

MAY 21 - 27, 2026

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1991

VOL. XXXVI  
No. 15

# Falls Church News-Press

Northern Virginia's Newspaper

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*'Democracy Thrives In Sunshine'*

## Va. Village: How Many Affordable Homes?

*3 Scenarios Range from  
0 to 100+ New Units*

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

In a meeting that went into the wee hours at City Hall Monday, the Falls Church City Council's work session included generous input from invited members of the City's Planning Commission, Housing Commission and Economic Development Authority as it explored next steps in the effort to provide additional affordable housing at the 4-acre Virginia Village site on S. Maple St. in Falls Church.

Officially, the meeting was timed at 3 hours and 46 minutes, ending short of midnight. What was aired were a range of prospects for what would go into a "request for proposal" (RFP) to a prospective developer to respond to one or more of three scenarios for the site with an eye to advancing the City's cause to add to its viable affordable housing stock.

"Our job here is to make sure we are reflecting community input," Mayor Letty Hardi said.

The three scenarios that the large group discussed including in an RFP would involve a plan to refurbish the 40 units (nine fourplex buildings, or about half

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## VIRGINIA VILLAGE HUDDLE



MONDAY'S CROWDED City Hall work session on the Virginia Village affordable housing discussion, going around (l. to r.) Planning Commissioners Tim Stevens, Andrea Caumont, Bob Kravinsky, Phil Duncan, then the Economic Development Authority's Alan Brangman and Jim Coyle, and the City Housing Department's Dana Jones. (Photo: News-Press)

## Spanberger Explains Her Veto of Collective Bargaining

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Appearing this Tuesday at the Center for American Progress' Ideas conference in Washington D.C., Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger defended her veto of collective bargaining legislation passed by the Virginia legislature. Her move drew fierce ire from among her pro-labor Democratic supporters.

Spanberger said Tuesday, "I continue to support public sector collective bargaining. And I continue to look forward to a place where we'll have a bill that I'll sign into law. Importantly, I sent back valuable amendments...towards that legislation; they were summarily rejected. Those amendments were incredibly vital from an implementation standpoint and took the feed-

back of localities and community members about what it looks like to implement collective bargaining in the public sector in Virginia."

She went on, "Standing up an entirely new system, as the chief executive who would be implementing it, is a big and substantial shift...state employees...would go first, so any hurdles, challenges, getting any of the practice/ reps in...

would be tested on the employees that I oversee. So by the point in time when our localities across... Virginia would be implementing an entirely new system, we would have gotten through some of the hurdles; 18 months later was the delay... Now notably, unfortunately, in the conversation related to my one veto,

*Continued on Page 8*

# FALLS CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

## Local Feedback Provided On Rt. 29 Transportation Project

By David Beddoe

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) held its second community meeting this Tuesday to discuss the Route 29 Active Transportation Study. Members of the community were invited, including members of the Falls Church Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT). The FCDOT study aims to create an environment that is safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, connects both sides of Route 29, improves access to transit, and helps build driver awareness.

The Route 29 Transportation Study share common goals with Falls Church City: increased multimodal safety, connectivity, and wider accessibility to transportation services for citizens.

Falls Church City shares approximately one-quarter of this busy linear geography with Fairfax County on the north side of Route 29, which includes busy intersections and Metro Bus routes. Route 29 is one of the two major thoroughfares through the & Little City & experiencing significant growth in terms of infrastructure and businesses.

Detailed background and progress for FCDOT's Route 29 project is well documented on the Fairfax County government website. Similarly, the City of Falls Church is also planning a South Washington Street Bus Expansion project, aimed to increase transit access and improve pedestrian safety. The project would improve and relocate bus shelters for optimum rider safety, enhance crosswalks, and replace traffic signals along the South Washington Street corridor.

FCDOT's May 19 meeting was the second opportunity for citizens to provide feedback on the proposed Route 29 project. Members of the Falls Church Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) were invited to learn how the Route 29 project will impact, and potentially improve areas of the Little City.

(Mr. Beddoe is the chair of the F.C. Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation).

## F.C. Ed Foundation Feted For Awarding 25 Scholarships

In a statement this week, the Falls Church Education Foundation (FCEF) said it joined the Athletics Boosters, Choral Boosters, Band Boosters, and other community organizations in recognizing student achievement at the 2026 Scholarship Awards ceremony.

"FCEF is honored to steward 25 scholarships with 35 recipients this year and reward various experiences, talents, interests, and future pursuits. Scholarships include recognition of students who are: dedicated to service learning, first-generation college students, community college attendees, ESOL program graduates, students pursuing visual arts and creative writing, a full tuition and fees scholarship, and more. Including two new scholarship awards: Margarita Adolar Monteroso Memorial Scholarship and the Nick Werkman Memorial Scholarship," it noted.

FCEF has disbursed almost \$2 million in donor-designated scholarships to date.

In addition to awarding scholarships, the FCEF recognized National Merit Scholarship Finalists. Several members of the Meridian High senior class will embark upon military service, the FCEF noted. "We recognized students who will attend the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Military Academy, those who received Army and Navy ROTC scholarships, and a student who will serve in the Marine Corps Reserve," it stated.

## Jones Sues U.S. Department Of Ed Over Student Loan Limits

Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones yesterday joined a coalition of attorneys general in filing a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Education over a new rule that unlawfully limits access to federal student loans for students pursuing professional degree programs, including many healthcare and other critical workforce fields.

The lawsuit challenges a recently finalized Department of Education rule that narrows the federal definition of "professional degree" and imposes restrictions Congress did not authorize. The coalition argues the rule unlawfully excludes many degree programs that qualify under the standards established by federal law, potentially reducing access to financial aid for students pursuing advanced education.

"Cutting off access to federal student loans cuts off access to career opportunities for Virginians. This unlawful rule will worsen the workforce crisis and further strain the healthcare field," said Jones. "The Trump administration is once again skirting the system of checks and balances, and my office is committed to standing up for student borrowers in the Commonwealth."

## F.C.'s Creative Cauldron Wins Helen Hayes Award

Monday night at the Helen Hayes Awards, Falls Church's Creative Cauldron Stage took home the award for Best Lighting Design of a Musical (Helen) for its production of *The Turn of the Screw: The Musical!*

The award went to Lynn Joslin (who is also the Cauldron's current lighting designer for *Little Women: The Musical*).

Also, members of the cast of *Little Women: The Musical* (Kylie Clare Truby, Odette Gutierrez del Arroyo, Carolyn Burke and Shelby Young) were due yesterday to perform live on "The Marissa Mitchell Show" on Channel 5.

## Va. Lawmakers Push for Ranger Activity Booklet

Virginia's U.S. Rep. Don Beyer today led the Democratic Virginia Congressional delegation, including Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, and Representatives Bobby Scott (VA-03), Jennifer McClellan (VA-04), Suhas Subramanyam (VA-10), Eugene Vindman (VA-07), and James Walkinshaw (VA-11), to request that the National Park Service (NPS) immediately return a Junior Ranger Program activity booklet to circulation in its original form ahead of America 250 events, which are expected to bring millions of visitors to Virginia and the National Capital Region.

According to an NPS database, the Junior Ranger activity booklet was flagged and removed pursuant to the June 2025 National Park Service directive ordering the review of public-facing historical materials for including the following line: "In 1829, Robert E. Lee promised to serve in the Army and protect the United States. In 1861, he broke his promise and fought for slavery."

In requesting that the booklet be immediately returned to circulation in its original form, the lawmakers emphasized that the booklet's language regarding General Robert E. Lee is factually accurate and necessary to telling the complete story of Arlington House and the American Civil War.



PETER YOUNG (right), son of the late Bob Young and now head of the Young Group in Falls Church, spoke following Tuesday's luncheon of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce with new member Orlando Darden Jr. (Photo: News-Press)



FALLS CHURCH'S CHRISTINE WILSON, head of her MtoM Marketing firm here, spoke on how small businesses can tap into the positive potentials of AI at Tuesday's luncheon of the F.C. Chamber of Commerce. She's shown here with Chamber executive Elise Bengtson. (Photo: News-Press)



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# Virginia Village Debate Runs Late Into Night Session

Continued from Page 1

the total) at the site that are currently under City of Falls Church and EDA control, a redo of the units such as to increase the total number of units to 40 or 50 total, or a more aggressive approach that could result in upwards of 100 units in three to seven stories.

It was noted that, from a developer point of view a “sweet spot” would be

the construction of about 120 units, built where about 40 units now exist. The City’s ownership are of fourplexes at either end of the site, with the middle portion still in private hands.

Phil Duncan, former F.C. City Councilman for 11 years and now member of the Planning Commission, told the News-Press following the meeting, “It was an encouraging work session on an issue that’s vital to preserving the City’s

unique spirit of community. City Council has declared ‘housing for all’ as a priority, and City staff has been working hard to tee up housing options for consideration that would help keep Falls Church from becoming merely an enclave for the super-rich.

“During Monday’s work session I saw a lot of good-faith listening, and an appreciation that accommodating differing views will be necessary as we work through the summer toward the goal of increasing housing options for City and schools staff, public safety personnel, employees of our local businesses, seniors, and others with modest incomes who want to call Falls Church home.

“Kudos to Council for rolling up their sleeves to tackle this issue, and for inviting the Planning Commission, the Economic Development Authority, and the Housing Commission to provide input on the way forward.”

Speaking at the meeting, Duncan advocated for an approach that would provide the most new units, but said that aspiring to go as high as 160 new units was not realistic.

Council member David Snyder clearly identified with those who want the fewest new units overall. He said that the entire City of Falls Church housing stock already falls within the definition of “missing middle” housing, despite the fact that an average single family detached home in Falls Church is valued between \$1.2 million and \$1.8 million, the highest level in the region.

Former Falls Church Mayor Alan Brangman, now a member of the EDA, was also outspoken about moving too quickly on the project overall. He expressed concern for what would amount to spot zoning at the site, a concern shared by Planning Commissioner Tim Stevens, and that the City may be setting itself up for more problems if it moves too quickly.

In hopes of finding a developer by the end of this summer, the Council is looking to put an RFP out by the end of next week.

But Councilman Arthur Agin expressed concern that an RFP might wind up driving policy options.

All members of the Council were present except Justine Underhill, who was nearing the birth of a child.

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# Meridian Sports Recap: 5/12 - 5/19

BY DINOS SIMCOX

Meridian's spring sports wrapped up their regular seasons this week, and overall, the teams experienced a good week of games. They combined for 13 wins to just five losses.

Baseball has managed to punch their ticket to the playoffs as their regular season came to a close. With crucial wins over Brentsville and Warren County, 7-1 and 2-0 respectively, the Mustangs were able to overcome a rocky start to the season and finish the season 11-10, good enough for a playoff spot.

As usual, boys lacrosse came out on top in their lone game this week. Their 16-3 win over Liberty completed the Mustangs' undefeated season, a perfect 16-0. Liberty, being a regional opponent, propelled the Mustangs to first in the regional standings with a 4-0 record. They will enter the playoffs with the top seed from their region.

Girls lacrosse closed out their season by dominating Liberty and Culpeper County, winning 18-0 and 16-1 respectively. Their final record was 12-3, with a regional record of 4-1. The Mustangs are one of the hottest teams in the district right now, going into the playoffs boasting a dominant five game win streak. Their smallest margin of victory over the last five games was a 14-point blowout over Brentsville.

Softball finished their season without managing to win a game. It

has been a frustrating campaign for the squad, and they hope to get back on track next season.

Both girls and boys tennis beat their regional quarterfinals opponents 5-0, and the girls went on to defeat Goochland in the regional semifinals. Unfortunately the boys team fell to Maggie L. Walker after one of their best players, senior Max Von Schrittz, suffered an injury after the regional quarterfinals. Von Schrittz was a crucial member to the team and was sorely missed.

Boys soccer went a perfect 3-0 this week, and ended their regular season with a victory over Brentsville. Their overall record ends at 15-1-1 with a regional record of 7-0-1. Soccer was consistently a strong club under former head coach Nathan Greiner, and the Mustangs have experienced a smooth transition to new head coach Ronald Cruz-Rivas. After winning the state championship last season, the team will look to defend their title and make a deep playoff run.

Girls soccer ended their regular season this week with a 2-0 loss to Brentsville. Their final regular season record is 8-9-1 with a regional record of 3-5-1. The squad has experienced a roller coaster of a campaign, losing many close games to top-ranked programs. They still managed to put together many impressive performances throughout the season, proving their worth against their difficult schedule.



Meridian senior Ezra Fine prepares for the next throw from the Warren County pitcher. (Photo: Dinos Simcox)

# Falls Church News-Press

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

Vol. XXXVI, No. 15  
MAY 21 - 26, 2026

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## EDITORIAL

# Eminent Domain? Eminent Emergency?

It was a tight squeeze in the Dogwood Room at City Hall Monday night for a Falls Church City Council work session on the proposed development of affordable housing at the 4-acre Virginia Village site on S. Maple. Guests Monday included the Planning Commission, Housing Commission, Economic Development Authority and more, including very attentive audience members who tend to align with the “Not in My Back Yard” (NIMBY) contingents.

The meeting lasted past midnight, according to our reports. We could not handle more than about three hours, ourselves, as those who are advocating for the least-impactful approach to the process hope, we can only assume, that comments close to filibusters in length will lull their opponents into agreeing with them through little more than “Please, I can’t take it anymore. Whatever you say. Just stop talking!”

It was noted by Mayor Letty Hardi at some point in the extremely democratic exercise that the effort last year on behalf of an ordinance to permit auxiliary dwelling units in the Little City had produced exactly zero applications to build so far. Could it be because so many strings were attached to make such a process prohibitive?

Now the City is coming again to the affordable housing issue, every bit if not more contentious than the earlier transitional zone modification fight and the ADU fight. At least the t-zone case produced some modest new housing now under construction on Park Avenue. The affordable housing issue left City leaders flummoxed and disillusioned after an almost decade-long effort to find a spot where citizens might permit a building where subsidies could allow persons who can’t afford market rates could possibly hang their hats was dashed in 2010.

It reminds us of trying to get off the sinking Titanic. There was so much packing and decisions to be made as to what to take along into the lifeboats. As in that case, too many of the passengers just didn’t appreciate the seriousness of what was happening and how it would wind up changing their lives in major ways.

Frankly, far too few people in Falls Church are feeling any pain, much less discomfort, around the issue, except those who want to avoid the fuss altogether. Not yet anyway. It is seen as a charitable matter, not as a necessity for community survival. So the endless banter continues, and we predict the net result will be a modest gain at a great cost to serve those whose incomes may yet be a fraction of the median income, but not by that much. Some affordable housing already here is available to persons earning close to \$100,000 because the median incomes here are so high.

Appropriate emergency action, we suggest, would include things like putting the entire acreage under an eminent domain order, or an urgent global search for state of the art new technologies for really cost-effective housing.

## Diva Show Astounds

BY DAVID HOFFMAN

What’s a DIVA anyway?

According to Google, its simple! A diva is merely a term traditionally used to describe anyone celebrated as a highly talented female performer or fine artist --- particularly in grand opera.

Does the name of Maria Callas come to mind?

But over time, yes, the term has evolved, especially in pop culture, and even in everyday life, as a colloquial term defining any performance by anyone who is “performative” --- usually in the extreme.

Someone who in other words (sigh) requests, even requires, “special” treatment and acts entirely entitled to it! Right?

Sound like anyone you know?

Well, stop the music! Because no, that’s absolutely not the “DIVA” this review is about!

And start the music, because this review is about real divas. Five of them actually. The all-female orchestral jazz quintet collectively named DIVA. Founded 30 years ago by virtuoso percussionist/drummer Sherrie Maricle, currently resident in Philadelphia, with the other 4 virtuosos all based in the Washington DC metro area.

What “divas” the five presented last Thursday, at the historic progressive feminist Woman’s National Democratic Club, in DuPont Circle in Washington DC. The WNDC was founded in 1922 by suffragettes celebrating the ratification in 1920 of the 19th amendment to the U.S Constitution – which of course granted all women the right to vote, but as a practical matter excluded all women of color (take a short bow, Jim Crow, mainly in the South, then get thee swiftly behind us!).

The other four virtuoso musicians were ranked side-by-side on stage in the large ballroom, together for the first time at the Whittemore House, the iconic redbrick mansion on New Hampshire Avenue NW – home of the WNDC since 1927 – just one block from the DuPont Circle Metro Station. The passionate and hard-charging jazz ensemble DIVA! All five! Why aren’t they named DIVAS anyway?

No matter. Attention must also be paid to bassist Amy Shook, pianist Janelle Gill, slide trombonist Jennifer Krupa, and baritone saxophonist Leigh Pilzer! These are the remarkable musicians at peak bloom and they brought the toe-tapping top tunes of the historic big bands --- notably Benny Goodman but many others absolutely.

In fact, the concert itself included the eponymous classic Goodman tune “Swing into Spring” as the concert itself was titled. And why not? After all, DIVA Is designed by Sherrie Mericle, and her “miracle” sorority sisters to be in the tradition of the historic big bands (Goodman’s and all the others, from the 1920s on).

The quintet have long since established a world-wide following as they girdle the globe playing on tours too many to list here, but including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl, and (ta dah) the Kennedy Center!

Whoops!

Actually, while DIVA has of course played at the Kennedy Center to enormous acclaim, recently DIVA canceled the Kennedy Center (not the other way around!). Why? Because of the egregiously bundled Trump takeover of the iconic Kennedy Center – the one named for a president a thousand times more presidential than the absurdist pretender to the current abhorrent regime, the orange toxic menace himself. You know, the one whose name rhymes with Dump.

And the Whittemore House resident National Woman’s Foundation, a non-profit and also fiercely nonpartisan organization dedicated to local education, cultural programs, and the preservation of women’s history, swooped down and enlisted DIVA to substitute for the very same date and perform instead for NWF and WNDC who together packed the Ballroom with throngs of adoring fans of the jazz quintet and their orchestral jazz virtuosity.

Readers, you simply hadda be there!

Words will never be able, except remotely at best, to capture the sounds of notes and chords and measures times five, in a quintet version of Einstein.

E=MCsquared. Where M stands for Music! Although the Masses were in the audience urging the quintet on – and on.

So why try here but then fail here. Music is Ineffable. My words would be merely “Effable”.

Or at most maybe Affable.

Finally, next up at the Whittemore House in the autumn will be another virtuoso, one Leah Claiborne, a remarkable champion for diversity in the arts, who teaches the work especially of Black composers. So mark your fall calendars, because on October 8, she will perform music by Florence Price.

## PLATFORM

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# Anti-Slavery D.C. Church Rejects Sunday Mall Rally

NICHOLAS F. BENTON

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

“The nation is in the midst of a profound moral crisis. Americans are hungry for a legitimate spiritual connection.”



So declared the talented young preacher who is the minister of the historic First Congregational Church located within blocks of the White House in downtown D.C. The Rev. Amanda Hender-Voss, pastor there since 2020, has seen her congregation grow with an increasingly racially diverse membership.

She declared to that membership at a spring congregational meeting last weekend that she'd received an invitation from House Speaker Mike Johnson to participate in last Sunday's National Mall religious rally that was covered on the front page of Monday's Washington Post with multiple photos on the inside.

“I had to decline that invitation,” she explained, because it was being led by “Christian nationalists” whose conception of the faith is profoundly different than her own and those of many downtown D.C. congregations whose commitments to the faith are rooted in service to the poor and needy, and not to the aggrandizement of the powerful.

The Sunday Mall event included presentations by no less than Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. It was a worship of the current administration and its version of Jesus Christ is more as a disguised version of the pagan god Fortuna, or luck, something that early church fathers like St. Augustine wrote about extensively in their efforts to distinguish true faith from the many heresies, or false gods, of their times.

Of course, many progressive D.C. faith institutions joined the Rev. Hender-Voss in rejecting the invitation to the Sunday mall service, but what makes the First Congregational Church unique in this context is its history being founded in the immediate period following the end of the Civil War by abolitionists and leaders of the underground railroad on land acquired only a few blocks, in fact, from the Ford's Theater where President Lincoln had been slain in April 1865.

In minutes of an 1847 meeting recently unearthed, it was noted that one Jacob Bigelow, a leader of the underground railroad, led a meeting that resolved at that time to form an anti-slavery congregational church.

The minutes of that August 3, 1847 meeting read, “A meeting of gentlemen was held this day at the office of Bigelow & Peugh at the corner of E and 7th Streets and was organized by appointing Jacob Bigelow Chairman and William Blanchard Secretary. The chairman stated in general terms the object for which the meeting had been called and presented for its consideration the following preamble and resolution which after having been duly considered and discussed was unanimously adopted, to wit: Whereas this meeting approving the object for which it has been called, to wit, the organization of a Congregational Church and Society in the City of Washington, essentially on the plan of the Cambridge platform, whose standard of piety shall be high, whose doctrine shall be Evangelical, and whose action shall favor the leading reforms of the day, including Bible, Missionary, Tract, Anti Slavery, Sunday School and temperance efforts.”

About Bigelow, it was written at the time this: “Jacob Bigelow, a lawyer, stepped in to resurrect Washington's Underground when its tireless leader, William Chaplin, was arrested. Bigelow, like many members of the underground, participated in the day-to-day toil of the underground even as he organized the work and movements of others. Once, he smuggled a young slave girl to freedom by dressing her as a boy. Additionally, he corresponded with the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee under the apt nom de plume ‘William Penn.’ The bulk of his correspondence provides evidence that Bigelow had regular contact with covertly operating underground conductors, and that a more expansive underground network than historians have previously allowed, may have existed.”

Among other members of that church, whose construction began at its current 10th and G Street location in 1867, was Union Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, who played a central role in the Reconstruction era as commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau, whose purpose was the education of newly-freed Black Americans that led to the founding of Howard University.



## A Penny for Your Thoughts

By Penny Gross

Former Fairfax County Supervisor

High school and college graduations are upon us, signaling both an end and a beginning for many students and their families. It's been decades since my own graduations, and the memories of transition to college and career seem so much simpler than what students face today. In-state tuition for a four-year college program today varies across the country, from a low of less than \$5000 annually in Florida to more than \$15,000 in Virginia. The Rocky Mountain states (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming) offer some of the lowest rates while New England (Connecticut, New Hampshire) have some of the highest. Living expenses may double the annual cost of college in most locales so it is not surprising that many college applicants seek opportunities for scholarships.

Scholarship applications reveal a broad diversity of experiences, need, and hopes for the future, both realistic and idealistic. What surprised me when reading dozens of applications during the past couple of years were the mental health and domestic violence challenges facing some students as they seek new opportunities. A teen who testified in court about the

domestic abuse her father inflicted on her mother didn't hold back when discussing the devastation on her family structure and support. A young man wrote about being a camp counselor for at-risk kids and almost brought me to tears. A woman discovered that using her singing voice correctly assuaged her shyness and she wants to share that discovery with others as a music teacher. Recent immigrants seeking to use their estimable language skills, and their own experiences in a new country and culture, are focused on helping underserved communities. An older male student, a disabled veteran and father of triplets, is trying to balance family and education during trying times. Many applicants acknowledged the barriers affecting their own lives and expressed a determination to lower those barriers for others.

Student loan debt in this country is skyrocketing, and the Trump Administration's restrictions limiting loan forgiveness eligibility ensures that student loan debt, often with a repayment term of 20 to 30 years, will be as crushing as a mortgage, and without building equity. Additionally, the adminis-

tration's reclassification of degrees for careers with professional certifications – nursing, physical therapy, physician assistants, public health, social work – places caps on federal student loan availability. That surreptitious effort, under the guise of saving money, will affect the careers primarily of women and people of color who have chosen those public service professions as their life's calling.

Selecting scholarship recipients is tough duty. Every application is worthy but, like many resources, philanthropy dollars are constrained. For every scholarship awarded, there may be dozens of disappointed applicants who, nonetheless, will continue to pursue their dreams, perhaps reducing their course load so they can handle another part-time job to pay for tuition and support themselves and their families. Despite those challenges, applicants were focused on the future, what they could do, not what they couldn't, and constantly looking for the good in people and in situations rather than giving up and walking away. Every older generation wonders about the newer, next generation, and whether they will honor sacrifice and continue the hard work of preserving democracy and maintaining respect for their community. Based on my extensive but non-scientific review, honor and respect, fortunately, are familiar touchstones for today's students.

## CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CRIME REPORT

Week of  
May 11 - 17, 2026

Driving Under the Influence, E Broad St/N Washington St, May 11, 12:58 a.m., a male, 45, of Washington, DC, was arrested for driving under the influence and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Possession of Child Pornography, Park Ave, May 13, 7:59 p.m., a white male, 23, of the City of Falls Church, was arrested

for three counts of possession of child pornography.

Driving on Suspended License, Roosevelt Blvd, May 14, 6:58 a.m., a male, 39, of Woodbridge, was arrested for driving on suspended license.

Assault and Battery, W Broad St, May 14, 1:03 p.m., victim reported they were assaulted by a coworker. A male, 30, of Vienna, was arrested for assault and battery.

Driving Under the Influence, Haycock Rd/Leesburg Pike, May 15, 2:21 a.m., a female, 21, of Fairfax County, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Defrauding an Inn Keeper, W Broad St, May 17, 10:20 p.m., two suspects dined and left without paying their bill. The first suspect is described as a black female wearing athletic clothing. The second suspect is described as a black female wearing a tan shirt and animal print shoes, with a large tattoo on her leg.

Don't Miss the Upcoming Issues

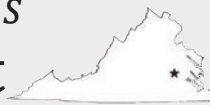
June 11 – Father's Day Special & Pet Issue

June 18 – Real Estate

June 25 – Best of FC Begins

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sjohnson@fcnp.com

## Delegate Marcus Simon's Richmond Report



This month I want to talk about an incredibly important bill that slid underneath the radar all session long.

Virginia's part-time General Assembly session meets for 60 days in even numbered years and 45 days in odd years, which is when most of the activity happens during 12 to 14 hour days. So, January columns and February columns are easy to write. And March is always going to be the wrap up column, and in April we meet in Richmond again for Reconvene Session to vote on the Governor's amendments and vetoes.

In June, I usually tell you about the laws that go into effect on July 1st- and in July we get to all the laws that I couldn't get to in June.

May is a tougher column to write. This year was remarkably busy as the General Assembly sent a huge number of bills back to the Governor without adopting her amendments. That means this week is her deadline to decide whether to allow those bills to become law as they passed the General Assembly or to veto them so we can work on making them more to her liking next year.

But that process isn't done yet. Next month I'll write about collective bargaining, class action law suits, the adult use marijuana marketplace, the assault weapons ban and several other high profile issues that will be decided by then.

This month I want to talk Kratom.

Until this session I didn't know what it was. I'd seen it in neon letters at gas stations and vape shops, and figured it was some kind of intoxicant, but other than that I had no idea what it was.

I didn't know that earlier this year, UVA Health's Blue Ridge Poison Center published a major national study showing a staggering 1,200% increase in kratom-related poison control calls over the last decade. Researchers documented cases involving seizures, respiratory distress, addiction, and dangerous interactions with other substances, particularly among younger users and people unaware of product potency or contamination risks.

Kratom is a plant-derived substance often sold as a supplement for pain relief, energy, mood enhancement, or anxiety. But unlike regulated pharmaceuticals, these products are frequently sold with inconsistent labeling, uncertain potency, and little meaningful oversight. At the same time, many users argue kratom has helped them

manage chronic pain or reduce dependence on opioids.

During the 2026 Session, the General Assembly adopted new laws regulating the sale of kratom products sold in Virginia.

We placed age restrictions, labeling requirements, testing standards, and penalties for adulterated or dangerously concentrated products. Virginia law will now prohibit the sale of kratom products to minors and create new consumer safety standards designed to prevent contaminated or misleadingly marketed products from reaching store shelves.

This week, renewed national attention has followed the tragic death of former San José State basketball player and Memphis Grizzlies veteran Brandon Clarke, prompting many Americans to ask a familiar question: if these products are widely available in gas stations, vape shops, and convenience stores, what protections are actually in place?

As a legislator, I was asked, "What's Virginia doing about this? You need to do something."

Fortunately, in this case, I was able to answer that we had done something. Having chaired the subcommittee where this bill was first considered, we heard arguments for an outright ban and we also heard arguments that the problem isn't in the product itself. Issues ranged from how it's marketed, how kratom derivatives are distilled into more potent forms, and in the absolute absence of any regulation of its packaging, access to minors, and disclosure of ingredients, and potency.

Is the bill we passed this year the final answer on this issue? Probably not. It's certainly a step in the right direction and we can come back to revisit the issue if we find the rules we wrote this session don't address the underlying problem or are so burdensome they have unintended consequences for legitimate uses.

I want to give a big tip of the hat to my colleague Delegate Joshua Cole of Fredericksburg for his leadership on this bill, and his willingness to stick to his guns when manufacturers and purveyors of kratom asked him to slow down and water down his legislation.

I know it feels like we are always chasing the next problem and that government is always hopelessly behind the curve, but in this case our General Assembly and our governor have shown some leadership and are working to tackle this problem before it

## Spanberger Defends Labor, Vetoes Marijuana Bill

*Continued from Page 1*

is lack of recognition of the fact that we are the first state in the south...I signed into law paid family and medical leave...I signed a bill to raise the minimum wage for all workers..."

Spanberger added, "a farm workforce minimum wage bill, which importantly we built such a broad coalition such that we had support from labor and union leadership to the farm bureau. Heat protections for workers, wage theft provisions; the number of pro-labor, pro-worker, pro-Virginia bills that I have signed into law is substantial, consequential and I am deeply proud of my record. And I look forward to having conversations with my counterparts in the legislature about how we can continue to move forward and get to a place where we can also create an implementable and durable program as it relates to public sector collective bargaining."

In response to Spanberger's veto of class action legislation, Falls Church State Delegate Marcus Simon wrote yesterday, "I appreciate that the governor acknowledged the need for a Virginia class action mechanism and expressed support for getting this done. I also have complete faith in the ability of Virginia's Circuit Court judges to responsibly manage class actions that judges in 48 other states have been able to master while ensuring fairness for all parties involved."

"I look forward to taking the governor up on her invitation to continue this conversation next session. Given the importance of the issue, I hope we can spend the coming months working collaboratively and earlier in the process to address concerns and finally deliver a carefully crafted class action procedure for the people of Virginia."

Spanberger on Tuesday also vetoed legislation to establish a retail market for the sale of recreational marijuana, thwarting a priority of her fellow Democrats and leaving the state in regulatory limbo five years after the legislature legalized possession of small amounts of recreational weed.

Democratic majorities in both the House of Delegates and state Senate had passed bills this year on party-line votes to set up a mechanism for regulating and taxing the sale of cannabis products after several years of vetoes under the previous governor, Republican Glenn Youngkin.

Spanberger initially proposed substantial changes to the measures, but those were rejected by the General Assembly. That left her with a decision to either accept a bill she did not like or issue a veto.

In her veto statement Tuesday, Spanberger

said she shares the legislature's goal of establishing a market but suggested that lawmakers had fallen short of drafting rules that would keep the industry clean.

"It is critical that we incorporate lessons learned by other states and ensure that our regulatory framework is fully prepared to provide strong oversight from day one," Spanberger wrote. "That includes clear enforcement authority and sufficient resources for compliance, testing, and inspections, and robust tools to crack down on bad actors who continue to profit from the illicit market."

The measures were among several pieces of legislation that Spanberger nixed Tuesday, including her veto of a bipartisan bill to establish a board designed to hold down the prices of prescription drugs.

Governor Abigail Spanberger yesterday took action to strengthen public safety, reaffirm federal law enforcement accountability, and provide guidance to Virginians holding public positions — including as poll workers, courthouse security personnel, and public school and hospital staff.

By signing House Bill 1482, Senate Bill 352, and Executive Order 16, Gov. Spanberger said she is "taking a fulsome approach to protect all Virginia residents from threats to their safety, security, and legal rights posed by increased and aggressive federal immigration enforcement actions."

From January 2025 to March 2026, Virginia saw a significant increase in immigration-related detentions. While the Trump Administration claims they are focused on arresting criminals, only 30 percent of individuals held in immigration detention centers in Virginia during that same period of time had been convicted of a crime, Spanberger said.

The Governor signed House Bill 1482 and Senate Bill 352, which reaffirms Virginia's commitment to transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

"Law enforcement officers wearing masks on American streets undercut basic expectations of accountability, sow fear and confusion, and erode the public trust," said Gov. Abigail Spanberger. "Americans have witnessed the horrors of what can occur when masked federal immigration enforcement agents engage in fear-based policing and enforcement theatre on American streets — like in Minnesota where Renee Good and Alex Pretti were murdered."

Gov. Spanberger continued, "With this law, Virginia is reaffirming that transparency, accountability, and a commitment to earning the public's trust are prerequisite to enforcing the law in our Commonwealth."

# Memorial Day

## Program

Monday, May 25, 2026

Falls Church, Virginia

### Inside This Program:

- Page 10 Memorial Day Veterans Ceremony
- Page 12 Letter from the Mayor
- Page 14 Community Spirit of Memorial Day
- Page 16 Memorial Day Events Schedule
- Page 18 Parade Lineup
- Page 20 Parade & Festival Map
- Page 21 Memorial Day Vendor List
- Page 24 Together in Uniform





# Honoring our Fallen Heroes



So few have given so much... so that we can enjoy even more



## Monday, May 25th

Memorial Day Ceremony: Hosted by the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council at the Veterans Memorial. Featuring Keynote Wyatt Shields, Outgoing City Manager. 11 a.m. Festival 9am-5pm • Fun Run @ 9am • Parade @ 2pm



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**2351 Meridian St Falls Church**  
Charming 4BR/3BA Brick Colonial in a quiet neighborhood in the sought after McLean School Pyramid. Large Private Back Yard with room for expansion. (Represented Buyers)



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# Memorial Day Veterans Ceremony 2026

Monday, May 25th at 11:00 a.m.

City of Falls Church Veterans Memorial 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church, VA 22046

### Welcome

Master of Ceremonies Harry Shovlin, Greater Falls Church Veterans Council, American Legion Post 130; and Letty Hardi, Mayor, City of Falls Church

### Invocation

Sydney Michaeli, Cantor, Temple Rodef Shalom

### Posting of Colors and National Anthem

Color Guard, American Legion Post 130: The City of Falls Church Concert Band Under the Direction of Mary Jo West; Vocals by Andreas Moffet

### Presentations, Announcements, & Remarks

Jorome Gibbon, Chairman, Greater Falls Church Veterans Council

### Introduction of Keynote Speaker and Keynote Address

Wyatt Shields, Outgoing City Manager of 23 Years, City of Falls Church

### Presentation of Wreath in Memory of Departed Veterans:

Jennifer K. Inskip, Falls Church Chapter NSDAR; Ken Morris, George Mason Chapter SAR; Escorted by Johnny Johnson, American Legion Post 130; and Howard Chatham, LCDR, United States Navy (Ret.). Wreath courtesy of CYMNOW flowers

### MIA Flag Posting & Remembrance

John Johnson, American Legion Post 130, and David Crance, Chaplain, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9274

### Reading of the Names of the Fallen Taps

MGySgt. John Abracciamento, The United States Marine Band (Ret.)

### Retiring of Colors

Color Guard, American Legion Post 130

### Benediction

Sydney Michaeli, Cantor, Temple Rodef Shalom

### God Bless America

The City of Falls Church Concert Band, under the direction of Mary Jo West. Vocals by Andreas Moffet

This program was prepared by representatives of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council (www.gfcvcouncil.com), including the American Legion Post 130 and 225, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Martin, Leppert, Sipes Post 9274, the Catholic War Veterans Paul and Jacques Martin Post 1652, the Coalition of RVN Veterans Associations of Washington DC & Vicinities, and the Korean Vietnam Veterans Association of USA.

Today's remembrance is in cooperation with the Falls Church Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution, US Submarine Veterans, Northern Virginia Base, Northern Virginia WWII Veterans, the Veterans Memorial Committee, and dedicated volunteers under the coordination of the City of Falls Church Recreation and Parks department. Citizen participation is encouraged. The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call (703) 248-5077 (TTY 711).

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IS FOR  
LOVERS



## Letter From City of Falls Church Mayor

*Welcome to the 44th Annual Memorial Day Parade and Festivities! We are thrilled that you have chosen to spend this day in The Little City.*

*Memorial Day calls us to pause with purpose. It is a solemn occasion to honor the service members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to our nation. We remember their courage, their sense of duty, and their unwavering commitment to something greater than themselves. We also extend our deepest appreciation to the families and loved ones of our fallen heroes who carry forward their legacy. As a community, we come together not only to remember, but to reaffirm our shared responsibility to uphold the freedoms secured through their sacrifice.*

*This year holds added significance as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. This milestone year invites us to reflect on our nation's founding ideals; freedom, liberty, democratic governance, and the countless individuals who have defended them throughout our history. Memorial Day reminds us that these principles have been preserved through sacrifice, and that each generation shares the responsibility to carry these ideals forward.*

*I invite you to join the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council at 11:00 a.m. for the Memorial Day Ceremony. The ceremony will take place outside the Community Center at the Veterans Memorial and will provide an opportunity to honor our veterans and recognize those who continue to serve our country. Wyatt Shields, our outgoing City Manager of 23 years of dedicated service, will serve as this year's keynote speaker.*

*At 2:00 p.m., please join us along Park Avenue for our beloved annual Memorial Day Parade, led this year by the Quantico Marine Corps Band and the 2026 Grand Marshals. This year, the City of Falls Church is proud to honor former Falls Church City School (FCCPS) teachers, Nan Hof, Shey Wakeley, and Mary Jo West. Each leaving a lasting impact not just on their students but the broader community through their commitment and care, exemplifying the spirit of community that defines our Little City.*

*Here in the City of Falls Church, and in communities across the country, we unite in remembrance. We honor those who gave their lives not only with words, but through our commitment to our community, civic responsibility, and respect for one another. In doing so, we help ensure that the legacy of our nation's heroes endures as we look toward the next chapter of our nation's history.*

*Thank you for joining us on this day of remembrance and celebrating our community here in the City of Falls Church.*

Letty Hardi,  
Mayor, City of Falls Church, Virginia

## West Falls Summer Bash

June 6, 2026 | 11 AM - 3 PM

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## Free Events

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Every Friday @ 7 PM

### Trivia Night

Every Thursday @ 6 PM

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## Remembering Together: The Community Spirit of Memorial Day

BY FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Every Memorial Day, Americans gather for parades, ceremonies, cook-outs, and long weekends that mark the unofficial beginning of summer. Yet behind the familiar traditions lies a deeper and often overlooked story about community, memory, and civic life in America, values long reflected in communities like Falls Church. Memorial Day was never simply created by Congress or handed down by national leaders. It began as a grassroots act of remembrance carried out by ordinary citizens determined to honor neighbors, friends, and family members lost in war.

Originally known as "Decoration Day," the holiday emerged after the Civil War, when communities across the country began decorating soldiers' graves with flowers, flags, and handwritten tributes. In the years following the war, no single town or organization claimed ownership of the tradition. Instead, dozens of communities independently organized cemetery gatherings and remembrance ceremonies. The holiday grew organically from shared grief and local initiative.

One of the lesser-known chapters in Memorial Day history took place in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1865. Newly freed African Americans organized one of the earliest documented memorial observances after the Civil War. They reburied Union soldiers who had been placed in a mass grave and honored them with flowers, prayers, songs, and a large public procession. Historians now recognize this event as an important early expression of what would become Memorial Day.

For much of American history, Memorial Day ceremonies were deeply rooted in local community life. Small-town cemeteries became gathering places where church groups, schoolchildren, veterans' organizations, and civic leaders came together. Brass bands marched through downtown streets, bells rang from churches, and families stood quietly beside gravesites of loved ones who had served. In many communities, the local newspaper played an important role by publishing names of fallen sol-

diers, memorial tributes, parade schedules, and photographs from ceremonies.

Another enduring symbol of Memorial Day, the red poppy, also has roots many Americans may not know. The flower became associated with remembrance after World War I because of the famous poem "In Flanders Fields," written by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. The poem described bright red poppies growing among soldiers' graves in Belgium, and the flower eventually became an international symbol of military sacrifice.

Memorial Day also helped communities heal after periods of national division. Following the Civil War, northern and southern towns gradually adopted similar remembrance traditions. Though reconciliation was slow and imperfect, shared ceremonies honoring the dead created moments of common reflection across former battle lines.

The holiday changed significantly in 1971 when the federal government officially moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Some veterans' groups criticized the decision, believing it shifted attention away from solemn remembrance and toward recreation and travel. Even so, many communities continue to preserve older traditions centered on reflection and service.

Today, Memorial Day remains one of America's most community-oriented holidays. Volunteers still place millions of flags at gravesites across the country. Scout troops, churches, veterans' groups, and civic organizations organize ceremonies large and small. At 3 p.m. local time, Americans are encouraged to observe the National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress in 2000, by pausing for one minute to honor those who died in military service.

More than a three-day weekend, Memorial Day remains a powerful reminder that communities are strengthened not only by celebration, but also by shared memory, gratitude, sacrifice, civic responsibility, and honoring those who gave their lives in service to the nation.



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SUNDAY JUNE 7: 12PM - 8PM



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## Memorial Day

Parade & Festival

## Event Schedule

Monday, May 25, 2026 • City Hall Grounds | 300 Park Ave.

**Festival** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
★ Vendor booths, including civic groups, crafters, merchants, local food, and food trucks.  
★ Children's amusements, including pony rides and inflatables.  
★ VA250 Mobile Museum interactive experience titled "Out of Many, One".  
★ Inova Blood Drive, located outside the Community Center (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

**3K Fun Run** 9 a.m.  
★ June and Mike Beyer Foundation 3K Fun Run start at intersection of Great Falls St. and Little Falls St.

**Live Music** 9 a.m. & 12 p.m.  
★ Road Street Avenue local pop cover band perform on stage at intersection of Park Ave. and Little Falls St.

**Memorial Day Ceremony** 9 a.m. & 12 p.m.  
★ Hosted by the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council at the Veterans Memorial. Featuring Keynote Wyatt Shields, Outgoing City Manager.

**Parade** 2 p.m.  
★ Parade down Park Ave. led by the Quantico Marine Corps Band and the 2026 Grand Marshals Nan Hof, Shey Wakeley, and Mary Jo West



[fallschurchva.gov/MemorialDay](https://fallschurchva.gov/MemorialDay)



### Homes For Sale



2125 Hilltop Pl. Falls Church  
Estimated Completion Jan '27



413 Poplar Dr. Falls Church City  
Estimated Completion April '27

[WWW.ZIMMERMANNHOMES.COM](http://WWW.ZIMMERMANNHOMES.COM)  
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# Memorial Day Parade Lineup

- |                                                 |                                                  |                                                                                             |                                                  |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Quantico Marine Band                         | 13. Mary Riley Styles Public Library             | 25. Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church | 36. Washington Scottish Pipe Band                | 47. Falls Church Kiwanis Little League     |
| 2. Falls Church Sheriff's Office                | 14. Falls Church Recreation and Parks Department | 26. Tinkus San Simon Filial Virginia                                                        | 37. Kena Shriners                                | 47B. NOVA Women's Rugby Football Club      |
| 3. City of Falls Church Police Department       | 15. Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department       | 27. Watch Night - the Falls Church CATCH Foundation                                         | 38. Village Preservation and Improvement Society | 48. Miss Tysons                            |
| 4. American Legion Veterans Post 130            | 16. Centro Cultural Bolivia                      | 28. Cub Scout Pack 681                                                                      | 38B. Operation EarthWatch                        | 49. VERB                                   |
| 5. Grand Marshal 1 - Nan Hoff and Shey Wakelely | 17. The Falls Church News-Press                  | 29. Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence                                                 | 39. USA Icon Miss Southern States                | 50. The DC Wheels                          |
| 6. Grand Marshal 2 - Mary Jo West               | 18. Nokesville 4-H Equestrian Club               | 30. Falls Church City Democratic Committee                                                  | 40. Ruff Ridaz Performance Percussion Squad      | 51. Cub Scout Pack 1127                    |
| 7. Falls Church Concert Band                    | 19. Scouting America Troop 1996                  | 31. Alma Boliviana                                                                          | 41. VLAC - Vietnamese Literary and Artistic Club | 52. Brousseau & Lee, PLLC                  |
| 8. The Greater Falls Church Veterans Council    | 20. Meridian Best Buddies                        | 32. 1947 Dodge Deluxe Club Coupe                                                            | 42. Lisa Leonard Photography                     | 53. NOVA Parks                             |
| 9. Falls Church VFW Post 9274                   | 21. Friendship Woodridge Marching Eagles         | 33. McKinley Tech HS JROTC Department                                                       | 43. Cub Scout Pack 657                           | 54. Tinkus Bolivia USA                     |
| 10. Falls Church City Council                   | 22. Suzanne Muldowney                            | 34. Girl Scout Troop 50285                                                                  | 44. Falls Church Arts                            | 55. Growing Smiles of NOVA                 |
| 11. Falls Church City Public Schools            | 23. Girl Scout Troop 50376                       | 35. C-Ryderz                                                                                | 45. Iconic Marching Unit                         | 56. Falls Church City 4-H Community Club   |
| 12. Meridian High School Parade Royalty         | 24. Wolf MMA                                     |                                                                                             | 46. Falun Dafa of Washington DC                  | 57. The Kensington Falls Church            |
|                                                 |                                                  |                                                                                             |                                                  | 58. Salay Pasion Bolivia USA               |
|                                                 |                                                  |                                                                                             |                                                  | 59. City of Falls Church Public Works Dept |



Percy Jackson Vacation Bible School  
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## Percy Jackson

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JULY 13TH-17TH 2026

This year's Very Godly VBS, inspired by The Titan's Curse, invites children into the world of Camp Half-Blood to explore faith, courage, belonging, and community through storytelling, music, crafts, games, science, and reflection in a fun and welcoming environment for all.

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Questions: Contact the Director of Formation and Families at [lbreden@thefallschurch.org](mailto:lbreden@thefallschurch.org)



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- A10 Papa's Kettle Korn
- A11 Johnson Family Funnel Cakes
- A12 Parallel Stix
- A13 International Grill
- C18 Anita's Frozen Cotton Candy
- C19 The Birria Beat
- C20 Snowflakes and Company
- C21 TK Grill

**Merchants, Crafts, & Civic Groups**

- C1 Social Justice Committee of Falls Church and Vicinity
- C2 Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation
- C3 Village Preservation and Improvement Society
- C4 Watch Night 2026
- C5 Falls Church Community Television
- C6 Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter
- C7 The Kensington Falls Church
- C8 Welcoming Falls Church
- C9 Falls Church Indivisible
- C10 The Falls Church Episcopal
- C11 BOD Pain Management and Wellness
- C12 Falls Church Chamber of Commerce
- C13 The Mane Edit Salon
- C14 Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department
- C15 Broadway Dental Associates
- C16 Onelife Fitness
- C17 Falls Church 250 Committee
- VA250 VA 250 Mobile Museum
- D1 Temalle Ltd
- ★ D2 Renewal by Andersen
- ★ D3 WOLF MMA
- ★ D4 Kitchen Saver

**Merchants, Crafts, & Civic Groups**

- ★ D5 The Falls Church News-Press
- D6 Kraftee
- D7 Milena Guro Designs
- ★ D8 Passante's Home Food Service
- D9 Zana De Mexico
- D10 True Honey Teas
- D11 District Bangle and Jewelry
- D12 C. Logan Wheeler
- D13 Dalal Yemeni Speciality Coffee
- D14 Minmin Handmade
- D15 Grandma Mary's Buttons & Bows
- D16 Alyssa Bazaar
- D17 Watercolor by Chris Marow
- D18 Paloma Clay Designs
- D19 Perspire Sauna Studio
- D20 Saint Lulo Leather
- D21 Eliana Curated
- D22 Raysin' Hell
- D23 Falls Church Police Department
- E1 League of Women Voters Falls Church
- E2 Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence
- E3 Falls Church City Democratic Committee
- E4 Temple Rodef Shalom
- E5 Creative Cauldron
- E6 Dulin Cooperative Preschool
- E7 Northern Virginia Mental Health Foundation
- E8 Happy Henna Guy
- E9 Potomac Riverkeeper Network
- E10 VFW Post 9274
- F1 Hometown Go
- F2 Comunidad
- F3 Advanced Dental Care
- F4 Lensie Jewelry
- F5 The Reserve at Falls Church
- F6 Itumary
- F7 Sunnee Massage Bodyworks and Spa
- F8 Nailluxe
- F9 Pencil Me in Publications
- F10 Pet Wants Falls Church
- F11 Sumak Art

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## Creative Cauldron Cast

BY PATRICIA LESLIE

The women in the musical, “Little Women” now playing at Creative Cauldron Stage are smart women, independent women, who dance, love and write novels, like Louisa May Alcott portrayed in her Civil War story, in two volumes in 1868 and 1869.

It’s a book which has never gone out of print but has spawned movies, opera, television shows, dolls and more, including delightful entertainment.

Creative Cauldron’s production has a stellar cast who bring “Little Women” to life with melodrama, a little bit of American history and conflict - all the elements necessary for a good story.

Kylie Clare Truby is “Jo,” the star who carries the show with wonderful melodies, especially when she sings with the other members of the quartet of lovelies: her sisters, Meg, Beth and Amy.

Jo receives writing advice from her stuffy “Professor Behr” (Adian Chapman) who awakens to love in

the second act.

Flashback to her family’s home in New England where she works in the attic to improve her writing, Jo eventually receives 22 (!) rejections from publishers but she doesn’t give up and tries, tries and tries again.

The girls’ mother, meek and mild “Marmee” (Carolyn Burke) tends her daughters while their father is away, serving in the Union Army.

Everyone will have a beau, starting with the oldest of the daughters, “Meg” (Shelby Young) who is smitten (at first glance) and “delighted” to meet “John Brooke” (David Schoonover). The two quickly forge a bond just after John enlists in the military.

Those expecting more connection with the novel may be a mite disappointed that personalities are not further developed, but there’s enough here to grasp identities, like my favs, the funniest and most exaggerated characters: the off-putting “Aunt March” (Audrey Baker) with her unforgettable

sneers, pauses, and loong pronunciations as she seeks to instill some stereotypical behavior in her unruly nieces.

And, another one: “Mr. Laurence” (Michael McGovern), the haughty neighbor whose perfect mannerisms with stilted pace, cane and wobbly head well convey his character’s age and person.

But, the second act reveals Mr. Laurence is not a total ogre as he strikes a fancy to the kind and sweet “Beth” (Odette Gutierrez del Arroyo) to whom he bestows a special gift.

Their duet, “Off to Massachusetts” was my favorite number of the night.

Mr. Laurence is also the grandfather of “Laurie” (Jason Zuckerman) whose contagious enthusiasm and enduring smiles project an immediate likability from his first appearance to his last.

(Woe to anyone who refuses this kind chap’s request!)

While the fire glows in the hearth and the audience gasps at the possible horrid act by the

annoying and cloying youngest of the bunch, “Amy” (Gretchen Midgley Kaylor), she commits the unthinkable after Jo refuses to let Amy go to the ball. Kaylor delivers one of the night’s best performances (and so much like my kid sister, sigh).

Forgive and forget, as they say.

Excellent effects of Jo’s stories come to life when her story characters suddenly alight from all sides of the stage to mouth Jo’s written words while she silently mimics their voices and actions.

Do hard work, persistence and a “never fail” attitude prove that dreams can come true? These “little women” have a lesson for us all, 150 years later.

Other cast members are Philippos Sourvinos and Chelsea Williamson with performances by Creative’s Musical Theater Ensemble: Madeline Corley, Jason Gonzalez, Whit Jenkins, Tatiana Lund, Emma Lynch, Marie Solander, Ely Tarrant and Jacob Wilson.

The versatile talents of Creative’s artistic director, Laura Connors Hull, who directs are evident, assisted by Matt Conner.

Suzu Alden’s sterling choreography has many dancers filling the stage, oblivious to the space compressed by their numbers.

Tessa Grippaudo has created magnificent era costuming for the ladies and the gents.

Excepting the very young, these “Women” are suitable for any age. I watched a girl, about eight years old in front of me, sit like a statue for the full two and a half hours, charmed by the performance.

Through June 7, 2026, Thursday - Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. Student tickets are \$25 and other seats start at \$40. \$15 off Sunday performances with code SSS. Creative Cauldron, 127 East Broad St. with free covered parking. Ph. 703-436-9948.



L to R (Gretchen Midgley Kaylor, Kylie Clare Truby, Odette Gutiérrez del Arroyo, and Shelby Young). (Photo: William Gallagher Photography)

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## 'The Drowsy Chaperone,' Delightful 1920s Homage at LTA

BY MARK DREISONSTOK

A major musical star, Janet Van de Graaff, is to wed her sweetheart and leave the Broadway theatre life behind. Enter the Drowsy Chaperone, the tipsy guardian employed to make sure the bride and husband-to-be do not see each other prior to their wedding day, as dictated by ancient custom. However, Miss Van de Graaff's manager/producer, plus two gangsters disguised as pastry chefs, want to prevent the wedding from occurring; thus, Latin lover Aldolpho is enticed to sweep Janet off her feet.

Such is the plot of "The Drowsy Chaperone," the witty fictitious musical of the Roaring Twenties, which the narrator, Man in Chair, plays for us on his phonograph. Very real actors perform the show as imagined by Man in Chair. As if that metanarrative were not enough, Man in Chair regales the audience with anecdotes of the fictional 1920s era actors and actresses who perform the play before us as he spins the records on the turntable.

In this Little Theatre of Alexandria musical, brilliantly directed by Krissy McGregor, Miss Van de Graaff is portrayed beautifully by the talented Amelia Jacquat, whose number "Show Off" not only shows off, but pulls out all Broadway stops! Her fiancé, Robert Martin, and best man, George (Matthew Managhan and Matt Yinger, respectively), dance their way into the American musical theatre past as Robert worries about having "Cold Feet" about his impending wedding. How to "make your cold feet hot?" Vigorous tap dancing, as Messrs. Managhan and Yinger skillfully demonstrate!

Clear audience favorites are comic "gangsters" Anthony Galace and Brian Ashton, who entertain (together with the entire cast, well-choreographed by Benjamin Simpson) in "Toledo Surprise." Paul Caffrey is in top form as producer Victor Feldzieg (the last name a play on the producer Ziegfeld of the vintage Ziegfeld Follies); Rachael Fine joins in on the screwball antics as his less-than-brilliant

assistant, Kitty. The eponymous drowsy chaperone, depicted by Leah Chiaverini, sings beautifully in "As We Stumble Along."

We interviewed Shakil Azizi, who portrays Aldolpho with humor and verve, most notably during his duet and tango with the drowsy chaperone in "I Am Aldolpho." Mr. Azizi shared his insight that the true chaperone for the audience is Man in Chair. Contrary to the dynamic, glittery world of the mostly upper-class characters in the "Drowsy Chaperone," Man in Chair, excellently portrayed by Eric Kennedy, lives a lonely life in a drab studio apartment. We get occasional glimpses of his life when he is not discussing the glamorous Broadway shows that he so adores. The contrast between the two worlds sometimes causes him, and the audience, to wonder how accurately he perceives both the musical he is sharing with us and the world in general.

The 1920s-style music, superbly conducted by Owen Posnett, is performed in a unique way, as the

audience listens to a live orchestra performing the music, though sometimes this shifts to the muffled output of a phonograph. Man in Chair admits he has never actually seen a production of "The Drowsy Chaperone," knowing the work only through his research and the vintage record set gifted to him by his mother. This and other events during the show underscore the notion that each of us creates his or her own understanding of the play,

along with the author. One could not have a better chaperone than Mr. Kennedy as Man in Chair, who displays wit, energy, despair, and cynicism in equal measure.

"The Drowsy Chaperone" plays through June 6 at Little Theatre of Alexandria. This wonderfully fun show will appeal to lovers of traditional musicals, as well as those who enjoy metanarratives, plays within plays, and occasional thought-provoking ambiguity.



LTA's "The Drowsy Chaperone." Left to right: Melanie Campbell (Ensemble), Shannon Hardy (Ensemble), Amelia Jacquat (Janet Van de Graaff), Apollo Yong (Ensemble), Ava Minutello (Ensemble). (Photo: Matt Liptak)



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**MEMORIAL DAY**

**Sunday, May 24**

**OPEN HOUSE    FOOD AND FUN  
2:00 – 6:00 PM    FOR THE WHOLE  
                                  FAMILY!**



**Live Music!**  
**Harvey Dalton Arnold  
from The Outlaws**

**2:30 – 5:30**

**VFW POST 9274**  
**7118 SHREVE ROAD - FALLS CHURCH**




## Together in Uniform: An Air Force Couple's Story of Commitment

BY NICK GATZ  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

SMSgt Thomas Sherrill, USAF, and CMSgt Brenda Sherrill, USAF, have each dedicated 18 years of service to the United States Air Force, building not only distinguished military careers but also a life grounded in sacrifice, resilience, and commitment to their nation and family. Their journey into military service was shaped by family circumstances and personal experiences that inspired both of them to serve something greater than themselves. Over nearly two decades, they have learned that military service demands perseverance in many forms and that every challenge becomes part of a story worth passing on to future generations.

The Sherrills believe the military has taught them some of life's most important values: honor, duty, humility, and perseverance. These principles

guide their daily lives both in and out of uniform. Through deployments, long separations, and missed milestones, they have learned to appreciate life in a deeper way. Their experiences have shaped how they see the world and reminded them never to take anything for granted. They emphasize the importance of slowing down, breathing, and recognizing the joy and beauty that surrounds us every day.

Memorial Day holds especially deep meaning in their household. For the Sherrills, it is not simply a holiday, but a solemn reminder of the men and women who gave their lives in service to the United States. They honor the fallen by laying wreaths at military cemeteries and observing moments of silence. Remembering lost comrades is part of their daily lives, not just something reserved for one day each year. Throughout the year, they participate in events honoring fallen service

members, including the "31 Miles for 31 Heroes" Ruck in memory of the 31 Americans lost in the Extortion 17 tragedy, as well as the annual Chaplains' Memorial Run & Ruck.

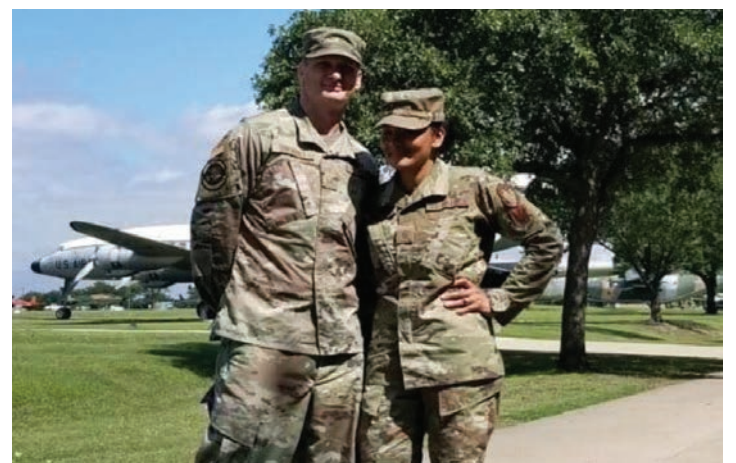
Life as a dual-military family has brought unique challenges. During their 18 years together, Thomas and Brenda estimate they have spent approximately 564 days apart because of military obligations. They have missed holidays, birthdays, and important family moments while answering the call to serve. Through it all, their children have shown tremendous resilience and understanding, something the Sherrills deeply appreciate. They hope the next generation learns that hard work, dedication, humility, and integrity are the foundation of strong leadership and success in any profession.

One of their strongest shared memories is returning home from deployment to the embrace of family. After expe-

riencing previous deployments that ended with returning to an empty home, they say nothing compares to the feeling of seeing loved ones waiting for them. That first hug remains unforgettable and serves as a powerful reminder of why they serve.

The Sherrills were connected with the News-Press through Dave Crance, the chaplain at the VFW in Falls Church. VFW Post 9274 has served the Falls

Church veteran community for over 75 years. The post has earned the VFW's prestigious "All American" Post Award five consecutive years and is one of the youngest and fastest-growing posts in Virginia. For more information on supporting or becoming a member, contact the post chaplain at [Chaplain@vfwpost9274.org](mailto:Chaplain@vfwpost9274.org) or call 703-639-7535. Information on hall rentals can be found at [www.vfwpost9274.org](http://www.vfwpost9274.org)



SMSgt Thomas Sherrill, USAF and CMSgt Brenda Sherrill, USAF.

# This Week Around Falls Church

## Thursday, May 21

### Arts and Humanities

#### Council Meeting

9:30 –11 a.m.  
Dogwood Room A/B,  
City Hall

City Arts and Humanities  
Council meeting.

### Falls Church Fiber Artists

10 a.m.–noon  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Weekly fiber arts gathering.

### Spring Storytime

10:30–11 a.m.  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Children's spring storytime  
program.

### Playtime with Early Literacy Center

11 a.m.–noon  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Interactive play and literacy  
activities for children.

### Bike FC x FCF May Happy Hour

5:30–7 p.m.  
Helena's Mexican Restaurant,  
502 W. Broad St. #5,  
Falls Church  
Join Falls Church Forward and  
Bike Falls Church for conversation  
about biking, walking  
and rolling in the city.

### Human Services Advisory Council Meeting

6:30–8 p.m.  
Dogwood Room A/B, City Hall  
Regular advisory council meeting.

### Environmental Sustainability Council & Energy Transition Subcommittee Meeting

7:30–9:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers/Court  
Room, City Hall  
Public meeting on sustainability  
and energy transition initiatives.

## Friday, May 22

### 250 and Counting

All day  
Falls Church  
Community observance event.

### Spring Baby Time

10:30–11 a.m.  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Library program for infants and  
caregivers.

## Saturday, May 23

### Falls Church Farmers Market

8 a.m.–noon  
City Hall Parking Lot  
Weekly farmers market featuring  
local produce and vendors.

### Vietnamese Memories in

#### Melody

2–3 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Cultural music program; registra-  
tion required.

### LESSON ZERO Live Performance

8 p.m.–midnight  
Afterlife 360, 8090 Sudley Rd.,  
Manassas, Va.  
Oasis recording artist LESSON  
ZERO performs live. Admission is  
free and parking is available.

## Sunday, May 24

### 250 and Counting

All day  
Falls Church  
Community observance event.

### Memorial Day

#### Open House

2–6 p.m.  
VFW Post 9274, 7118  
Shreve Rd., Falls Church  
Memorial Day open house fea-  
turing food and fun for the whole  
family. Live music by Harvey Dalton  
Arnold of The Outlaws from 2:30–  
5:30 p.m. Free community event.

### National Memorial Day Concert

8 p.m.  
U.S. Capitol West Lawn,  
Washington, D.C.  
Annual televised concert honoring  
members of the U.S. Armed Forces  
and military families.

## Monday, May 25

### MEMORIAL DAY 44th Annual Memorial Day Parade and Festival

9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
City Hall Parking Lot, Falls  
Church  
Annual parade and festival  
celebration.

### 158th National Memorial Day Observance

Noon  
Memorial Amphitheater,  
Arlington National Cemetery,  
Arlington, Va.  
The nation's official Memorial Day  
ceremony featuring a wreath-lay-  
ing at the Tomb of the Unknown  
Soldier and remarks from  
dignitaries and military leaders.

### Military Women's Memorial Annual Memorial Day Program

3–5 p.m.  
Military Women's Memorial,  
Arlington, Va.  
Annual tribute honoring women  
who served in the armed forces.

### Memorial Day Block Party

4 p.m.  
1100 Block of Seaton Lane,  
Falls Church  
Neighborhood celebration with  
food, fun, community activities and  
Donny the mini horse. Everyone  
welcome.

### Freedom250 National Memorial Day Observance: An Evening of Stories and Service

8:30 p.m.  
Memorial Amphitheater,  
Arlington National Cemetery

## Tuesday, May 26

### Meridian High School Graduation

10 a.m.  
Meridian High School, 121  
Mustang Alley, Falls Church  
Meridian High School will hold its  
2026 graduation ceremony. It is  
also a Teacher Workday with no  
school for students.

### Family Coloring Club

3:45–4:45 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Creative coloring activities  
for families.

### Great Books Discussion Series: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

6–7:45 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles  
Public Library  
Community literary discussion  
program.

### City Council Meeting

7:30–11 p.m.  
Council Chambers/Court  
Room, City Hall

### Housing for All: Virginia Village Public Comment Opportunity

7:30 p.m.  
City Hall  
Residents are encouraged to pro-  
vide public comment regarding  
the future of the Virginia Village  
properties and affordable housing  
opportunities in Falls Church.

## Wednesday, May 27

### Council Agenda Meeting with Staff

8:30–9 a.m.  
Oak Room, City Hall  
Agenda planning meeting.

### City Council Government Operations Committee Meeting

9–10 a.m.  
Oak Room, City Hall  
Committee meeting on city govern-  
ment operations.

### Golden Era Mystery Book Club: The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

6:30–8 p.m.  
Mary Riley Styles Public Library.

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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
JUN 24	ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
JUL 09	NOISE POLLUTION ACDC TRIBUTE
JUL 17	PANDORAS BOX AEROSMITH TRIBUTE
AUG 28	JIMMIES CHICKEN SHACK

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## FALLS CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS & NOTES

### Tap Takeover

The Casual Pint Falls Church welcomes Indiana's OG on Thursday, May 28, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Three Floyds Brewing is celebrating 30 years of making craft beers and will run multiple taps. Try them as a flight.

### VA250 Tourism Marketing Grants Deadline

Applications for the Spring 2026 round of the VA250 Tourism Marketing Program grant with Virginia Tourism Corporation will close on Thursday, May 28. The purpose of the VA250 Tourism Marketing Program is to assist Virginia communities and related sites to market commemorative events, locations, and destinations related to 250 years of American democracy, including themes related to history, freedom, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This is a fantastic opportunity to help you plan a watch party event for the 250 Years Together live broadcast and be a part of this once-in-a-generation statewide moment (<https://www.va250.org/250-years-together/>). The grant link is: [vatec.org/vtc-va250-tourism-marketing-program-grant/](https://vatec.org/vtc-va250-tourism-marketing-program-grant/)

### Market Your Products as a VA250 Commemorative Partner

Businesses looking for new marketing opportunities may consider Virginia 250. It offers businesses the chance to market their products as an official Commemorative Partner of Virginia's 250th celebration of our nation. VA250 offers benefits such as use of the official logo, templates, sample newsletter articles and press releases, and listing on the official VA250.org website. Partners may also submit events to the calendar and receive access to sell VA250 merchandise at their own stores, online and offline. Learn more by visiting [va250.org/commemorative-partners/](https://va250.org/commemorative-partners/).

### Building Your Business Performance Dashboard Metrics

The Virginia SBDC has designed this webinar for early-stage companies, growth, or even mature businesses. Join this free webinar on Thursday, May 28, 10:00 a.m., and you will learn how to understand the significance of a "scorecard", learn the principles that guide your first dashboard draft, learn how to build a dashboard, decide on key metrics, and see how dashboard insights can make a positive impact on your business performance. The meeting link will be shared upon registration. [clients.virginiاسبdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=110460023](https://clients.virginiاسبdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=110460023)

### Tariff Refunds: Steps to Take

For those businesses which collectively paid billions in tariffs, they may now apply for a refund. The U. S. Customs and Border Protection opened the application portal for refunds, though critics find it too complicated for small businesses. This does not apply to customers or other businesses if the taxes have been passed on to them. Read the full Washington Business Journal article linked here:

[bizjournals.com/washington/news/2026/04/20/tariff-refunds-business-owner-apply-cape.html?utm\\_source=st&utm\\_medium=en&utm\\_campaign=me&utm\\_content=WA&ana=e\\_WA\\_me&j=45323435&senddate=2026-04-22&utm\\_term=ep18&empos=p18](https://bizjournals.com/washington/news/2026/04/20/tariff-refunds-business-owner-apply-cape.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=me&utm_content=WA&ana=e_WA_me&j=45323435&senddate=2026-04-22&utm_term=ep18&empos=p18)

### Little Women: The Musical

Through – June 7, 2026 – Creative Cauldron presents the musical based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic, Little Women, the Civil War era story of love and family that stands the test of time. Tickets are now on sale.

### Kensington Memory Café

In partnership with Insight Memory Care and Falls Church Arts, Kensington hosts a Memory Café on Friday, May 22, 10:30 – 11:30 am. This is a gathering of individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) along with their caregivers, friends, or family in a supportive and engaging environment. Join the group for a cup of coffee and an activity while meeting others for support, companionship and fun. Register in advance because space is limited. [business.fallschurchchamber.org/events/details/kensington-memory-caf%C3%A9-w-falls-church-arts-05-22-2026-75583?calendarMonth=2026-05-01](https://business.fallschurchchamber.org/events/details/kensington-memory-caf%C3%A9-w-falls-church-arts-05-22-2026-75583?calendarMonth=2026-05-01)

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

## Our Man In Arlington

### BILL FOGARTY

This month, the Wayback Machine will take us back to May 1958. In the newspapers of the day, my favorite headline was this one: "You Can't Do a Paper in Arlington Libraries – No Place to Sit Down." This was a clever article in support of a bond referendum, to pay for the acquisition of a site for a centrally located library building. The County had its eyes on a site on Quincy Street – exactly where the Central Library is now located (yes, the bond measure passed). The director of the library system was desperately looking for space not just for reading, but also for programming for children and teenagers.

The month of May has been "budget decision time" in Arlington for many decades. In May of 1958, the fifth budget conference of the Board contemplated an operating budget of \$9.2 million dollars, with a proposed \$3.6 million capital improvements budget. Those funds were in addition to the \$8 million bond referendum, which would help to build a new library and a new Courthouse.

For school issues, the "Red Scare" of Communism became a focus of much controversy. Earlier in the spring, a teacher was fired because she had been a member of the Communist Party from the mid-1930s until 1945. As a follow-up, School Board members Bob Peck and Helen Lane proposed a motion to require all current schoolteachers to sign a "non-Communist oath." The discussion got heated, taking up over four hours of the school board meeting, with Board member Barnard Joy stating this was "approaching the area of witch-hunting." The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 to 2, but a swing vote resulted in approval of another motion, which required all newly-hired teachers to sign an oath that they were "not now and never were" a member of the Communist Party, or a member of a "subversive organization".

Why was the School Board so focused on Communism? I wonder if it was related to the General Assembly session that

passed several anti-NAACP laws, creating a Committee on Offenses Against the Administration of Justice. This committee was tasked with uncovering evidence that the NAACP was a subversive entity, operating as a "communist front". (Yes, governmental pushback against diversity and inclusion is not a new thing.) In 1958, Virginia's massive resistance to the integration of schools was hitting a four-year peak, with Governor James Almond threatening to close school systems in Arlington and Norfolk. Almond was proposing not only to close the schools, but also to use the school buildings for private schools for white children.

In the midst of all this, one headline jumped out at me as a sliver of hope: "Federation Takes Negro Association." This article noted that "...the Nauck Citizens Association is the first Negro group to be given membership in the Civic Federation." There had been a split vote in the Federation's membership committee, but when the application went to a ballot vote of the full membership, the Nauck civic association was admitted by a vote of 51 to 7.

The saddest headline in the news posed a challenging question: "How Can We Prevent Tragic Drownings At Great Falls?" Two college students had drowned in the Great Falls of the Potomac River, which was a popular spot for youth to climb onto the rocks and wade into the river. In 1957 there had been fifteen drownings at Great Falls. Since then, many warning signs have gone up, including this one: "If you enter the river, you will die." Unfortunately, to this day the average number of annual deaths is seven.

On a lighter note, let me end with a 1958 article on Malcolm Ross, an Arlington resident working as an atmospheric scientist for the Naval Reserve. Ross was highlighted for soaring 40,000 feet above the earth in a hot-air balloon, to obtain nautical observations for future interplanetary flight. Ross would set a still-standing record for the highest altitude in a balloon, going over 100,000 feet in the air in 1961. Stories about the dangers of his rapid descents are quite remarkable – look it up!

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PETITION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR REVISION OF RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE: RIDER CCR, FOR THE RECOVERY OF COSTS INCURRED TO COMPLY WITH § 10.1-1402.03 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO CODE § 56-585.1 A 5 E CASE NO. PUR-2026-00043

On April 3, 2026, pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 5 e of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed a petition ("Petition") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for an annual update with respect to its coal combustion residuals ("CCR") rate adjustment clause, designated "Rider CCR," to recover costs incurred to comply with the requirements of Virginia Senate Bill 1355, codified as Code § 10.1-1402.03.

On October 26, 2021, by its Order Approving Rate Adjustment Clause in Case No. PUR-2021-00045 ("2021 Order"), the Commission granted the Company's request for approval of Rider CCR, to recover costs associated with certain environmental projects involving CCR removal at the Company's Bremo Power Station, Chesterfield Power Station, Possum Point Power Station, and Chesapeake Energy Center (collectively, the "Power Stations"). On December 3, 2025, by its Final Order issued in Case No. PUR-2025-00063 ("2025 Rider CCR Proceeding"), the Commission approved the most recent annual update to Rider CCR.

Dominion states that it is filing this annual update to inform the Commission of the status of CCR removal at the Power Stations and to provide the proposed cost allocation, rate design, and accounting treatment for Rider CCR for service rendered during a proposed rate year commencing January 1, 2027, and extending through December 31, 2027 ("Rate Year").

The Company states that the two components of the revenue requirement proposed in this proceeding are the Projected Cost Recovery Factor and the Actual Cost True-Up Factor. The Company requests a Projected Cost Recovery Factor revenue requirement of \$224,726,384, and an Actual Cost True-Up Factor revenue requirement of \$(7,571,400). Thus, the Company requests a total revenue requirement for Rider CCR for the Rate Year of \$217,154,983.

Dominion asserts that, consistent with the Company's 2025 Rider CCR Proceeding, the Company continues to allocate Rider CCR costs on an energy basis using a Factor 3 nonbypassable allocation methodology, as approved by the Commission in the 2021 Order.

If the revised Rider CCR for the Rate Year is approved, the impact on customer bills would depend on the customer's rate schedule and usage. According to Dominion, implementation of its revised Rider CCR on January 1, 2027, would increase the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month by approximately \$0.53.

Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Petition, testimony and supporting exhibits for additional details concerning this matter.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on Dominion's Petition. On September 9, 2026, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner appointed to this case will hold a telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before September 3, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide required contact information to the Commission. 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](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting).

On September 9, 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 offered by the Company, respondents, and the Commission's Staff on the Petition.

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

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

On or before September 3, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Petition electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](https://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 comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00043.

On or before July 2, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://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. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be served electronically on counsel for the Company, any other respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.* ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any notice of participation filed by a person not represented by counsel shall also set forth why the filer's positions in this matter are not adequately represented by another party to this proceeding and cannot be expressed through written or oral public comments as provided for in this proceeding. 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-2026-00043. 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 30, 2026, each respondent may file electronically with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://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 Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with their filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, *Prepared testimony and exhibits*. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00043.

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

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH,  
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HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL  
REVIEW BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Falls Church Historic Architectural Review Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in City Hall's Dogwood Room (first floor), Park Ave, Falls Church, VA 22043 to consider the following:

PROPOSED ALTERATION OF 303 E BROAD STREET and 116 S OAK STREET

Information or copies of the proposed alteration can be viewed at the Community Planning and Economic Development Services (CPEDS) counter at City Hall, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA, Monday through Friday (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). You may contact the Planning Division at [plan@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:plan@fallschurchva.gov) with any questions or concerns.

This location is fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities and special services or assistance may be requested in advance. (TTY 711)

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE PURSUANT TO § 56-585.1 A 4 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA CASE NO. PUR-2026-00056

On May 1, 2026, Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion" or "Company"), pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 4 ("Subsection A 4") of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and 20 VAC 5-204-5, 20 VAC 5-204-10, 20 VAC 5-204-60, and 20 VAC 5-204-90 of the Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-Owned Electric Utilities, 20 VAC 5-204-5, et seq., filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for approval of a revised increment/decrement rate adjustment clause designated as Rider T1. Pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 7 of the Code, "the Commission's final order regarding any petition filed pursuant to [Subsection A 4] . . . shall be entered not more than three months . . . after the date of filing of such petition."

Subsection A 4 deems to be reasonable and prudent, among other things, the "costs for transmission services provided to the utility by the regional transmission entity of which the utility is a member" and "costs charged to the utility that are associated with demand response programs approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ["FERC"] and administered by the regional transmission entity of which the utility is a member."

The Company has been a member of PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), a regional transmission entity that has been approved by FERC as a regional transmission organization, since 2005. Dominion, as an integrated electric utility member of PJM, obtains transmission service from PJM and pays PJM charges for such service at the rates contained in PJM's Open Access Transmission Tariff approved by FERC. The Company states that it also pays PJM charges for costs associated with demand response programs approved by FERC and administered by PJM.

In this proceeding, Dominion seeks approval of a revenue requirement for the rate year September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027 ("Rate Year"). This revenue requirement, if approved, would be recovered through a combination of base rates and a revised increment/decrement Rider T1. Rider T1 is designed to recover the increment/decrement between the revenues produced from the Subsection A 4 component of base rates and the new revenue requirement developed from the Company's Subsection A 4 costs for the Rate Year.

The total proposed revenue requirement to be recovered over the Rate Year is \$1,538,974,037, comprising an increment Rider T1 of \$998,533,997, and forecast collections of \$540,440,040 through the transmission component of base rates. This total revenue requirement represents an increase of \$206,899,352 compared to the revenues projected to be produced during the Rate Year by the combination of the base rate component of Subsection A 4 (the Company's former Rider T) and the Rider T1 rates currently in effect. Implementation of the proposed Rider T1 on September 1, 2026, would increase the total monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month by \$2.90.

In Case No. PUR-2025-00058, the Commission directed the Company, in its next filing pursuant to Code § 56-585.1 A 4, to develop and propose alternative cost allocations for the purpose of examining transmission cost allocation. The Commission further directed that one alternative shall be a modified Average & Excess model that incorporates principles from a six-month (or higher) coincident peak allocation methodology. In response to this directive, the Company addresses, among other things: (i) the requested alternative cost allocation methodologies; (ii) the impact of such methods on the GS-5 rate class; and (iii) whether there are any additional considerations impacting transmission rates of return, especially for the GS-4 and GS-5 classes, beyond allocation methodology.

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things, scheduled public hearings on the Company's Application. On July 14, 2026, at 10 a.m., the Commission will hold a telephonic hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before July 9, 2026, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide required contact information to the Commission. 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](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting); or (ii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information/webcasting).

On July 14, 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 Commission will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence offered by the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

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

An electronic copy of the Company's Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Jontille D. Ray, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [jray@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:jray@mcguirewoods.com). Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

On or before July 9, 2026, any interested person may submit comments on the Application electronically by following the instructions on the Commission's website: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information/submit-public-comments](https://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 comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2026-00056.

On or before June 5, 2026, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding must do so by filing a notice of participation at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://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 and their counsel. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be served electronically on counsel for the Company, Commission Staff, and any other respondents. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-10 et seq. ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any notice of participation filed by a person not represented by counsel shall also set forth why the filer's positions in this matter are not adequately represented by another party to this proceeding and cannot be expressed through written or oral public comments as provided for in this proceeding. 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-2026-00056.

On or before June 5, 2026, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission at [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](https://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 Commission Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneously with their filing. In all filings, the respondent shall comply with the Rules of Practice, including 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-2026-00056.

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

The Commission's Rules of Practice, the Company's Application, the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission's website at: [scc.virginia.gov/case-information](https://scc.virginia.gov/case-information).

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# NORTHERN VIRGINIA GAY NEWS

## Commentary: Barney Frank Was a Hero of Mine

*By Peter Rosenstein for the Nova Gay News*

My heart goes out to Barney's husband Jim, and all of Barney's friends and family, on his passing. Barney Frank has always been a hero of mine. We grew up in similar circumstances, he in New Jersey, me in upper Manhattan. Both of us knew at a young age we were gay, though that was not a term used when we were young. It was a time when one definitely couldn't come 'out' if you wanted to go into politics.

I first met Barney when a mutual friend brought him to brunch at my home in D.C. I had moved to D.C. in 1978 to work for the Carter administration, directing the follow-up to the White House Conference Handicapped Individuals. That is the term we used back then. I never went back to New York. Barney had been elected to Congress when we met. Neither of us was publicly out.

Barney Frank was brilliant, and I was honored to meet him. I always enjoyed listening to him speak, whether it was at a Congressional hearing, or an event we were both at. Barney was never one for small talk. When we both ended up living in Dupont, he would see me sitting at a coffee shop when he walked by, and simply nod hello, not stopping to chat. If he ever did stop, I always knew it was to suggest something I should be doing, or writing about.

Barney had a sparkling wit, when he wanted to share it, and knew more about most topics than anyone else. In 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010, Washingtonian Magazine reported congressional staffers named him the brainiest member of Congress. CBS news reported in 2008 and 2011 that Leslie Stahl and others, referred to him as the smartest guy in congress. They were right.

I had worked for another brilliant member of congress, Bella S. Abzug (D-NY). But Bella was out of Congress by the time Barney got there. It would have been great fun seeing them work together. I was working for her when she introduced the first Equality Act in 1974. At the time I was deeply closeted.

I finally did come out in 1984, which was before Barney did. But then I wasn't running for Office. He came out in 1987 and became an even more passionate supporter of the LGBTQ community than he was before. Because as an openly gay man he could make his speeches, and support, even more personal.

He spoke eloquently trying to pass the Equality Act which didn't pass the House until after he retired, and then it died in the Senate. I was, and am, a passionate supporter of the Equality Act, and still believe in my lifetime it will pass the congress, and we will have a President who will sign it into law. Hope springs eternal as they say.

Barney was more than just an LGBTQ advocate. He worked tirelessly on so many issues, in his effort to make life better for all Americans. In an interview he did after he entered hospice and just before he passed, he said the bill he is proudest of, is the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It is a sweeping law enacted to overhaul financial regulation following the 2008 financial crisis. Its primary purpose was to end 'Too big to fail' bailouts, and protect consumers from abusive financial practices. It was signed into law by President Obama in 2010.

When it became public that Barney Frank was entering home hospice, and being cared for by his husband Jim, it got so many of us to look back at his amazing career. Once again, we think about the giant he was, both during his time in the Congress, and during his life before, and after. He was the first member of the LGBTQ community who married while in Congress. He was one of the people in our community who really made a difference, and in doing so made so many of our lives better.

When interviewed recently Barney said he was in the process of writing another book on politics, and I hope he had the chance to finish it as I already look forward to reading it. When he entered hospice, I emailed Barney and told him I was visualizing him as our community's Art Buchwald.

Those of you who are old enough may remember Buchwald. He was an American humorist, best known for his columns in the Washington Post. He also went into hospice care. But in his case, after five months there, and giving many interviews, he left hospice and wrote another book. It was titled 'Too Soon to Say Goodbye'

about his five months in hospice. I told Barney, I was praying I will get to hear him, and see him, on that next book tour.

But that was not to be. Barney passed last Tuesday. Barney, I want to join all the others who thank you for a life well lived, and all you have done to make my life, the lives of the rest of us in the LGBTQ community, better. We could have never asked for a stronger, or more passionate, advocate. Barney, may you now RIP.

## Arlingtonians Endorse Beyer for Re-Election

Arlington County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti; County Board Vice Chair Maureen Coffey; County Board Members Susan Cunningham, Takis Karantonis, and JD Spain; Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti; Clerk of the Court Paul Ferguson; Sheriff Jose Quiroz; Commissioner of the Revenue Kim Klingler; Treasurer Carla de la Pava; School Board Chair Bethany Zecher Sutton; and School Board Members Mo Bryant, Kathleen Clark, and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley today endorsed Congressman Don Beyer's reelection as Representative for Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

"Congressman Don Beyer has been an invaluable partner to Arlington County as we navigate the significant challenges and uncertainty brought on by the Trump administration," said Arlington County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti. "Time and again, Don has delivered meaningful results for Arlington residents. From helping secure critical federal funding for affordable housing initiatives and vital infrastructure projects to hosting resource and job fairs to help those in our community affected by federal layoffs land on their feet, his leadership and partnership have made a real difference in the lives of Arlingtonians. I'm proud to support his re-election."



**FORMER U.S. REP. Barney Frank passed away yesterday at age 88. The pioneering gay activist is shown here in 2018 with Nicholas Benton of the Falls Church News-Press (right) and Simon VanSteyn (left). (Photo: News-Press)**

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