities such as the Towards a Science of Consciousness conference and the Journal of Consciousness Studies. He was known not only for his scientific ideas, but also for the generosity and intensity with which he engaged the ideas of others.

He was, in every sense, a citizen of the world. Uziel traveled widely in pursuit of curiosity, science, art, and good conversation. He loved extraordinary meals, fine wine, museums, geology, philosophical debate, Jōmon pottery, Japanese haiku, fossils, ancient coins, kayaking, canoeing, and hiking trails across the globe, from Mount Meron to Machu Picchu. He loved sports with equal passion, from famous boxing matches in Las Vegas, including Tyson-Holyfield II, to football, cold beer, chicken wings, Barcelona FC, and the Washington Redskins: Hail to the Redskins.

Uziel was a catalyst and a muse. He moved easily between bar stools and academic conferences, between fossil beds and lecture halls, between jokes, equations, and questions about the nature of consciousness. He had a rare gift for making people feel that life was not only survivable, but wondrous.

He will be missed for his positivity, his insatiable curiosity, his love of science, and his lifelong commitment to the education of all people. His spirit lives on through his son, Dr. Keolu Fox, and his granddaughter, Hokupa'a Fox, as well as through the many students, colleagues, friends, and fellow travelers whose lives were brightened by his presence.



200% OF BUSINESSES
using commuter benefits
to save money say it's a good idea

*If this stat is surprising, just see what else
free commuter support can do for your team!*

ConnectingVA.org

connectingVA
BY DRPT



Falls Church News-Press

MEMORIAL DAY

SPECIAL

HONOR ★ REMEMBER ★ SUPPORT LOCAL

This Memorial Day, reach thousands of engaged local readers through the trusted voice of the **Falls Church News-Press**.



PROMOTE YOUR:

- ★ Memorial Day Sales
- ★ Summer Events
- ★ Restaurants & Retail
- ★ Home & Professional Services
- ★ Camps & Community Programs
- ★ Real Estate & Local Business

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES



PRINT ADS



COMMUNITY VISIBILITY



DIGITAL PROMOTIONS



SPECIAL HOLIDAY PLACEMENT



SPONSORED FEATURES

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

★
 This Memorial Day, we honor the heroes who gave everything for our freedom. Support local businesses that strengthen our community every day.
 ★



RESERVE YOUR MEMORIAL DAY PLACEMENT TODAY!

SJohnson@fcnp.com



PRINT • DIGITAL • SOCIAL

Reach More. Sell More. Support Local.



Serving Falls Church and Northern Virginia with independent community journalism.



“Spring Awakening” Awakens Historical, Topical Themes at St. Mark’s

BY MARK DREISONSTOK

“We see parents bringing children into the world that they may be able to say to them: ‘How happy you are to have such parents!’” So says high school student Moritz Stiefel, in ironic and bitter words in “Spring Awakening,” or “Frühlings Erwachen,” the nineteenth-century German play by Frank Wedekind which stands at the forefront of modern drama. Featuring themes of repressed sexuality, an oppressive education system, and the challenges of peer pressures in growing to adulthood, this play has become an unexpected success in the American musical theatre world in its 2006 Broadway incarnation, with book and lyrics by Steven Sater and music by Duncan Sheik. The current production by St. Mark’s Players on Capitol Hill is exceedingly successful at bringing these raw qualities to the fore and making the concerns of the characters relevant to a modern U.S. audience.

The production, directed superbly by Paul Di Salvo, is a highly engaging example of the Bildungsroman, or coming of age, tradition of storytelling. Here, teenagers encounter universal themes with growing up and facing relationship challenges within families, instructors, and peers. Moritz is a sensitive, under-achieving student in the rigid school system of his day. His friend Melchior, in contrast, is academically gifted, though he, too, is estranged from the school authorities due to his rebelliousness. Teenage Wendla is the lead female character in the play; she is naïve and trusting, yet questioning. These characters and their peers confront situations controversial in their time, which remain so even today: school bullying, domestic violence, teen suicide, homosexuality, and, as already indicated, a cruel educational system with an overreliance on testing at the exclusion of all other forms of intelligence and devoid of human warmth. The adults, whether educators, clergy, or parents, come off poorly by failing to lend a sympathetic ear to the problems of these young people, and by extension to all young people. What makes this play transcend the culture and era of Wilhelmine Germany is that the characters share many of the same hopes, desires, and questions which have confronted young people through all times.

A standout performer is Megan Cooper as Wendla, who presents all of

her character’s conflicting emotions. She sings beautifully, from “Mama Who Bore Me” which begins the folk-flavored rock musical, to the poignant “Whispering.” Ted Randell is excellent as the rebellious Melchior, as is Parker Rising as the sensitive Moritz. In a key move to emphasize how the adults present a united front of indifference at best, and intolerance at worst, all of the adult women characters are played excellently by the same actress, Betsy Scarisbrick. Similarly, all adult men, whether father, priest, or teacher, are played wonderfully by the same actor, Garrett Walsh. The cast is uniformly good in its choreography (Nathan Nichipor, choreographer) and company singing, as in “The Song of Purple Summer,” which ends this often somber musical with a ray of hope.

Period costumes of Merrick Shamblyn and Suzanne Smith evoke the straight-laced world of nineteenth-century Wilhelmine Germany, as does the Gothic/Romanesque architecture of the historic St. Mark’s Church, which was built at about the same time the play was first written. The building and its stained-glass windows (the play is performed in the sanctuary) thus act as cultural points of reference when religious themes are mentioned, serving as a reminder that religion can provide at least some answers to many of the play’s problems, while also being an impediment when clergy lack compassion. The musicians, directed by Aimee Faulkmer, are top notch at conveying the rebellious yet lyrical score, very much in harmony with the play itself.

The production, which runs through May 16, 2026, is highly recommended, though due to mature themes, audience members under 17 are not admitted without a parent. For further information, please visit: stmarksplayers.org.



CAST MEMBERS PERFORM in St. Mark’s Players’ production of *Spring Awakening*, the acclaimed rock musical exploring the struggles of adolescence, identity, and repression in nineteenth-century Germany. (Photo: Samuel West)

Meridian Sports Recap: 5/5 - 5/11

BY DINOS SIMCOX

Meridian’s spring sports teams have put together one of their strongest weeks to date. While some sports like softball and tennis didn’t have any games or matches this week, the clubs that did play were nearly flawless. The Mustang teams combined for a fantastic 9-1 record.

Baseball has enjoyed two dominant victories this week, winning both their games by a combined score of 30-0. With only a few games remaining in the season, the Mustangs are currently ninth in the standings, one spot away from a playoff berth. Their final two games will be crucial, as both teams the Mustangs face are near them in the standings. The team is currently 8-9 overall and 5-8 in region play.

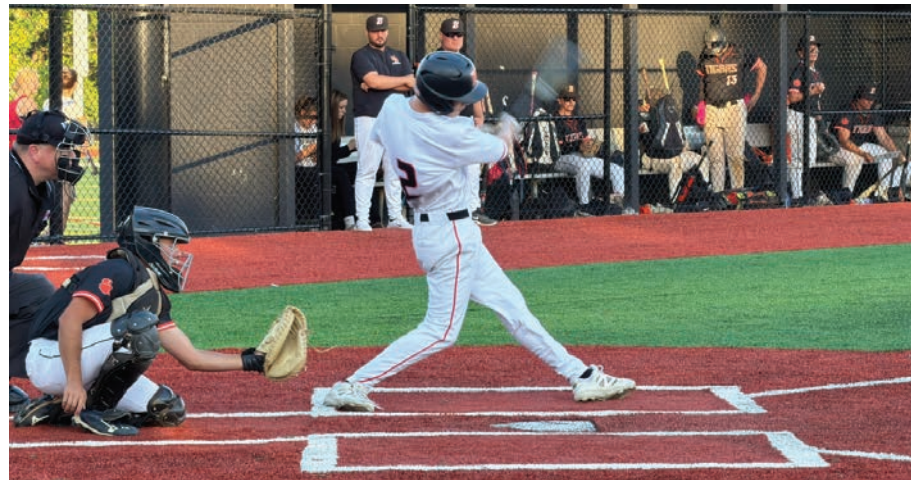
Boys lacrosse is still undefeated at 15-0, and the Mustangs continue to get better and better. They started their week with a superb 13-5 win over rival Brentsville, and followed that performance up with a sensational 25-0 victory over Rock Ridge. There doesn’t seem to be anything that can stop this team, and the standings show it, as the Mustangs are first in the region. Playoffs are right around the corner, and lacrosse looks like one of Meridian’s best shots at a regional and state title.

Girls lacrosse was another team to play and win two games this week. Similarly to the

boys lacrosse team, both their victories were dominant. A 16-2 win over Brentsville started off their week on a high note, and they built on that performance with a dominant 22-1 victory over Rock Ridge on the Mustangs’ senior night. The squad now holds an excellent 10-3 overall record, and a 3-1 regional record, good enough for third in the standings.

Boys soccer pulled off a couple close victories this week to remain near the top of the regional standings. The Mustangs’ defense played huge roles in both wins, allowing just one goal across both games. The Mustangs’ first game of the week was a 2-1 victory over Kettle Run, and their second win was a double overtime thriller against Manassas Park, a game the Mustangs escaped with a 1-0 win. They now sit at second in the regional standings with a regional record of 5-0-1, while their overall record is 12-1-1.

Girls soccer split their two games this week, starting with a 3-0 loss to Kettle Run and ending with an impressive 8-0 win over Manassas Park. While their inconsistent season continues, the Mustangs have managed to claw their way into a playoff spot. Their 7-7-1 overall record and 2-3-1 record inside the region is currently good enough for sixth in the region. With only a handful of games remaining, it looks like the Mustangs will manage to sneak into the playoffs after all.



MERIDIAN SENIOR ANDREW NIEMI crushes a pitch. (Photo: Dinos Simcox)

11 out of 10 BOSSES

agree that commuter benefits help attract new talent

This math may not add up, but offering your employees commuter benefits makes perfect sense.

ConnectingVA.org

connectingVA
BY DRPT

This Week Around Falls Church

Thursday, May 14

Falls Church Fiber Artists

10:00 a.m.–noon
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Weekly gathering for knitters, crocheters, and fiber arts enthusiasts at Mary Riley Styles Public Library.

Spring Storytime

10:30–11:00 a.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Interactive storytime for young children featuring books, songs, and movement activities.

Playtime with Early Literacy Center

11:00 a.m.–noon
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Open play session encouraging early literacy and social interaction for young children.

Wellness Talk: Fall Prevention for Seniors

2:00–3:00 p.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Educational wellness presentation focused on fall prevention and healthy aging strategies.

DL Funkland

5:30 p.m.
130 N. Washington St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Live music performance at Clare & Don's Beach Shack.

Community Meeting: Policing Priorities

6:30–8:00 p.m.
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Community discussion regarding policing priorities and public safety issues in Falls Church.

Sporcle Events Pub Quiz

7:00–9:00 p.m.
130 N. Washington St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Weekly trivia competition and pub quiz night at Clare & Don's Beach Shack.

Shack Style Drag Bingo Evening Event

130 N. Washington St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Drag bingo entertainment night featuring games, prizes, and performances.

Friday, May 15

Bike to Work Day

6:30–9:00 a.m.
W&OD Trail at Little Falls St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Annual regional event encouraging bicycle commuting with refreshments and giveaways.

Military History Forum: Meuse-Argonne Offensive

10:00 a.m.–noon
223 Little Falls St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Historical discussion focused on the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and World War I history.

Spring Baby Time

10:30–11:00 a.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Storytime and music program designed for infants and caregivers.

Loose Change with Katy Morse

Evening Event
130 N. Washington St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Live music performance at Clare & Don's Beach Shack.

Saturday, May 16

Falls Church Farmers Market

8:00 a.m. – noon
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Weekly farmers market featuring local produce, baked goods, flowers, and specialty foods.

Peace, Music, and Tie-Dye

10:00 a.m.–noon
Big Chimneys Park,

300 W. Annandale Rd.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Family-friendly event featuring music, crafts, and tie-dye activities.

Hip-Stangs Math Club

10:30–11:00 a.m. and
11:00–11:30 a.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Interactive math activities and games for children at Mary Riley Styles Public Library.

Community Meeting: Policing Priorities

12:30–2:00 p.m.
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Community discussion regarding policing priorities and public safety issues in Falls Church.

What's That Plant?: Using the iNaturalist App

2:00–3:30 p.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Workshop teaching participants how to identify plants and wildlife using the iNaturalist app.

Maria & Marco

8:00–11:00 p.m.
130 N. Washington St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Live music performance at Clare & Don's Beach Shack.

JMM Funk

9:30 p.m.
132 W. Broad St.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Live funk music performance at Dogwood Tavern.

Sunday, May 17

South American Guitar Recital

2:00–3:00 p.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Classical guitar recital featuring South American composers and musical traditions.

Monday, May 18

City Council Joint Work Session

7:30–11:00 p.m.
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Joint work session with the Planning Commission, Housing Commission, and Economic Development Authority.

Tuesday, May 19

We the Readers: FC250 Reading Group

6:30–8:00 p.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Community reading and discussion group connected to the FC250 initiative.

Wednesday, May 20

Council Agenda Meeting with Staff

8:30–9:00 a.m.
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Agenda planning meeting for upcoming City Council business.

Retirement Board Quarterly Meeting

1:00–2:00 p.m.
and 2:00–6:00 p.m.
300 Park Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Quarterly meeting of the Falls Church Retirement Board.

Property Yard Open House and Touch-A-Truck

3:30–6:30 p.m.
417 N. Maple Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Family-friendly open house featuring public works vehicles and equipment demonstrations.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

6:00–8:00 p.m.
120 N. Virginia Ave.,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Regular meeting of the Mary Riley Styles Public Library Board of Trustees.

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

State
www.thestatetheatre.com
COMING SOON

MAY 15	LIVE SALSA NIGHT
MAY 16	SUPER 70S ROCK SHOW 70S ARENA ROCK
MAY 17	THE ULTIMATE DOORS TRIBUTE TO THE DOORS
MAY 22	MISIL STEREO TRIBUTE TO SODA STEREO
MAY 23	5 DOLLAR COMEDY NIGHT
MAY 29	EYES OF THE NILE TRIBUTE TO IRON MAIDEN
MAY 30	BOSTYX TRIBUTE TO BOSTON & STYX
JUN 05	HERE COME THE MUMMIES
JUN 06	ALLSTAR PURPLE PARTY PRINCE TRIBUTE
JUN 12	CRACKER
JUN 13	TUSK CLASSIC FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Promote your upcoming auctions statewide! Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audience. Call this paper or Commonwealth Media Solutions 804-521-7580, advertising@commonwealthmediasolutions.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-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! LeafFilter 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

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

LIVESTOCK SALES

n/a

GUTTERWORKS

Gagnon's Gutterworks

**CLEANING/INSTALLATION/REPAIR
LICENSED & INSURED
POWER WASHING**

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

ads@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.



SAVE \$250 ON ALL TOURS!
MORE THAN 50 GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE

Enjoy affordable, well-planned group travel designed especially for mature travelers. Our guided tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director, and select meals—so you can relax and enjoy the journey. Airfare can be added from your gateway city at an additional cost.



MUST BOOK BY 6/30

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta & Southwestern Tour
10 DAYS STARTING AT
~~\$2,749~~ **\$2,449***

- BASED ON SEP 25, 2026 DEPARTURE
- Witness the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
 - Soak up the history & culture of New Mexico in Albuquerque and Santa Fe
 - Tour Roswell with its fascinating exhibits of the alleged UFO crash



MUST BOOK BY 6/30

Autumn Leaves Tour
10 DAYS STARTING AT
~~\$3,799~~ **\$3,549***

- BASED ON SEP 14, 2026 DEPARTURE
- Experience autumn in New York
 - Tour one of Newport's famous mansions
 - Discover the Freedom Trail in Boston
 - Enjoy a guided city tour of Philadelphia

fcnp.com

CALL US: 1-855-792-6266

*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees.
Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF THE PETITION OF VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA FOR APPROVAL OF A PLAN FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION GRID TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2026-00041

On April 23, 2026, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion” or “Company”) completed the filing of a petition with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) for approval of a plan for electric distribution grid transformation projects (“Petition”) pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”). Specifically, Dominion seeks approval of Phase IV of its plan to transform its electric distribution grid (“GT Plan”), which consists of proposed projects in 2027, 2028, and 2029.

Dominion states that Phase IV of the GT Plan would include the continuation of five projects: (i) mainfeeder hardening; (ii) voltage island mitigation; (iii) voltage optimization enablement; (iv) telecommunications; and (v) targeted corridor improvement (“TCI”).

The Company proposes to continue the mainfeeder hardening project, previously approved in Phases I, III, and IIIB of the GT Plan, on 41 additional feeders from 2027 through 2029. Dominion proposes an additional \$287.7 million of capital investment in mainfeeder hardening as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan.

The Company proposes to continue implementation of its voltage island mitigation work, which was previously approved in Phases I, II, and III of the GT Plan. Dominion proposes to complete four additional voltage island mitigation projects, representing an additional \$40.9 million of capital investment as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan. The Company also proposes to continue implementation of its voltage optimization enablement program, which was previously approved in Phases II and III of the GT Plan. Dominion estimates that its voltage optimization enablement program affects approximately 43,000 customer premises requiring substation voltage control upgrades and improvements. The Company proposes an additional \$531.1 million of capital investments for its voltage optimization enablement program as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan.

Dominion further proposes to continue deployment of its telecommunications plan, which was previously approved in Phases I, II, and III of the GT Plan. The Company proposes to continue its deployment of the Tier 2 network to extend high-speed connectivity and multi-protocol label switching technology to an additional 38 critical facilities through Company-owned fiber. Dominion proposes an additional \$59 million of capital investments and \$5.4 million in operations and maintenance (“O&M”) expenses for its telecommunications plan as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan.

Finally, the Company proposes to continue deployment of its TCI project, specifically its hazard tree removal and tree overhang pilot programs. Dominion proposes to perform an additional 15,000 miles of hazard tree removal between 2027–2029 and to expand the tree overhang program on an additional 71 feeders. The Company proposes an additional \$119.8 million in O&M expenses for its TCI project as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan.

Dominion also requests approval of one new project in conjunction with Phase IV: the Stepdown Conversion Program, which is designed to proactively upgrade parts of the distribution system to a higher voltage, eliminating the need for a stepdown transformer. The Company states that this pilot program would aim to eliminate 24 overhead 500 kilovolt-ampere (“kVA”) and 333 kVA stepdown transformers that serve a population of customers that are (1) at risk of an extended outage, and/or (2) served by lower voltages, which factors limit the ability for these customers to pursue electrification or distributed energy resource installations. Dominion asserts that the pilot program would proactively mitigate the risk of extended outages and expand access to electrification, battery storage, and solar. Dominion proposes \$64.4 million of capital investments for the Stepdown Conversion Program as part of Phase IV of the GT Plan.

In total, the proposed cost associated with Phase IV of the GT Plan is approximately \$983.1 million in capital investment and \$125.2 million in O&M expenses.

The Company also represents that, in preparing the GT Plan, it evaluated each proposed project to determine whether there were any environmental justice concerns.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Petition and supporting documents in full for additional details.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on Dominion’s Petition and assigned a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission. A hearing for the receipt of testimony from public witnesses on the Company’s Petition shall be convened telephonically by the Hearing Examiner at 10 a.m. on August 5, 2026. On or before July 28, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission: (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to

call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission’s website at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting; or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141 to register. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on August 5, 2026, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On August 5, 2026, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Petition from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff (“Staff”).

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

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company’s Petition may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Jontille D. Ray, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or jray@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons may also download unofficial copies of the public version of the Petition and the public versions of other documents filed in this case from the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information.

On or before July 28, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition by following the instructions found on the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00041.

On or before June 15, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company, any other respondents and Staff electronically as described above. Pursuant to 5 VAC 520-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* (“Rules of Practice”), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00041. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before July 7, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness’s testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served electronically on the Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00041.

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

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

Council Approves FY27 Budget

CRITTER CORNER

Continued from Page 3

Sanitary Sewer \$33.5 million, and Stormwater \$8.7 million. The CIP is funded with \$94.8 million in federal, state, and regional grants, with \$90 million of that for transportation projects to improve safety and accessibility on City roadways. There is no new taxpayer-funded debt planned in the CIP until FY2031, when \$5 million is planned to replace the roof at the Falls Church Fire Station.

The theme of the budget for FY2027, "Reliable, Responsive, and Resilient," is clear in the adopted budget and CIP priorities and highlights:

Reliable: Sustaining State of Good Repair of City Streets, including a \$1.5 million operating budget with a request for a \$1 million grant for paving Routes 7 and 29. Investing in the City

Workforce with a 4 percent merit pay increase for general government staff, a 5-12 percent market rate adjustment for Sheriff deputies, and a 14 percent adjustment for Police officers. Continuing support for affordable housing with twelve City Committed Affordable Units. Additionally, the City is investing in safety by addressing the gaps in fire hydrant access.

Responsive: This budget invests \$100 million in CIP in transportation projects while also addressing increases in Inter-jurisdictional and contract costs with \$1.5 million in budget cuts. It also demonstrates the City's commitment to structural changes and process improvements by funding a new department of code administration and contracted IT support for enterprise resource planning and information

security. Responding to community requests, the City's investment in Watch Night, the annual New Year's Eve celebration, has returned by popular demand.

Resilient: With investments in Sanitary Sewer, the budget allocates \$4.5 million to reduce "inflow and infiltration," \$6.7 million for upsizing of pipes with Fairfax County, and a \$1 million federal grant just awarded for sewer system improvements. Continuing to invest in Stormwater, the budget provides \$8.7 million for larger conveyance and green infrastructure to reduce flooding and a \$500,000 grant for stormwater resilience planning.

The City budget process included ten meetings with the public, which were also live-streamed on the City's website, YouTube channel, and on local public access TV channels.



JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES... I'm practicing being adorable.

AMERICAN DREAMS

We all deserve a place to call home.

IN REALITY you could legally be denied housing in over 50% of U.S. states if you are LGBTQ+

Get the facts and hear real stories at LoveHasNoLabels.com

love has no labels

MOVEMENT ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, 2024



SEND US YOUR PICTURES!

CRITTERCORNER@FCNP.COM

REACH FALLS CHURCH'S MOST ENGAGED LOCAL AUDIENCE WITH TARGETED ADVERTISING THAT PUTS YOUR BUSINESS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF RESIDENTS, FAMILIES, AND DECISION-MAKERS.

CONTACT: SJOHNSON@FCNP.COM

NORTHERN VIRGINIA GAY NEWS

HRC Hails Trailblazing Role Of 1st Out Gay Pro Athlete

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) mourned the death of former NBA star and LGBTQ+ advocate Jason Collins, who passed away from cancer at age 47, calling him a “giant” who revolutionized sports equality. HRC President Kelley Robinson honored him for his courage in coming out while active, describing his impact as a historic shift for visibility.

“We Truly Lost a Giant.” HRC President Kelley Robinson stated, that calling Collins a groundbreaking figure is “simply inadequate,” Robinson honored Collins’ role in challenging sports norms, stating, “He was and will always be a legend for the LGBTQ+ community.”

The organization emphasized that his 2013 decision to come out while still playing in the NBA “boldly changed the conversation” and that he continued to be an advocate for inclusion in his post-NBA career.

HRC noted that Collins’ actions helped create a more inclusive world for LGBTQ+ athletes and youth, honoring his “trailblazing courage”. Collins died on May 12, 2026, after a battle with stage 4 glioblastoma.

Sears Hails Out Leadership Event in London

Todd Sears, founder and CEO of Out Leadership, issued the following remarks about the recent Out Leadership event in London:

“It’s always good to be back in London, where so much of the Out Leadership story began, and this eventful week is a wonderful reminder of why. From an incredible OutWOMEN+ Breakfast with our stellar panelists (hosted generously by Bank of America) to an intimate and smashingly successful Salon Dinner, (made possible by MSCI and the amazing Tia Counts) the rooms were full of caring leaders who were ready for in-depth conversation. I boarded a plane home this morning feeling inspired, again, by the willingness of our members and supporters to show up for one another, and how they continue to look for creative ways to work together.

“Fourteen years ago, London became the first city outside the United States to host an Out on the Street (now, of course Out Leadership) Summit. At the time, we didn’t fully know what it would become but we knew it mattered and here we are! That first gathering, hosted at Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf, set the tone in a way that still feels remarkable today. We had four CEOs on stage, something that simply hadn’t been done before in this context—four CEOs publicly engaging on LGBTQ+ equality as a leadership issue.

“And we welcomed Duško Marković, then Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro, who came to London with a clear purpose: to voice his support for marriage equality across the Balkans—a pretty big deal back in 2012! He went on to become Prime Minister and served for the next four years.”

Trump Budget Expands Probes Of ‘Gender Extremism’

A new budget proposal from the Trump administration is raising concerns after it called for expanding the FBI’s counterterrorism efforts to include what it describes as “gender extremism.” The plan would increase FBI funding by \$166 million and directs federal authorities to investigate certain ideological movements related to gender, race, and migration as potential domestic threats.

The proposal also frames opposition to what it calls “traditional American values” including views on family, religion, and morality as part of a broader set of concerns tied to national security. It further calls for the creation of a new federal center focused on political violence, with attention on what the administration characterizes as “leftist” activity.

Civil liberties groups say the proposal could blur the line between national security and free speech, particularly for LGBTQ+ people and their allies. Organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union warn that labeling certain beliefs as “extremism” could lead to people being targeted simply for their views. The budget now moves to Congress for debate.

Tennessee Law May Outlaw Free Speech Suppression

The Tennessee legislature has passed a sweeping measure that would prohibit public colleges and universities from restricting speakers based on their views, including those expressing opposition to LGBTQ+ identities. The bill, which now heads to Governor Bill Lee for consideration, also outlines disciplinary consequences for students and faculty who protest or disrupt such speakers, including potential suspension or expulsion. Supporters say the law strengthens protections for free expression on campus, citing principles similar to the University of Chicago’s widely adopted speech policy.

Critics, however, argue the legislation could have a chilling effect on LGBTQ+ students and their allies, effectively limiting their ability to respond to rhetoric they view as harmful. The bill explicitly protects individuals from retaliation based on their views on “homosexuality or transgender behavior,” while restricting forms of protest such as walkouts or demonstrations deemed disruptive. Opponents also point to broader concerns about academic freedom and campus climate, noting that recent incidents have already seen educators face consequences for speaking out.

Montana Supremes Rule in Favor of Gender Markers

The Montana Supreme Court has ruled that state agencies cannot prohibit transgender residents from updating gender markers on official identity documents, finding that such restrictions violate the state constitution. In a 5–2 decision, the court upheld a lower court injunction blocking the policy, concluding that discrimination against transgender individuals is inherently a form of sex discrimination. The case, brought by two trans plaintiffs, challenged actions by the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice, which oversees the state’s Motor Vehicle Division.

The ruling marks a significant legal development in the broader national debate over transgender rights, reinforcing precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*. The court found that the policy forced transgender individuals to repeatedly disclose their identity in ways that cisgender residents do not, creating ongoing harm. While advocates hailed the decision as a meaningful affirmation of equality and dignity, dissenting justices criticized it as judicial overreach. The case will now return to a lower court, leaving the longer-term legal outcome still to be determined.

Gay Community Brunch At Freddie’s in Arlington

This Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m. is when the weekly community brunch and conversation at Freddie’s Beach Bar and Restaurant, 555 23rd St. will commence.

LGBTQ+ folk will gather in the heart of National Landing. The all-you-can-eat buffet-style brunch is \$14.99 plus gratuity and includes dessert and a mimosa or a non-alcoholic beverage.

This brunch attracts a diverse group of local professionals and gay community advocates, including Nicholas F. Benton, the founder, owner, and editor of the Falls Church News-Press and author of numerous books.

Those interested in attending can find more details on the events link on gogaydc.com.

5/21 Memorial Day Parade Issue

For Advertising

Contact Sue : sjohnson@fcnp.com

The **SMILE** you want.
The attention you deserve.

Currently accepting new patients



BESTOFFFC.COM

703.532.3300 | www.doughertyDDS.com
200 Little Falls Street #506, Falls Church VA 22046



Diener & Associates
Certified Public Accountants



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

Staci Martineau
Fairfax County Neighbor &
Government Contract Manager
at Diener & Associates



GovCon Consulting • Outsourced Accounting
Tax Services • Advisory

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

NEW PRICE!

JOIN US!



SATURDAY • MAY 16 • 12 - 2 PM
SUNDAY • MAY 17 • 2 - 4 PM



6
Beds



3.5
Baths



1920's
Bungalow



Detached
Studio

601 N VIEW TERRACE | ALEXANDRIA, VA

\$1,549,900



Tori McKinney | CEO & Realtor®

703-867-8674
Tori@ROCKSTARrealtygroup.com
ROCKSTARrealtygroup.com

