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# Falls Church News-Press

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## Salim's Surprise Senate Sweep!

Defeats Chap Petersen By  
Solid Margin in 37th District

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

In a major upset, Fairfax Young Democrats leader Saddam Azlan Salim won Tuesday's Democratic primary election over J.C. "Chap" Petersen, in the 37th State Senate District that includes the City of Falls Church.

The outcome was such a surprise that the official press release from the Fairfax County Democratic Committee got it wrong, erroneously reporting early Wednesday morning that Petersen had won the race for the 37th District seat. Called out by the *News-Press* immediately, the organization's executive director Dominic Thompson, under whose name the press release went out, swiftly made the correction, reposting the revised press release and calling the *News-Press* to make sure it was seen, all before 10:00 a.m. yesterday.

Surprise, indeed. Long shot underfunded first-time candidate Salim pulled the biggest upset of this Democratic primary season by upending well-heeled veteran lawmaker Petersen, and by a considerable margin, 10,049 to 8,616 with all precincts reporting in the newly configured 37th Senate District.

Petersen has been an elected member of the Virginia General Assembly for over 20 years and has usually run unopposed. But this year was the first time his district was reconfigured by last year's redistricting and moved eastward to include Falls Church

*Continued on Page 4*

## F.C.'S UPSET WINNER



**SADDAM SALIM, a first-time candidate, scored a major upset victory in Tuesday's State Senate race for the 37th District that includes the City of Falls Church, He is shown here addressing supporters after the polls closed Tuesday night at Clare and Don's restaurant in F.C. (Photo: Brian Reach)**

## Commonwealth's Attorney Dehghani-Tafti Wins Reelection

BY CHARLIE CLARK  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Democratic primary voters in Arlington and Falls Church on June 20 gave a thumbs-up on continuing the "restorative justice" reforms being pursued by Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, who beat challenger Josh Katcher decisively.

The vote was 55.98 percent, 15,387 total to 44.02 percent, 12,099 total, with a total turnout of just under 30,000.

Katcher, from his watch party at the Lost Dog in Westover, phoned his former boss to concede and released this statement. "Over the course of the last six months, we've had an important debate in

our community over the future of criminal justice reform. Our team left it all on the field, as we sought to have a debate about what real reform and real justice could mean for our community. I stand ready to continue my commitment to this community, to its safety and to the goal of ensuring that we are balancing the need for both justice and compassion."

Dehghani-Tafti, from her watch party at the Fire Works Pizza near the Courthouse, released a statement: "Four years ago the voters of Arlington and the City of Falls Church chose to do the important work of reforming our criminal legal system. Tonight's victory showed the voters' renewed trust in us to continue that work. More

than that, it shows that as a community we believe safety, justice, kindness, fairness, and caring are complementary values. This election has laid bare the need to expand mental health services for our youth, the need to offer better services to victims, and the need to provide fair representation to accused by bringing pay parity to public defenders. If this election was a referendum on reform our voters emphatically responded that they will not go backward but will keep Arlington and the City of Falls Church moving forward."

The tight Democratic primary race pitted an incumbent who saw her job as a platform for steering Arlington and Falls Church toward "restorative justice" against a one-

time deputy who attacked her for a high turnover of staff attorneys he described as disillusioned and the fact that Dehghani-Tafti, despite 18 years of experience as a public defender, had not personally prosecuted a case.

Katcher attacked her for taking outside-the-county funds from judicial reform groups, blamed her for crime rates and criticized her alleged mishandling of the grieving mother of a Washington-Liberty High School teenager killed in 2022 by an underage drunk driver (the mother backed Katcher).

Dehghani-Tafti blamed Katcher, who spent 11 years in

*Continued on Page 5*

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## FALLS CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

### CBC Issues Text of 'Candidate Integrity Pledge'

Falls Church's Citizens of a Better City (CBC) has issued a "Candidate Integrity Pledge" for F.C. City Council and School Board candidates that it claims has already been signed by all four F.C. Council candidates and one F.C. School Board candidate (see Letters to Editor on page 6).

The following is the text of the pledge:

#### Background/Context

In recent times, across our country – at the national, state and, increasingly, local levels – uncontrolled campaign financing and incivility have adversely affected our elections. And, for the first time ever, in the 2021 election cycle Falls Church experienced the infusion of large scale contributions to candidates from outside interests and individuals with no direct history of involvement in City affairs.

Responding to this situation, the Citizens for a Better City (CBC) has been examining these issues and, in consultation with dozens of other local civic organizations and individuals, has developed the following pledge all City Council and School Board candidates running for election will be asked to sign voluntarily in the current and future election cycles. The objective is to ensure that Falls Church City elections remain local, accessible to all citizens, affordable, and are conducted with civility.

#### Candidate Conduct

Service to our community requires a great deal of time and commitment from all those who serve, especially in elected positions. The City is best served when its office holders represent everyone in our community. Office seekers should conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the spirit of our City to ensure that they as candidates – and ultimately as office holders – are able to serve its best interests.

Accordingly, I pledge to conduct my campaign in a civil and public-spirited manner. I will campaign on issues that are important to me and my community, and will express those views and promote my candidacy with respect for those who hold different views. Acknowledging our City's long history of candidate forums in our local elections, I will participate in them to assist Falls Church citizens in their understanding of the issues and candidates' views on them.

#### Campaign Funding

Candidates in our local elections have typically advanced their campaigns by: visiting their neighbors door-to-door; enlisting others to volunteer on their behalf; spending money on yard-signs, flyers, and other promotional materials; purchasing ads in newspapers; setting up websites and

using social media platforms; and other related events and activities. To support these efforts, candidates welcome contributions from friends, family, and local supporters.

Accordingly, I pledge to make every effort to support my campaign with financial contributions from family, friends, and neighbors who also hold the interests of Falls Church uppermost in their minds. I will endeavor to seek and accept only contributions from those residing within our borders – excepting, of course, in the case of close family and longtime friends. I will fully disclose my campaign fundraising results and expenditures in a timely manner, as required by the Virginia Department of Elections.

### West End Project on Schedule, If Not Ahead, Hoffman Rep Says

Mary Beth Avedesian, vice president of the Hoffman Company, chief developers of the 9.7 acre West End project, provided an update to the monthly luncheon of the Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, reporting that the massive mixed use project is on schedule.

Jim Snyder, The Little City's principal planner, told the *News-Press* at the meeting that, if anything, the project is running ahead of schedule, thanks to the success of weekly meetings held online between the City's Planning Department and the developers that have enabled aspects of the entire project to be developed at once.

A big component of the project, a 140-room Homewood Suites hotel, is already 40 percent complete, and slated for completion this December, along with 126 residential condominiums and 400 residential rental units slated for completion by November 2024.

The project will include 18,000 square feet of outdoor gathering spaces. Avedesian said its proximity to Meridian High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School will result in a lot of "synergies" that will be developed between the schools, including the Levine School of Music slated to occupy space in the project and other aspects.

Adjacent to the project will be a National Center for Smart Construction that will go on adjacent Virginia Tech-owned land and plans for the joint development of the WMATA land at the West Falls Church Metro station in the process of seeking approvals from Fairfax County in the next two weeks.

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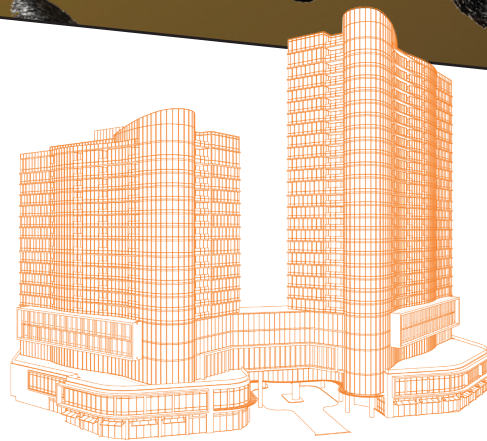
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# Major Political Upset in Democratic Primary Tuesday as Salim Defeats Petersen

Continued from Page 1

and its immediate environs in Fairfax County.

Still, few saw what was coming, notwithstanding the firm endorsement of his opponent, Salim, by the *Falls Church News-Press* in three editorials in the recent period.

Petersen, endorsed by The *Washington Post*, is identified as one of the most conservative Democrats in the state legislature, and was called out for failing to report his conservative stand on LGBTQ+ issues on his website, for his ongoing membership in the arch-conservative Truro Church in his hometown Fairfax City, a church aligned with the defectors who were eventually forced to give up their illegal occupation of the historic Falls Church Episcopal Church, and his full-throated endorsement of Virginia's antiquated anti-labor "right to work" laws. He also voted against an assault weapons ban.

Petersen also ruffled local feathers when he failed to

show at the F.C. Democratic Committee's major event of the spring in the Community Center.

Saddam Azlan Salim, on the other hand, is a first-generation immigrant born in Bangladesh. Growing up, he and his family experienced severe drought followed by the flood of 1998.

Coming to the U.S. in 2000, they were taken in by a family friend, and they lived in basements in Falls Church for two years until they were eligible for Fairfax County's low-income affordable housing program.

Both his parents worked minimum wage jobs and relied on public transportation to get to work. Salim's father worked his way up from a dishwasher to the chef for more than 20 years at the popular restaurant Haandi Indian Cuisine on West Broad Street.

Salim attended Falls Church High School where he was a track and field athlete and president of his graduating class.

He attended Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University,

where he graduated with a B.S. in 2012 and subsequently achieved a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

He has served as Co-Chair to the Providence District, and Finance Vice Chair, for Fairfax County Democratic Committee. He was the founding member of both the FCDC AAPI and Black Caucuses. He currently serves as second Vice Chair of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Committee, Vice President of Fairfax Young Democrats, Co-State Director for South Asians for America, and as a Board Member for DemBiz Council.

Salim held his post-election event Tuesday night at Clare and Don's in Falls Church which stayed open an extra hour to accommodate the event. Salim thanked his supporters at 10:00 p.m. before sending them home while his victory remained unsure.

On Wednesday morning, Sen. Petersen issued a statement of congratulations to Salim.

The margin of victory for

Salim was considerably greater in Falls Church than elsewhere in the 37th District. With a 22 percent voter turnout in Falls Church, standard for a primary in the Little City, but double what it was elsewhere in the 37th District, Salim gathered 1,486 votes to 790 for Petersen, carrying all three City precincts, and the early vote by 797 to 408.

Petersen also lost in the Fairfax County precincts by 7,158 to 6,159 and barely carried in his home of Fairfax City by 1,667 to 1,405.

He appeared not to benefit from a late alliance forged with Commonwealth Attorney challenger Ed Nuttall and incumbent Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kinkaid, as Nuttall lost to incumbent Steve Descano by a wide margin (though Kinkaid won).

This was despite Petersen also carrying the endorsements of a preponderance of regional Democratic elected officials, including Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, and The

*Washington Post*. It was also despite a major difference in campaign fundraising. In 2023, Petersen raised \$1,057,619 (or \$122.75 per vote), and Salim raised \$188,652 (or \$18.77 per vote).

But in its editorial last week, the *News-Press* noted that while Petersen "seems locked into the state's unhappy Jim Crow past...we would welcome the fresh approach that his opponent, Saddam Salim, son of long-time employees at a valued City of Falls Church business, promises to bring."

In other area races of note, Jeff McKay was re-elected chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jimmy Bierman was elected the Democratic nominee in the Dranesville district of Fairfax County to fill the seat being vacated by John Foust, and Andres Jimenez edged out a dense field to win the Democratic nomination to replace Penny Gross in the county's Mason District. F.C.'s State Delegate Marcus Simon was unopposed.



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# Descano & Biberaj Take Victories

Continued from Page 1

the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, for having trained many of the staff attorneys who left. And she sent mailers citing "the elephant in the room," which she described as a high number

of Republicans and followers of her predecessor Theo Stamos working to get Katcher elected.

The incumbent had attracted endorsements from the majority of the Arlington area local and state officials as well as *The Washington Post* and the *News-Press*, while Katcher had

won support from the Arlington Coalition of Police and the firefighters union.

Two other progressive prosecutors also seeking re-election handily fended off Democratic primary challengers, Steve Descano in Fairfax County and Buta Biberaj in Loudoun County.

# F.C. Schools Ranked Top Among Workplaces

BY NICHOLAS F. BENTON  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Falls Church City Public Schools announced this week their selection as one of *The Washington Post's* prestigious Top Workplaces in the Washington, D.C. area for 2023. This esteemed recognition is based on valuable employee feedback from an anonymous survey by Energage, LLC, a trusted research partner. The survey evaluated various aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection. Alongside government contractors, real estate firms, consulting groups, and tech companies, Falls Church City Public Schools stands out as an exceptional workplace.

Bronwen Latimer, editor of *The Washington Post* Top

Workplaces, remarked, "For the past 10 years, the Top Workplaces list has been a credible guide to companies, old and new, in the D.C. region where employees feel valued. As a new generation enters the workforce, the *Post* is more committed than ever to highlighting the changing landscape of work and how these companies are thriving in it."

*The Washington Post* hosted a grand awards ceremony on June 15 to honor the highest-ranking organizations. This accolade signifies Falls Church City Public Schools' commitment to fostering a positive and empowering work environment for its employees.

Superintendent Peter Noonan expressed gratitude for the recognition and its significance to the school division.

He stated, "Being named one of *The Washington Post's* Top Workplaces is a tremendous honor for Falls Church City Public Schools. This achievement reflects our dedication to creating a supportive and inclusive culture where our employees can thrive. We believe that when our staff feels valued and inspired, it directly translates into exceptional educational experiences for our students. This recognition motivates us to continue providing the highest quality education and fostering an environment where everyone can reach their full potential."

More information about *The Washington Post's* Top Workplaces and the complete list of this year's honorees, is available at <https://topworkplaces.com/award/washington/2023>.

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

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

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

**KYLEE TOLAND**  
NEWS REPORTER  
KTOLAND@FCNP.COM

**BRIAN REACH**  
NEWS REPORTER  
BREACH@FCNP.COM

**CHARLIE CLARK**  
COLUMNIST

**TED WHITE**  
COPY EDITOR

**JULIO IDROBO**  
CIRCULATION MANAGER  
DELIVERY@FCNP.COM

### TO CONTACT THE NEWS-PRESS

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## EDITORIAL

### Hailing Tuesday's Primary Results

Congratulations to voters in the City of Falls Church, who turned out at a solid pace in Tuesday's Democratic primary, and voted overwhelmingly for the best candidates running for State Senate from the newly-configured 37th District and for Commonwealth Attorney. The turnout was, while low at 22 percent, double the overall turnout in the 37th district.

The margins for the winners, Saddam Salim for State Senate and Parisa Dehghani-Tafti for Commonwealth Attorney, were also significantly greater among Falls Church voters than elsewhere in the wider district. In the State Senate race, there will be a Republican and an independent on the ballot in November, but neither is expected to represent a serious challenge to Salim, our new Democratic nominee, in this area. Kudos, of course, also go to the winners themselves, both of whom were endorsed by this newspaper.

It is significant that the margins of victory for Salim and Dehghani-Tafti were in the 60-40 range in Falls Church, which has been the common general range for races, partisan or not, in Falls Church for many years. In other words, it can be seen as constituting a definite affirmation of City values, and the fact that this time both winning candidate names are far from WASPish is also a plus.

We take this as an important inflection point in the evolving history of the Little City, an affirmation that what the City Council, at least in its majority, have been increasingly adamant about will translate into a seismic paradigm shift toward a more meaningfully diverse community by virtue of adopting serious affordable housing initiatives, replete with generous incentives to encourage them.

It is not lost on us that this Tuesday also marked the deadline for filing to candidates seeking to run for the City Council and School Board in the City this coming November. All the candidates who stepped up to run have been certified for the November ballot. As it unfolds, this upcoming election should see a new level of civic involvement aimed at ensuring diversity and affordability become the watchwords of the City's future, even as reasonable economic development and improvements in the quality of life here continue to occur.

As among those who are making the major day-to-day decisions at City Hall and among the City's key developers now exemplify, it is also the major role of women in this community that is becoming a new hallmark, such as in the case of the roles of Deputy City Manager Cindy Mester and Hoffman Company's vice president in charge of the massive West End development project here, Mary Beth Avedesian, who spoke to the local Chamber of Commerce this week (see story, elsewhere this issue).

After World War I, there was a big push in the U.S. to increase the role of women in major decision making because it was thought they would be less likely to exercise the same level of cruelty as men. It's an important consideration to which we wholeheartedly subscribe.

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## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### CBC Develops Integrity Pledge

Editor,

Since its founding more than 60 years ago, Citizens for a Better City (CBC) has been a consistent force in promoting responsible local government, outstanding public schools, and citizen involvement. Critically important to these basic principles have been regular elections for the City Council and School Board that have been accessible to all citizens, affordable, and local in character. In recent years, however, as national special interests have made incursions into local politics around the country – and, for the first time in Falls Church in the 2021 election cycle – it has become clear that our City's elections are not immune to such influences.

Alarmed by this situation – and to assure the ongoing opportunity for citizens of all economic circumstances to seek City-wide offices and maintain the spirit of locally controlled good government – CBC has developed a Candidate Integrity Pledge which all City Council and School Board candidates will be asked to sign. The Pledge is comprised of two commitments: a Candidate Civility section stating that the signatory will campaign with the interests of all Falls Church citizens uppermost in mind and treat other candidates with respect; and, a Campaign Funding portion that asks candidates to support their campaigns only with contributions from individuals and interests within our borders (excepting close family and longtime friends).

The Pledge has been reviewed and is supported by a number of local civic organizations, including: The League of Women Voters, Falls Church Forward, Falls Church Democratic Committee, and Bike Falls Church. As of this date, all four candidates for the City Council – Letty Hardi (incumbent), Tim Stevens, Justine Underhill, and Erin Flynn – and School Board incumbent, Jerrod Anderson,

have said they support and will sign the Pledge; other current City Council (Debbie Hiscott and Caroline Lian) and School Board members (Laura Downs and Tate Gould) have also expressed their support. (A full list of supporting organizations and individuals can also be found on the CBC website).

Now that the deadline for candidates to file for the 2023 School Board and City Council has passed, we will be asking the declared candidates to formally sign the Pledge. Acknowledging this landmark event, CBC President, Hal Lippman, noted: "We are proud that throughout our City's history, campaigns have been conducted by-and-large in accordance with the highest standards, earning the respect and admiration of its neighbors. We sincerely hope this Candidate Integrity Pledge will help keep this stellar reputation intact."

Sally Ekfelt  
President of CBC

### Lee Highway Name Change Suggestion

Editor,

I just heard the news that Fairfax County is following Arlington's lead and dumping the name, "Lee Highway," from Route 29. Unlike Arlington, they're apparently not renaming the road, just referring to it by its route number.

It's not too late for Fairfax to go another route: Keeping the name, but using it not to honor Robert E. Lee, but James Lee. The name, "Lee," is older here than the Civil War era — think of Leesburg — and has been that of many Virginians, among them James Lee, a Black man after whom a school (now a rec center) on Annandale Road, just outside Falls Church was named.

Think of how much money (on street signs, etc.) could be saved by keeping "Lee Highway" as a name for Route 29 — and the honor it would rightfully bestow on James Lee and his descendants.

Ted White



# June 26 – July 16, 2023 2023 Major Construction

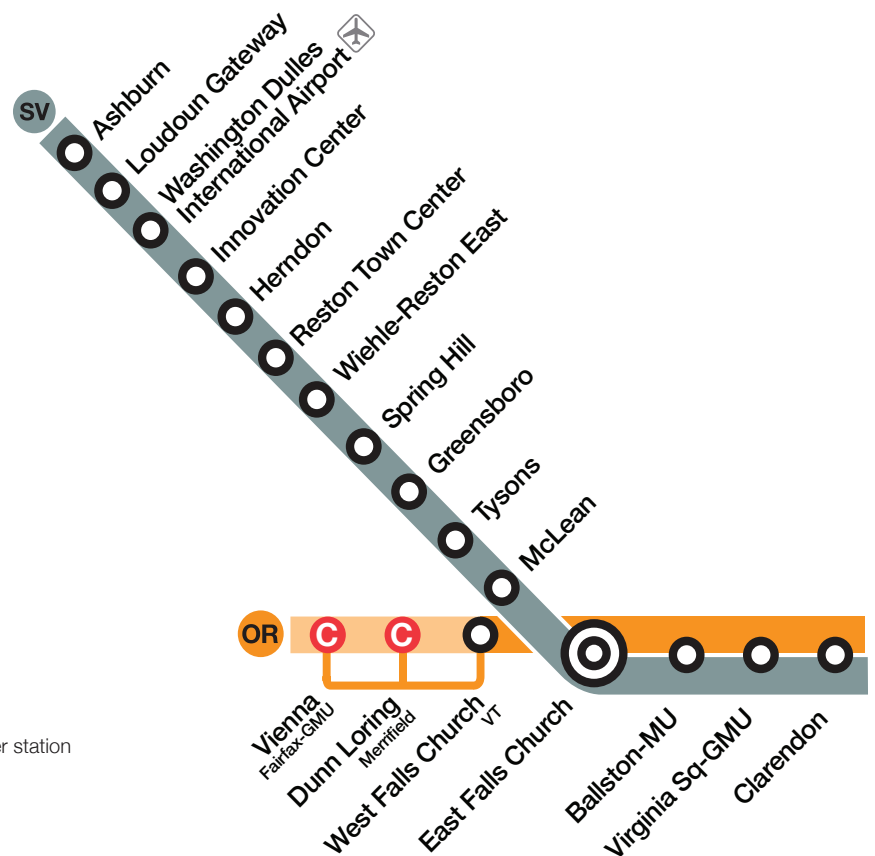
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## How a Good Local Paper Helped Achieve an Upset

NICHOLAS F. BENTON

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS



In a local primary election for state senate in Falls Church, Virginia, home of my 33-year weekly general interest newspaper, what I like to call “the mighty” *Falls Church News-Press*, there was a massive upset this week.

An elected incumbent who’d held office for over 20 years mostly unopposed, one “Chap” Petersen, was upended by a rookie upstart, and by a solid margin, by name of Saddam Azlan Salim, a native of Bangladesh who came to the U.S. with his parents in 2000 after a huge flood in his native country, arriving almost the same year Petersen was first elected.

What a contrast in styles and appearances! Petersen came across as a cocksure veteran, even if his district boundaries shifted due to redistricting to include Falls Church for the first time. He wore his signature bow tie everywhere and made an obligatory effort to introduce himself to his first time Falls Church voters by going door to door over the past several months to almost every household in this town of about 15,000.

Salim, by contrast, more modest by all appearances grew up in the basements of friends for two years upon arriving in the U.S. before distinguishing himself as a local high school and then college student. His parents supported his family by working long hours at a respected local restaurant.

Despite gaining political traction as a promising Young Democrats leader in the region, he was still a considerable long shot when he threw his hat in the ring to run against Petersen, his chances only slightly improving when another challenger pulled out only a couple months before they started early voting in the lead up to the June 20 election.

Petersen made some classic missteps. First, he angered a lot of the local Democratic leadership in Falls Church when he decided not to attend the Democratic Committee’s annual potluck in the spring.

Then he pulled what he, I’m sure, thought was a “fast one” when

he talked the leaders of the local Chamber of Commerce to relocate their candidates’ night debate from Falls Church to a location in his home base of Fairfax City on grounds the venue could hold more people. To be sure, almost no one from Falls Church was willing to go that far out of their way to attend such an event.

He also clearly ducked local LGBTQ+ activist Brian Reach, who used to volunteer for him until it became clear he was a bigot, and pressed him on some basic questions of inclusion and diversity. He dismissed Reach as “just one person.”

Similarly when he was challenged at a meeting of the local Democratic Committee for holding onto his membership in an arch-conservative church that had allied with defectors of the historic Falls Church Episcopal, where George Washington was once a deacon, in an attempted illegal appropriation of the church property, he tried to defend himself on religious freedom grounds.

He’d been challenged by this reporter since the days the so-called Marshall-Newman Amendment 15 years earlier had enshrined anti-LGBT discrimination in the Virginia constitution on the assertion that marriage must be between “one man and one woman.”

Despite huge advantages in fundraising and cash, Petersen was driven to a major blunder, when he hoped that by aligning with two other candidates in nearby Fairfax County, he could forge a “Common Sense” slate with a barrage of TV ads that identified Petersen as the payer.

But it meant that he was taking sides in a contested two-way race for the Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney, taking the side of the underdog challenger to a popular incumbent, no less. It turned out that the man he struck this unholy alliance with was soundly defeated, and there can be no doubt that many voters saw Petersen’s association with him as grounds for voting against him, as well.

Finally, the downfall of this incumbent was only in part due to his arrogance and attendant missteps. The biggest factor was the light that my local newspaper shined on all these things, something that Petersen didn’t have to cope with in his old district. It is a glorious testament to why good local papers are so important.



## Our Man in Arlington

BY CHARLIE CLARK

Here is a new wrinkle to the well-reported tale of the 1959 integration of Virginia public schools that unfolded at Arlington’s Stratford Junior High.

It comes to me from Mike Broder, son of longtime Arlingtonians David and Ann Broder, he has built a career to become “dean” of national political reporters; she has served eight years in the Arlington school board and working as a frequent election official.

Recall that in the 1950s, Virginia’s officials embraced the “massive resistance” to the nationwide school integration ordered under the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling. In Arlington, black families, the NAACP and white activists teamed up to litigate against the continuing segregation of local schools. The ultimate result was that four black students—Michael Jones, Gloria Thompson, Donald Deskins and Lance Newman—on Feb. 2, 1959, braved police presence and heavy press coverage and to enroll at the all-white school that today is Dorothy Hamm Middle School.

The Broders, who met while earning master’s degrees at the University of Chicago, came to Arlington in 1955 so that David could begin his journalism career at *Congressional Quarterly*. They began a family while living in the Barcroft Apartments on Columbia Pike, Mike reports. While following the state drama over pro-segregation Gov. J. Lindsay Almond Jr.’s decision to close some school systems rather than inte-

grate, the Broders were looking for a larger home.

The owners of a property at 4207 N. 23rd St. were desperate to sell, they learned, for fear that the impending integration of Stratford—on their doorstep on Vacation Lane—would turn violent like the September 1957 integration of schools in Little Rock, Ark.

“They were surprised and grateful to learn of the distressed sale of a lovely home in North Arlington with a nice backyard and close to schools whose price was within their limited reach,” the son says. “Their one act of due diligence was to check with their future home insurance provider about the possibility of acquiring riot insurance. They learned they could add a riot insurance rider for \$60.”

David Broder’s journalism afforded him contacts at the *Evening Star*. So he had a brainstorm. Their new home would offer ringside seats to the drama of the coming integration of Stratford, access to which for reporters would be limited by police. He phoned an editor: Would news hounds in the afternoon daily be interested in beating their competition via an on-the-scene outpost? *The Star* offered the Broders \$100 to rent their basement and backyard for a day.

“Integration Starts Quietly in Arlington,” read the paper’s front page the evening of Feb. 2. As it turned out, the arrival of the new students—though tense

for many — was peaceful.

The Broders wrote a letter to Gov. Almond marveling on how smoothly the integration had been achieved. And though that letter has been lost, the governor’s reply dated Feb. 18, 1959, reads: I am pleased also that there was no disorder when Federal courts forced the admission of a few Negroes into Stratford Junior High School. I am sure that after living here for three years you have observed that Virginians attempt to obey the laws just as earnestly as they resist encroachments upon their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.”

That letter is bound for Arlington’s Center for Local History.

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At the Columbia Pike Blues Festival June 17, Arlington poet laureate Holly Karapetkova took the stage to present the new compendium “Words of the World.” The published verses, dealing with youth identity, body image and diversity, were written during the pandemic lockdown by Arlington high schoolers she mentored, some 38 at Yorktown, Wakefield, Washington-Liberty and H-B Woodlawn. After some public readings, the volume goes on sale June 30.

As proof you’re never too old to come out as a poet, my retired friend Roy Gamse last year printed up a set of his poems on “Talking Frogs, Tall Tales and True stories,” which deal with civil rights and his family eccentricities.



## Little League All Star Play Underway

BY KRISTEN FATZINGER

Falls Church Kiwanis Little League is wrapping up their 75th year with exciting All Star Play.

The Red Team, led by Alex Kuczkowski, kicked off pool play last Saturday with a resounding 11-1 win over Great Falls. Falls Church Red (9 and 10 year old players) was led on the mound by Aidan Izawa, who pitched the entire game, allowing only two hits and one run while striking out seven. The bats were alive for Falls Church Red as the team collected 13 hits. Mikey Baltrym and Finn Thompson each had booming doubles while Franco Perez, Paul Thiede and Gavin Kuczkowski chipped in with multiple hits. Defense was solid throughout the game; the team committed zero errors while making sev-

eral tough plays in the field.

The Blue Team, led by Nick Toman, also began pool play on Saturday. It was a heartbreaker, as McLean came back from a 3-2 deficit to claim a 5-3 victory. Falls Church Blue (11 year olds) tallied three runs in the fourth on hits from Caleb Edel, John "Tig" Fatzinger, Kellan McCormack, and Will Wood. McCormack and Luca Pipia were on the mound for four and two innings respectively, giving up only two earned runs in the game.

The community is invited to come out to these upcoming matches, all at 7 p.m. at Westgate Elementary: Thursday, June 22, Blue Team; Friday, June 23, Red Team; Monday, June 26, Blue Team. The Majors (12 year olds) All Star team begins pool play July 2. Visit [www.fckll.org](http://www.fckll.org) for more details.



A hot bowl of *pho* at Eden Center. Voted best shopping center in the DMV!



THE BLUE TEAM (PHOTO: KIRSTEN FATZINGER)

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## NEWS-PRESS

## COMMUNITY NEWS &amp; NOTES



**THE SECOND ANNUAL Battle of Broad Street** took place on Thursday, June 15 at Harvey's, with 150 people attending to show their support for the Falls Church Education Foundation. Ariiz Izquierdo (second from right) was the winner of the event; her dish "Papa a la Ariiz" included crispy potato skin with potato purée and Aji Amarillo pepper cheese sauce topped with a hard boiled egg. (COURTESY PHOTO: THOMAS HARVEY)



**AS OF JULY 1**, Peter Laub (left) will assume duties as the associate principal at Meridian High School, and Steve Pickering (right) will assume the same duties at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School.. (NEWS-PRESS PHOTO)

### Tinner Hill Heritage Hosts Juneteenth Storytime

On Monday, the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation hosted a Juneteenth "Hour of Power, Storytime" to celebrate the day — June 19, 1865 — when Union soldiers entered Texas and brought news of emancipation to enslaved people in the state, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation and six months after the 13th amendment had already formally ended slavery. Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation works to raise awareness of contributions African-Americans and other cultures have made to Falls Church. Attendees of the storytime were invited to "wear [their] PJ's, bring a blanket and your favorite stuffy and learn about Juneteenth." The storytime, geared towards children ages 4 to 11, was attended by approximately 40 community members, primarily families with children.

### RTEC Treecare Recognized for Fairfax's Climate Goals

RTEC Treecare was recently recognized by the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) as a Green Business Partner.

As a Green Business Partner, RTEC Treecare has demonstrated a commitment to helping achieve the vision of a thriving, resilient business community working to

reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability efforts for a healthy and prosperous Fairfax County. OEEC recognizes RTEC Treecare, along with other Green Business Partners, as part of a growing network of companies and organizations helping to advance climate action and to create a carbon neutral economy.

RTEC Treecare has been a vital member of the Falls Church business community since 1996. Since its inception, RTEC Treecare has protected more than two million square feet of tree canopy in the DC metropolitan area. RTEC Treecare's President and visionary, Andy Ross, first discovered the presence of the devastating invasive pest Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Falls Church in 2014. Since then, RTEC's arborists and environmental specialists have saved more than 140 endangered ash trees in the area.

### FCCPS Recognized as a Top Workplace by Washington Post

Falls Church City Public Schools is proud to announce its selection as one of *The Washington Post's* prestigious Top Workplaces in the Washington, D.C., area for 2023. This esteemed recognition is based on valuable employee feedback from an anonymous survey by Energage, LLC, a trusted research partner. The

survey evaluated various aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution, and connection. Alongside government contractors, real estate firms, consulting groups, and tech companies, Falls Church City Public Schools stands out as an exceptional workplace.

*The Washington Post* hosted a grand awards ceremony on June 15 to honor the highest-ranking organizations. This accolade signifies Falls Church City Public Schools' commitment to fostering a positive and empowering work environment for its employees.

For more information about *The Washington Post's* Top Workplaces and to view the complete list of this year's esteemed honorees, please visit [topworkplaces.com/award/washington/2023](https://topworkplaces.com/award/washington/2023).

### Red Cross to Host Blood Drive at Holy Trinity Lutheran

The Red Cross will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Friday, June 23, from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m. Register at [redcross-blood.org](https://redcross-blood.org), enter zip code 22042 and refine search by the date (June 23). The church is located at 3022 Woodlawn Ave., Falls Church.

### Free Document Shredding Event Coming Soon

Free and open to the public, a document shredding event will be on Saturday, June 24 from 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. Team members will be available to assist with heavy boxes. The limit is three boxes per vehicle. Monetary donations will be accepted to benefit Chesterbrook Residences Wishing Well program.

### Giant Food Round up at Register to Benefit FCEF Fund

Giant Food is, once again, partnering with the Falls Church Education Foundation (FCEF) on a program to help support children facing food insecurity. Through July 27, everyone who shops at Giant Food will be invited to "Round Up at the Register" and donate the round up amount of their grocery purchase to FCEF. Shoppers can also donate online through Giant Delivers and Giant Pickup or by using FLEX points that are converted to grocery dollars. FCEF asks for help to spread the word to ensure that this program is a great success. The funds will be provided directly to FCEF for use to address food insecurity in the school community through the Family Assistance Fund. FCCPS is pleased to partner with Giant Food

in the fight against childhood hunger.

### Council Celebrates 2023 Steve Sprague Housing Awardee

At their June 12 meeting, the City Council joined the Housing Commission in recognizing Ron Brousseau for the Steve Sprague Housing Champion Award for 2023. The Housing Champion Award is given to those who demonstrate their commitment to advancing housing in the region, especially by creating affordable housing opportunities.

Ron was chosen for this award because of his longtime presence in the City of Falls Church community as a volunteer, affordable housing advocate and key actor in establishing housing programs and policies.

### WMATA Launches New Reduced Fare Program

WMATA will begin offering reduced fares to assist low-income customers on Tuesday, June 20, through the new 'Metro Lift' program. Customers in DC, Maryland, and Virginia who qualify for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) are eligible to enroll.

Customers will receive a 50 percent discount for travel on Metrorail and Metrobus. The discount will be



**DOGWOOD TAVERN'S rooftop bustles with activity during their 15th anniversary celebration last Thursday. Guests enjoyed live music, themed cocktails, and specials on oysters and tacos throughout the day. (PHOTO: BRIAN REACH)**

valid for one year after enrollment and available up to 48 hours after online enrollment, and immediately for those that enroll in person. It is free to enroll in Metro Lift.

#### "A Tribute" Named People's Choice at All Member Show

Nafia Sayeed's painting, "A

Tribute," has received the Falls Church Arts' People's Choice Award. The prize is sponsored by DuBro Architects + Builders, 429 S. Maple Avenue.

"A Tribute," which is available at Falls Church Arts for \$260, is a mixed media piece. Sayeed says, "It's a tribute to the brave among us. A tribute to all the healthcare work-

ers who risked their lives to save humanity. Their invaluable efforts and sacrifices will always be remembered as they stood at the forefront of the fight against Covid-19. They rightfully hold the crown of heroism."

The piece was chosen by the visitors to Falls Church Arts as the People's Choice award winner. The theme for this exhibit is All Member Show, Part 2 (L-Z) The show runs through June 25.

#### Virginia Dream FC Earns Home Debut Victory

The soccer team, Virginia Dream FC earned a victory in its inaugural home game. In a hard-fought game, Virginia Dream FC defeated FC Frederick, 1-0. With about 200 people in attendance and a great family atmosphere, the La Raza Taco Truck and Kona Ice Truck were kept busy all night long.

Virginia Dream FC played its first ever home game at Meridian High School stadium this past Saturday. In a tough gritty match in which the Dream played down a man for most of the game, they were able to earn a win and get three points. The lone goal was scored by Terrell Williamson in the 41st minute. The defense then held strong for the remainder of the game and earned

their goalkeeper Alejandro Sosa a clean sheet.

This Wednesday the Dream takes on cross-town rivals, Alexandria Reds, also at Meridian. Game time is 7 p.m. The Alexandria Reds were last season's conference champions so this should be an exciting matchup.

#### Call for "Made in Virginia" Submissions

*Virginia Living Magazine* is celebrating the commodities made in the state by accepting nominations for Made in Virginia Awards. The nominations are open to any Virginia-based business whose products are manufactured in-state and will be available for retail purchase Nov. 1 — Dec. 31, 2023, at minimum. Categories include food, drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic), style and beauty, and home and lifestyle. The winners will be featured in the December 2023 issue. The deadline for submissions is July 7 and winners will be notified in mid-July. Questions may be directed to Vayda Tarleton at [VaydaTarleton@CapeFear.com](mailto:VaydaTarleton@CapeFear.com).

#### Members Voted as the Best of Northern Virginia

*Northern Virginia Magazine* has announced the winners of the readers

poll on the Best Food in Northern Virginia with a number from Falls Church. Café Kindred won the breakfast category, the Falls Church Farmers Market won the best farmers market, Thompson Italian won the Italian category, and Bakeshop was runner up in the bakery category.

#### Chamber Members Promote Falls Church on TV

Chamber members Joe Wetzel and Ken Trotter will appear on an upcoming TV segment on "The American Dream" hosted by Heather Devoto! This video features a behind the scenes look at filming the episode. The segment celebrates the essence of Falls Church through the art and home scene. It kicks off with a tour of Falls Church Arts by Joe Wetzel, the gallery's president and co-Founder. Then viewers will have an exclusive tour of a contemporary home nestled on the shores of Lake Barcroft with Ken Trotter, TTR Sotheby's International Realty. Their segment lasts about five minutes and may appear midway through the episode, with its initial debut scheduled on the Travel Channel, June 20 at 7:00 a.m. The episode also will be available to stream on June 20 on AmazonFireTv, AppleTV and Roku player.

## Motor Lodge Remains Boarded Up Amid Interest Rate Hikes

BY CATHERINE KANE  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

The Stratford Motor Lodge has been an eyesore for neighbors and passersby since it closed and was boarded up in 2021. But it sits on a prime piece of Falls Church real estate, across from the Harris Teeter in the commercial section of Broad Street.

Development proposals have come and gone — including a senior living center and a Wawa convenience store — but high construction costs and interest rates have presented challenges to soliciting proposals.

Commercial real estate firm Rappaport has had 300 West Broad listed for several years, marketing it as a "retail and hospitality" parcel in the "heart of Falls Church" open for sale, ground lease or build to suit.

The site is currently owned by Bristol Capital Corporation, a Bethesda-based commercial real estate company that received the property in the fallout of an Securities and Exchange Commission civil

lawsuit against disgraced investor and developer and currently imprisoned Todd Hitt.

Hitt and his investment company, Kiddar Capital, were the subject of investigations by the Department of Justice and SEC and in 2019, he was sentenced to six and a half years in federal prison for misleading investors about various development projects that resulted in an estimated \$20 million loss for investors.

Hitt purchased the Stratford Motor Lodge property for \$6 million in 2017 with plans to raze the existing buildings, including the popular La Caraqueña restaurant, to develop the site into a multi-story senior living building. This plan fell through after the City of Falls Church raised objections and Hitt's subsequent fall from grace.

Falls Church property records indicate 300 W. Broad was transferred from an LLC that Kiddar Capital controlled to Bristol Capital Corporation for \$0 in June 2019, just days before Hitt was sentenced to

prison. A representative from Bristol was not available for comment.

Since Bristol has owned the property, there has been only one public proposal for the Motor Lodge site. Wawa announced in May 2022 that it had secured a ground-lease for 300 W. Broad to build a convenience store. However, by July 2022, Wawa pulled out, saying the economics of a store without a gas station component weren't viable.

Since then, no new proposals have come before the city's Economic Development Council. In the meantime, the Motor Lodge has its windows covered up with wood boards and is surrounded by a tall chain link fence with "no trespassing" signs.

Becky Witsman, Economic Development Division chief for the City, said the 0.7 acre property presents difficulties to developers.

"It's challenging to do underground parking here because of the size of the lot," Witsman said.

Pat O'Meara, senior director of brokerage at Rappaport, said there is a listing agreement among adjacent landowners, bringing the potential for a develop-



**SINCE BEING BOARDED up in 2021, the Motor Lodge sits on a prime piece of Falls Church real estate. (PHOTO: CATHERINE KANE)**

ment that would span nearly the size of the block. If the right developer offered the right price to all parties involved, they could purchase up to 1.7 acres along Little Falls Street. However, O'Meara sees that as a long shot right now.

"Interest rates and construction costs over the past 12 months

have made it challenging for people to make the numbers work," O'Meara said. "The parcel itself is not large enough to do anything to scale."

Witsman said she knows of a proposal coming in the near future for the site, but declined to give further details.

# THINGS TO DO AROUND THE DMV

## THURSDAY JUNE 22

**DULLES TRIANGLES HAPPY HOUR**  
Join Dulles Triangles for their weekly in-person happy hour! Afterwards, feel free to join other DTs for dinner at IHOP in Herndon. DTs offers an alternative no-pressure social outlet for LGBTQ+ folks in the region, as well as a wide variety of activities, such as parties, happy hours, movies, theater outings, dinners, travel, tours, sporting events, camping... pretty much whatever you can think of! Membership and event details at [dullestriangles.com](http://dullestriangles.com). Breakers Sky Lounge (2445 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA), 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

**HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MEETING**  
Historical Architectural Review Board meeting. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Dogwood A-B, Falls Church), 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING**  
Historical Commission meeting. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Dogwood A-B, Falls

Church), 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

### CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Summer Concerts in the Park Series hosted by the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) and the Recreation and Parks Department returns for its 31st year! Enjoy live music from local bands and musicians every Thursday night. Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket or folding chairs and a picnic dinner to the concerts. Advanced registration is not required. Cherry Hill Farmhouse (312 Park Ave., Falls Church), 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

## FRIDAY JUNE 23

**JUNETEENTH INTERFAITH ART EXHIBIT**  
The D.C. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints celebrates its first Juneteenth event with an interfaith art exhibit by local area artists and authors. Come celebrate the beauty in the diversity of all! Daily through June 24. Washington D.C. Temple Visitors' Center (9900 Stoneybrook Dr., Kensington, MD), 10:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.

### ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING

Electoral Board meeting. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Dogwood A-B, Falls Church), 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

### SUCESSICAL: THE MUSICAL

Favorite colorful characters from Dr. Suess stories transport us from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos in a musical adventure which tests the powers of friendship, loyalty, family, and community. Keegan Theatre (1742 Church St. NW, Washington, DC), 7:00 p.m.

### KUMANANA!

Experience the power of the African beats. Celebrate the legacy of the Santa Cruz siblings that still lives today and is part of the Afro-Latino diaspora. Tickets at [galatheatre.org](http://galatheatre.org). Gala Theatre (3333 14th St. NW, Washington, DC), 8:00 p.m.

### DANIEL GALLAGHER

Daniel Gallagher performs. Dogwood Tavern (132 W. Broad St., Falls Church), 9:30 p.m. — 12:30 a.m.

## SATURDAY JUNE 24

### FALLS CHURCH FARMERS MARKET

Shop the award-winning market every Saturday, year-round! City Hall Parking Lot (300 Park Ave., Falls Church), 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

### FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Clear out your clutter and protect your personal information by attending this free document shredding event. Open to the public. Team members will be able to assist with any heavy boxes; limit three boxes per vehicle. In partnership with ProShred. Chesterbrook Residences (2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church), 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

### ARLINGTON PRIDE FESTIVAL

Events company The Polished Kreative hosts their second Arlington Pride Festival, catered to the LGBTQ+ community. This event has a simple but impactful message, Moving Forward Together. This reminds us of the importance of working together to make our community stronger. Rosslyn Gateway Park (1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA), 12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

### E.B. HENDERSON STATUE UNVEILING

Unveiling of a statue honoring F.C. native E.B. Henderson, called the "Father of Black Basketball." Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson Sports Complex, UDC Van Ness Campus (4200 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC), 1:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

### AARP EDUCATION: SOCIAL SECURITY

Don't miss this free series for seniors and their families, hosted by Chesterbrook Residences! Join AARP in the Chesterbrook multipurpose room and become better equipped to plan for retirement when you learn more about Social Security and the various benefits you may be entitled to. Chesterbrook Resi-

dences (2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church), 2:00 p.m.

### MOSAIC LIVE: GROOVALICIOUS

Mosaic Live is a free, outdoor, all-ages summer concert series presented in partnership with Fairfax County Parks and Providence District. Every Saturday through August 19. Strawberry Park (2910 District Ave., Fairfax, VA), 6:00 p.m.

### ALL 80S ALL NIGHT

Do you love the 80s? The best 80s DJ in the DMV is back! Put on your favorite 80s fashion and come ready to dance for an "All 80s All Night!" flashback, totally rad, dance party! Free glow sticks for everyone. Prizes for best dressed and "Name that Tune" winners. Tickets at [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com). Jammin' Java (227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna, VA), 8:00 p.m.

### HAND PAINTED SWINGER

Hand Painted Swinger performs. Solace Outpost (444 W. Broad St., Falls Church), 8:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY JUNE 25

### DIVERSE VOICES: FESTIVAL OF FREEDOM

Celebrate the rich cultural history of Glen Echo Park in a day-long "Festival of Freedom" featuring live musical performances, storytelling and video booth, children's activities, carousel rides, and more. Part of a week-long Juneteenth celebration. More information at [revelsdc.org](http://revelsdc.org). Glen Echo Park (7030 Macarthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD), 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

### GAY MENS CHORUS OF WASHINGTON

Part of the free weekly "Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park" series. Join McLean Community Center (MCC) in celebration of Pride Month and honoring the beauty in all of us. The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington's 14-voice harmony pop ensemble will sing a fun mix of contemporary pop, crowd favorites and Broadway



1776 REEXAMINES a pivotal moment in American history with a cast that reflects multiple representations of race, gender, and ethnicity. At the Kennedy Center this weekend. (PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS)

# EVENTS, MUSIC, ART & THEATRE

songs — all without a single instrument. McLean Central Park (1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA), 3:00 p.m.

### BOOK LAUNCH CELEBRATION: "ZOYA"

Join the book launch of Zoya, a coming of age story with a twist about a girl who discovers a parallel reality and transforms her life. Northside Social Falls Church (205 Park Ave., Falls Church), 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

### THE ASIANTQUE FESTIVAL

The Asiantque festival celebrates the diverse and rich food cultures of different regions and countries, providing a platform for people to come together and experience different types of foods, flavors, and cuisines. Enjoy live music, dance, a karaoke competition, and art that reflect the traditions of the participating communities. Free entry. Elmer Timberman Masonic Lodge Parking Lot (6911 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA), 5:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

### IRITS

Irits performs. Clare and Don's Beach Shack (130 N. Washington St., Falls Church), 5:00 p.m.

## MONDAY JUNE 26

### WALKING TOUR: T-ZONES PROPOSED UPDATES

Join City staff on a walking tour to learn about the proposed T-Zone updates. A quorum of City Council and of other city boards may be present and public business will be discussed. Mary Riley Styles Public Library (120 N. Virginia Ave., Falls Church), 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council meets the second and fourth Monday of the month, with the exception of August and December when only one meeting is held. The public is welcome to address the City Council on any topic during the public comment period. Sign up to speak at fallschurchva.gov/publiccomment. All members of the public may view the

meeting at fallschurchva.gov/CouncilMeetings. The meeting may also be viewed on FCCTV (Cox 11, RCN 2, Verizon 35). Video will be available after the meeting both online and on FCCTV. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Council Chambers/Court Room, Falls Church), 7:30 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.

### TOM SAPUTO

Tom Saputo performs. JV's Restaurant (6666 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church), 7:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY JUNE 27

### GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Government Operations Committee meeting. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Oak Room, Falls Church), 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

### F.C. CHAMBER EVENT: NETWORKING MIXER

Join the F.C. Chamber for a kick-off to summer mixer, hosted by Alison Miller Realty. There will be complimentary snacks while they last, and a cash bar available for beverage service. Solace Outpost (444 W. Broad St., Falls Church), 5:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

### FCCPS SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION

Falls Church County Public Schools (FCCPS) holds its month work session for the school board on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Participate in-person or virtually at meet.google.com/rmc-keyz-edu. Falls Church City Public Schools Central Office (150 S. Washington St., Suite 400, Falls Church), 7:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 28

### ASK THE COUNCIL SESSION

The public is welcome to attend this session to meet with Council members and ask questions in an informal setting. City Hall (300 Park Ave., Oak Room, Falls Church), 9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.



DR. SUESS comes to life at Keegan Theatre. From left: Michael Innocenti, Kailyn Fetterman, Crianmax Benitez, Stephen Russell Murray, Quincy Vicks, Sarah Chapin, Jimmy Bartlebaugh (PHOTO: CAMERON WHITMAN)

### SWEENEY TODD

Returned to London following a wrongful banishment, barber Sweeney Todd's thirst for vengeance against the corrupt judge who sent him away leads him on a murderous spree. Aided by his downstairs neighbor, baker Mrs. Lovett, the two concoct an unappetizing scheme as they terrorize the city. Featuring the songs "The Worst Pies in London," "A Little Priest," "Johanna" and "Not While I'm Around," this deliciously dark musical serves horror with a slice of humor. Tickets at sigtheatre.org. Signature Theatre (3200 Campbell Ave., Arlington, VA), 7:30 p.m.

### 1776

They knew they would make history, but not what history would make of them. This new production of the Tony Award-winning musical reexamines a pivotal moment in American history with a cast that reflects multiple representations of race, gender, and ethnicity. Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theatre (2700 F St. NW, Washington, DC), 8:00 p.m.

**COMING SOON**

JUN 23	FOLSOM 4	JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE
JUN 24	WARPED TOUR BAND	POP PUNK EMO NIGHT
JUN 30	EYES OF THE NILE	IRON MAIDEN TRIBUTE
JUL 01	BAD ANIMALS	TRIBUTE TO HEART
JUL 07	HARDWIRED	TRIBUTE TO METALLICA
JUL 08	5 DOLLAR COMEDY NIGHT	
JUL 13	SPYRO GYRA	
JUL 14	THE LEGWARMERS	80S DANCE PARTY
JUL 21	NIRVANI	TRIBUTE TO NIRVANA
AUG 16	FISHBONE	
AUG 17	YNGWIE MALMSTEEN	
AUG 18	JIMMIE VAUGHAN	

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 220 N WASHINGTON ST FALLS CHURCH, VA 22046

## F.C. Resident This Year's Global Down Syndrome Foundation Ambassador

BY PHEBE FAHMY  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

These past couple months have resulted in a whirlwind of opportunities for Abby Ashbrook, a 12-year old Falls Church resident recently titled as the 2023 Ambassador for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation. A sister to two girls and daughter to Kate and John, Abby and her family were elated with the news that her hard work and sweet spirit would be officially recognized through the foundation.

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation focuses on medical research to improve the quality of life for those with Down syndrome. Addressing correlations between early onset dementia and Down syndrome, congenital heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease, the foundation ultimately hopes to raise awareness and support research for the benefit of those with Down syndrome.

"The Down syndrome network is small," said Kate Ashbrook, Abby's mother. "We met several people who were part of this foundation because they had a family member, and that was how we got

connected with it."

As an ambassador, Abby was tasked with attending a fundraising dinner on June 7, where she was given the opportunity to speak. Abby used the event to thank the individuals that came out, also thanking individuals for helping her achieve her potential.

"She works hard and has a lot of support to do things that come easily to so many of us," Kate said. "It was fun to see her feel really proud of something that's a unique experience."

As an ambassador, Abby is able to take part in the research and funding goals of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation through representation. Abby stated she felt excited when she found out about this opportunity. She has met with numerous representatives, such as the director of the National Institutes of Health and congressmen, and has attended receptions that highlight Abby's personality and her newfound role.

Kate echoed Abby in stating she was excited for her daughter's opportunity; she furthermore stated she felt privileged in being

able to take part in this long-term project.

"I felt really privileged to have a role in this," Kate said. "To be able to play a role in helping [Abby's] future and the future of others with Down syndrome, I mean, that feels like a real honor."

Abby was asked in January if she would be willing to take on this role as ambassador. Throughout her life, the newfound ambassador struggled with pain issues and a conglomeration of symptoms practitioners were perplexed about. Nevertheless, with the help of research through the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, Abby and her parents have been able to better understand specific factors and causes toward her pain.

Kate noted the Foundation's research has a potentially tremendous impact on the world.

"It's really exciting for people with Down syndrome's quality of life, but also, it could potentially be very significant for the general population," Kate said.

Some activities Abby enjoys, outside of the professional world, include folding washcloths and



ABBY ASHBROOK was recently titled the 2023 Ambassador for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation. (COURTESY PHOTO)

spending time on her iPad, which she stated she would love to play "all day long and all night long." She also plays baseball for the Falls Church Little League Challengers and furthermore made note that she dreams of one day forming a Panera club.

Ultimately, Abby's vibrant per-

sonality and true spirit has resulted in this fortunate position. With this status, Abby is able to represent and be a shining example of diligence to others. When prompted, Abby noted that she hopes others can learn from her.

"If you work hard, you can do a lot of things," Abby said.

## Future of Newspapers Part 2: Competition & Preservation Act

BY SAM MOSTOW  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

As online news rises and printed news declines, newspapers and local journalism in the United States continue to struggle. With the transition to online news, and the widespread ability to consume news for free, more search engines and social media companies are taking in the advertising revenue that once went to newspapers and local TV stations.

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act of 2023 (S.1094), which proponents argue will help rectify these trends, passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 15, sending the bill to the Senate floor for a full vote.

The Local News Initiative, a non-profit organization, has found that more than 2,500 newspapers have closed in the United States since 2005, more than one-quarter of printed publications. As of June 2022, 6,380 newspapers remain.

Proponents of the S.1094 bill argue that search engines and social media platforms connect consumers and local news outlets, allowing "Big Tech" companies, namely Facebook and Google, to profit off

of the content that reporters produce.

At the same time, businesses continue shifting their advertising dollars from local print and television to social media and search engines further hurting the industry. Those who support the Senate bill say that money will, in turn, go back to publishers instead of further padding the pocket of SEO (search engine optimization) companies and social media platforms.

"For most newspapers, unless they're very, very large, the revenue that pays the reporters comes from the printed advertising," said Tonda Rush, general counsel for the National Newspaper Association. "So if you don't have advertising and you don't have reporters and you can't pay your printer, then everything begins to get scaled back."

The JCPA is designed to allow local news organizations to negotiate with large technology companies such as Alphabet, which owns Google, and Meta, which owns Facebook, to put a revenue sharing plan in place.

S.1094 would allow any "eligible digital journalism provider" to join a "joint negotiation entity" to negotiate about pricing, terms and conditions with "covered platforms." The

bill defines eligible digital journalism providers as any "eligible publisher" or "eligible broadcaster" that discloses its ownership.

The bill describes an eligible publisher as those who publish a website, app or digital service with a United States audience, employs professionals to report and fact-check news, has an editorial process for error correction, generated at least \$100,000 in annual revenue, has an International Standard Serial Number and employs fewer than 1,500 full-time employees.

An eligible broadcaster is described as having a Federal Communications Commission license, updates content weekly, employs professionals to publish and fact-check news, has an editorial process for error correction and is not a television network.

The joint negotiation entity would be able to establish rules and regulations within itself, by a majority vote of all of its members. After the bill passes, a public notice will be created to start a 60-day window to join the joint negotiation entity.

A covered platform is a for-profit online outlet that, in the previous year, a) has at least 50 million US-based monthly subscribers/active

users, and b) has either US-based sales exceeding \$550 billion or more than one billion monthly active users worldwide. Google and Facebook are prominent platforms that meet this criteria.

Rush of the National Newspaper Association spoke favorably about the bill, noting that the organization endorsed the legislation.

"We have expressed our support for [S.1094] and a number of publishers have made contact with their senators, pointing out that if we want to have local newspapers covering local city councils and local schools, we can't be letting the social media platforms ride for free on the newsrooms' budgets," Rush said. "Facebook is not paying reporters, but the local publishers are, and it's a situation that needs to be rectified."

In the Senate Judiciary hearing to debate the legislation on June 15, most committee members voiced their support for the bill. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who introduced the bill, referenced similarities to the News Media Bargaining Code in Australia, which forces technology companies to pay news publishers for their content.

"Big Tech is using its dominance

to distort the market and push the price paid to news publishers below competitive levels," Klobuchar said during the hearing. "That's what antitrust experts call monopsony power. The bill allows news publishers to counter that power, raising prices back towards competitive levels and expanding newspaper output... It's allowing for negotiation and competition."

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), who opposed the bill, argued the legislation would help technology companies more than local news publishers.

"It will end up aligning the media's financial incentives with those of Big Tech in many, many instances," Lee said in the hearing. "...This, in turn, will make the media paradoxically even more dependent on Big Tech and even less likely and less able to hold Big Tech accountable."

Klobuchar introduced a similar version of the same bill in 2022. To respond, Meta threatened to remove news content from its United States platforms. The Senate Judiciary Committee did not vote on the 2022 version.



*A Penny for Your Thoughts*

## News of Greater Falls Church

By Supervisor Penny Gross

Now that classes are out for the summer, the results of the pilot project that installed cameras in certain school zones earlier this year will be analyzed and presented to the Board of Supervisors for possible expansion of the program. During the spring pilot, which covered approximately two months and positioned cameras at eight Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 11,000 possible speeding violations were recorded. Locations with the highest number of violations were South Lakes High School in Reston and Key Middle School on Franconia Road. In Mason District, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, on Sleepy Hollow Road, was selected for participation in the pilot program. Data from the program indicates nearly 700 possible violations during the almost two-month study, even though the area is near a construction zone that often has flaggers out for the installation of a sidewalk along Sleepy Hollow Road. The cameras are being considered for activation during summer school; Sleepy Hollow Elementary is a designated summer school.

No speed cameras are posted at intersections around Justice

High School, but neighbors report that speeding vehicles rocketing through stop signs are a major concern. A view of privately shared camera footage shows vehicles, sometimes with loud mufflers, too, regularly speeding, and not even slowing down for stop signs. Although the footage didn't capture drivers' faces, it is doubtful that all drivers were students. Sloppy driving habits seem to be epidemic in our area. Targeted enforcement near Justice resulted in many citations but, of course, police enforcement cannot be on every corner. Safety is the responsibility of all of us, drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

The very popular Spotlight by Starlight free concerts have returned to Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Live entertainment can be enjoyed on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. through August 20. Children's shows are held on Saturday mornings at 10. Log on to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/) for a full schedule of programs at all Fairfax County parks this summer. Mason District Park's regular series began in 1991, making it the longest-

running concert series in the county, and thousands of people have enjoyed live entertainment on the Newton Edwards Amphitheater stage for more than 30 years. The amphitheater burned to the ground as a result of a lightning strike in October 2004, but was rebuilt, better than ever, in record time so that concerts could resume in June 2005. The amphitheater has bench seating for about 400, but many patrons bring lawn chairs; an accessible ramped area accommodates wheelchairs.

International cultural performances are featured at Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive near Annandale High School, on Saturday evenings at 7:30. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to spread on the grass. Many of the performances are interactive, and you may be invited to join in learning a new dance! All performances at both parks are suitable for all ages, and pets on a leash are welcome, too. See you at the park!

► Penny Gross is the Mason District Supervisor, in the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. She may be emailed at [mason@fairfax-county.gov](mailto:mason@fairfax-county.gov).

## CITY OF FALLS CHURCH CRIME REPORT

### Week of June 5 - 11, 2023

Drunk in Public, Hillwood Ave, June 12, 2:12 AM, a male, 27, of Hyattsville, MD, was arrested for Drunk in Public.

Larceny of Vehicle Parts, W George Mason Rd, between noon, June 4 and 9:53 AM, June 14, unknown suspect(s) removed the driver's side mirror from a vehicle.

Fraud, N Maple Ave, June 15, 9:52 AM, an incident of fraud was reported.

Shoplifting, Wilson Blvd, June 16, 12:35 PM,

unknown suspect entered a business and removed items of value without paying. Suspect described as an adult male wearing a black and white jacket, black shorts, black shoes and a backpack.

Residential Burglary, Lincoln Ave, between June 11 and June 17, unknown suspect(s) entered an unoccupied dwelling and removed items of value. Investigation continues.

Drunk in Public, S Washington St, June 17, 9:16 PM, a male, 23, of Falls Church, VA, was arrested for Drunk in Public.

Drunk in Public, Wilson Blvd, June 18, 9:44 PM, a male, 39, of Falls Church, VA, was arrested for Drunk in Public.

## Longtime Falls Churchian Retreats to the Farm Life

BY CHARLIE CLARK  
FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Bob Kuhn, a 40-year contented resident of Falls Church City, has bought the farm.

Literally.

His 60 acres outside of Berryville, Va., in Clarke County (just over an hour's drive from Broad St.) is now his main hangout in retirement after 27 years as a product manager for Procter and Gamble. His wife Alix, who prefers the suburban Little City, remains at their W. George Mason St. home but visits Berryville regularly.

And yes, Kuhn, 71, was a childhood fan of the "Green Acres" comedy about the New York white-shoe attorney and socialite wife who transplanted themselves to an agricultural theater of the absurd. (His wife tapes the reruns). But this was a serious \$450,000 investment he laid down in January 2021 as a special component of his property management projects.

"I had been looking for a project with 5-plus acres and within one hour and 15 minutes of home over two years before buying" using a Clarke County realtor, he told the *News-Press*. "It was way more land than I had planned on, but I knew it would keep me busy for a long time. It was during the Covid period, so we had to buy with no contingencies, no inspections. I like to stay active and always need a project, and we thought it would be nice to have a place for our kids and grandkids to get away to."

The early agenda for Kuhn's Farm does not involve planting crops but "a full restoration of the house and main barn, including new metal roofs for both, which came to about \$150,000." Next came mending fencing and clearing the land of "50 years of dead trees and overgrown brush." That meant purchase of a \$35,000 tractor—delivery delayed by the pandemic. Fortunately, his neighbor is a tractor mechanic, "which really helps when

you are trying to change a 900 lb. tractor tire" filled with water for ballast, Kuhn says. That neighbor also leases Kuhn's pastures for \$1,000 a year to provide grazing for his 30 head of cattle, which keeps the grass tidy. The sight of the cows munching the green from Kuhn's back porch is soothing.

"We get 50 percent relief on our property taxes because we host the cows and he pays us the minimum \$1,000 revenue required," he says. "Total property taxes are about \$1,500 per year after that, slightly different from our house in Falls Church."

The folks around Berryville "are very nice, and the pace is a lot slower than in Northern Virginia," the new farmer says. "Very quiet at night. The neighboring farms have embraced us because we fixed up the 'haunted house' in the neighborhood. They have done fencing projects with us and have come to our parties."

Kuhn has hosted reunions and rock band sessions featuring his friends from Falls Church and Arlington's Yorktown High School. "Berryville is not too far, and there are a lot of good restaurants. They also enjoy the fresh air and animals. Especially with Covid, people wanted to get outside. Lots of kids. They like the cows and playing in the barns."

"Green Acres" is never far from Kuhn's mind, the obvious comparison being "the initial condition of the property. I am very green at most of the things you have to do out here, but the people are nice and don't give you too much of a hard time. We have had a few Mr. Haney's stopping by to give endless advice, but for the most part they are helpful and we enjoy it."

Any homesickness? "We love living in the City of Falls Church," Kuhn says. "We have two married children and four grandchildren still in the area, and Falls Church is important to us. Our kids grew up there. It's a great place to live."



BOB KUHN on his farm in Clarke County. (COURTESY: BOB KUHN)

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## FALLS CHURCH BUSINESS NEWS & NOTES

### Local Business Anniversaries

Two local restaurants celebrated big anniversaries. Dogwood Tavern celebrates 15 years in the city and Solace Outpost is celebrating its' third anniversary. Clay Cafe is celebrating 25 years of business in Falls Church this year.

### Hospital Jobs Resource

The Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association is promoting a website to increase recruitment for available hospital jobs. The site, OnBoardVirginia.com, allows candidates to search and apply for clinical positions as well as those in IT, human resources, facilities, and others. The resource was created to fill openings across the state using links to Virginia hospitals and educational institutions where students may obtain healthcare degrees. Candidates may search by region, tuition assistance and career development.

### Art and Frame Dedication

Art and Frame has moved to a new location, 307 East Annandale Road and will host a dedication on Sunday, July 25 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Eileen Levy & Andrzej Żmudzki Art Gallery is in the building's main lobby and will be officially dedicated at 1:15 p.m. The public is invited to explore the building and tour over 37 artist studios and small businesses while enjoying refreshments and music.

### Favorite Local Salad Named

*Washingtonian* rated its top 16 salads in the area and Falls Church landed one. The fried Papaya Salad at Elephant Jumps made the list. The reviewer marveled over the tempura-style fried shredded papaya.

### Northrop Delivers Navy Aircraft

Under the Integrated Modification and Maintenance contract, Northrop Grumman delivered its first modernized E-6B Mercury aircraft within approximately one year. The modifications upgrade functions that are crucial to the Take Charge and Move Out strategic communications mission. Northrop was tasked by the U.S. Navy in 2022 for the five-year \$111 million modernization contract.

► *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).*

# WHO'S THE BEST?

## BEST OF FALLS CHURCH 2023

POLLS OPEN END OF JUNE

## Where To Find The News-Press

- 24 Hour Fitness, 1000 E. Broad St.
- 450 W. Broad St. Lobby Building
- 7 Eleven (Box), 3019 Annandale Rd.
- 7 Eleven (Box), 201 S Washington St.
- Amazing Smiles, 444 W. Broad St. – D
- Arlington Hospital Center (Box), 1701 N. George Mason Dr.
- Anthony's Restaurant, 3000 Annandale Rd.
- Arlington Hospital Center ER (inside), 1702 N. George Mason Dr.
- Bakeshop. E Fairfax St.
- Borek G Turkish Mom's Cooking. 315 S Maple Ave.
- Bowl America, 140 S. Maple Ave.
- Box at Federal Credit Union, 1226 W. Broad St.
- Broad Falls Apartments, 809 W. Broad St.
- Brown's Hardware, 100 W. Broad St.
- Burke & Herbert Bank, 225 W. St. Broad St.
- Bus Stop (Box), Lee Hwy. and Hollywood Rd.
- Café Kindred, 450 N. Washington St.
- Celebrity Deli – Graham Park Plaza, 7263A Arlington Blvd.
- Central Library. 1015 North Quincy Street.
- Cynthia's Bakery, 5860 Columbia Pike.
- City Hall. 300 Park Ave.
- Clare & Don's Beach Shack, 130 N. Washington St.
- Crumbl Cookies, 1106A W. Broad St.
- Cuates Grill 502 W. Broad #5t.
- CVS, 1150 W. Broad St.
- CVS (Box), 134 W. Broad St.
- CVS (Box), 6404 N Williamsburg Blvd.
- Dogwood Tavern, 132 W. Broad St.
- Dominion Hospital, 2960 Sleepy Hollow Rd.
- Dominion Wine and Beer, 107 Rowell Ct.
- Don Beyer Volvo, 1231 W. Broad St.
- East Falls Church Metro (Box), 2001 N. Sycamore St.
- El Tio Restaurant, 7630 Lee Hwy.
- Elevation Burger, 442 S. Washington St.
- Eaves Fairfax Towers, 2251 Pimmit Dr.
- Exxon Gas Station, 400 W. Broad St.
- Falls Church Arts Gallery, 700-B W. Broad St.
- Falls Church City Public Schools, 800 W. Broad St.
- Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St.
- Falls Church News-Press, 105 N. Virginia Ave. Suite #310
- Falls Church News-Press, 105 N. Virginia Ave. Lobby
- Five Guys, 913 W. Broad St.
- Flippin' Pizza, 800 W. Broad St.
- Floyd's 99 Barbershop, 8296 Glass Alley, Fairfax
- Foxcraft Design Group, 110 Great Falls St.
- Giant Food, 1230 W. Broad St.
- Giant Food, Loehmann's Plaza
- Goodwin House, 3440 South Jefferson St.
- Happy Tart. 410 S. Maple Ave.
- Harris Teeter, 301 W. Broad St.
- Harvey's, 513 W. Broad St.
- Hillwood Cleaners, 165 Hillwood Ave.
- Hilton Garden Inn, 706 W. Broad St.
- Idylwood Towers Condominium, 2300 Pimmit Dr.
- Idylwood Towers Condominium, 2311 Pimmit Dr.
- Ireland's Four Provinces, 105 W. Broad St.
- Islamic Center, Leesburg Pike and Rio Dr. Bus Stop
- Java Loco Coffee & Tea.
- Jhoon Rhee Tae Kwon Do, 1136 W. Broad St.
- Lazy Mikes Deli, 7049 Leesburg Pike
- Ledo Pizza, 7510 Leesburg Pike
- Liberty Barbecue, 370 W. Broad St.
- Lil City Creamery, 114 W. Broad St.
- Lincoln. At Tinner Hill Apartments, 455 S. Maple Ave.
- Long & Foster Realtors, 4600 Cherry Hill Rd.
- Lost Dog & Cat Rescue, 6801 Wilson Blvd
- Madison Apartments, 600 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
- Mark's Pub, 2190 Pimmit Dr.
- Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, 7130 Leesburg Pike
- Mary Riley St.yles Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave.
- Medical Building, 405 N. Washington St.
- Medical Building, 407 N. Washington St.
- Meridian High School, 121 Mustang Alley
- Merrill House Apartments, 210 E. Fairfax St.
- Metro Diner, 4711 Langston Blvd.
- Moby Dick House of Kabob, 444 W. Broad St.
- Modera Founders Row. 110 Founders Ave.
- Mom's Organic Market, 8296 Glass Alley, Fairfax
- Multicultural Center. 701 W. Broad St.
- Munson Hill Apartments, 6729 Leesburg Pike
- N Virginia Av & W. Broad St. (Box), 105 N. Virginia Ave.
- N. Washington & E. Columbia St., 106 E. Columbia St.
- Northern Virginia Immigration Law, 180 S. Washington St.
- Northern Virginia Pediatric Associates, 107 N. Virginia Ave
- Northgate Apartments (lobby), 450 N. Washington St.
- Northside Social, 205 Park Ave.
- Falls Green Apartments, 501 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
- Park Towers Condos, 200 N. Maple Ave.
- Peach Tree Towers, 2042 Peach Orchard Dr.
- Pearson Square Apartments, 410 S. Maple Ave.
- Pete's Barber Shop, 5847 Washington Blvd.
- Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7700 Leesburg Pike
- Pizzeria Orso (Tax Analyst building), 400 S. Maple Ave.
- PNC Bank, 402 W. Broad St.
- Point of View, 701 W. Broad St.
- Post. Office, 800 W. Broad St.
- Preservation Biscuit 102 E. Fairfax St.
- Professional Building, 313 Park Ave.
- Quick Copy, 417 W. Broad St.
- Rare Bird Coffee Roasters, 230 W. Broad St.
- Read Apartments, 402 W. Broad St.
- Rembrandt Assisted Living, 6669 Gouthier Rd.
- Roosevelt Towers, 500 N Roosevelt Blvd.
- S. Washington & W. Broad St. (Box) 101 W. Broad St.
- Safeway, 5101 Wilson Blvd.
- Safeway, 2500 N Harrison St.
- Safeway – Route 29, 7397 Langston Blvd.
- Sfizi Café, 800 W. Broad St.
- Silver Diner, 3200 Wilson Blvd.
- Sislers Stone, 7139 Lee Hwy.
- Smokey's Garage, 1105 W. Broad St.
- Solace Outpost 444 W. Broad St.
- Sonic Car Wash, 1050 W. Broad St.
- The Spectrum, 444 W. Broad St.
- The Spectrum Cleaners, 444 W. Broad St.
- Starbucks, 244 W. Broad St.
- Sunrise of Falls Church, 330 N. Washington St.
- Super A Market, 2800 Graham Rd.
- Taco Rock, 116 W. Broad St.
- Target, 500 S Washington St.
- Target – Skyline Mall (Box), 5107 Leesburg Pike
- Tasty Dumpling, 112 W. Broad St.
- The Broadway Apt (in mailroom), 500 W. Broad St.
- The Byron Apartments, 513 W. Broad St.
- The Falls Church Episcopal, 115 E Fairfax St.,
- The Kensington Falls Church, 700 W. Broad St.
- The Neighborhood Barbershop, 417 W. Broad St. #103
- The Original Pancake House, 7395 Lee Hwy.
- The UPS Store, 1069 W. Broad St.
- Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd.
- Towne Place Suites – Marriot, 205 Hillwood Ave.
- Unity Club, 116-B W. Broad St.
- UPS Store Seven Corners, 6312 Seven Corners Ctr.
- US Post Office, 2045 Wilson Blvd.
- Verso Founders Row, 105 Founders Row
- Westlee Condominium 2200 N. Westmoreland
- Wendy's – Bus St.op, 7391 Langston Blvd.
- West Falls Church Metro (Box) 7040 Haycock Rd.
- Woodrow Wilson Community Library, 6101 Knollwood Dr.
- Yayla Bistro, 2201 N. West Moreland St.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TO: NORMAN A. JONES, JR.**

**Notice of Pendency of Legal Action**

**RE: In the Matter of the Estate of ALBERT JONES, Deceased Docket #2022-0320**

This matter has been brought before the Court by Daniel L. Reinganum, Esquire, Administrator of the Estate of Albert Jones seeking the admission of a writing intended as a Will to probate; for appointment of Administrator CTA; for authorization to serve by publication; setting bond; and for other related relief.

A hearing in this matter has been set down for July 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Paula T. Dow, P.J.Ch., at Olde Court House, 120 High Street, First Floor, Mount Holly, New Jersey, 08060.

If you wish to file and serve an Answer to this action same must file and serve by July 10, 2023. The Answer or answering Affidavit of Motion, must be filed with the Surrogate of Burlington County, in his/her role as Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, 50 Rancocas Road, Mount Holly, New Jersey, 08060. A copy must be sent directly to the Chambers of Judge Paula T. Dow, P.J.Ch., at the aforementioned address and to Daniel L. Reinganum, Esquire of McDOWELL LAW, PC, at 46 West Main Street, Maple Shade, New Jersey, 08052. Courtesy copies shall also be emailed to Charles.Doebley@njcourts.gov and to TBoyle@co.burlington.nj.us. If you do not file and serve a written Answer or Motion within the time periods prescribed by Court Rule, the Court may grant the relief sought.

Plaintiff's Attorney:  
Daniel L. Reinganum, Esquire  
MCDOWELL LAW, PC  
46 W. Main Street  
Maple Shade, NJ 08052  
Telephone #856-482-5544

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

A public hearing and final City Council action on the following is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

(TR23-15) RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE EAST END SMALL AREA PLAN AS A GUIDING DOCUMENT IN DECISION MAKING FOR PLANNING, ZONING, AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, CITY REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES

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

CELESTE HEATH,  
CITY CLERK

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

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

The following was given first reading at the June 12, 2023 City Council meeting. A public hearing, second reading, and final City Council action is scheduled for Monday, June 26, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

(TO23-10) ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCES 2024, 2045, 2056, AND 2058 REGARDING THE BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 FOR THE GENERAL FUND, THE SCHOOL OPERATING FUND, SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND, THE CABLE ACCESS FUND, AND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS

This amendment to the FY2023 Budget would appropriate tax incentive and rent revenues from the West Falls Church development to tax revenue and capital reserves and opioid litigation settlement funds to the budget, transfer previously appropriated funds between departments, and allocate grants and contingency funds.

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

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# IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET DENISE (DUNCAN) BUDDENDECK



Margaret Denise (Duncan) Buddendeck passed away June 11, 2023, in Charlottesville VA. Denise was born on October 9, 1936, in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland to Frederick and Eva (Spillane) Duncan. She was the seventh of nine children and grew up in the village of Drumquin where her father ran the petrol station/grocery/post office.

Denny, as she was known to her family, graduated from Omagh Academy where she excelled at playing field hockey and captained her team. She continued her friendships with her school friends throughout her life. After graduating, she earned a certificate in Physical Education and taught PE at Castledearg High School. She eventually went to work for the Housing Trust and it was this job which placed her in Derry where she was introduced to US Navy Lieutenant JG Lee A. Buddendeck. They were married in June 1964 and she and

Lee moved to the US in 1965.

Denise, or Dee as she was known to her friends in the US, was a busy homemaker and stay at home mom to their first three children while Lee finished school and went to work as a high school teacher. The family moved from Columbus, OH. to Brookline, MA. where their fourth child was born. Denise would pile all the children in the car and drive them to downtown Boston to pick up Lee from work. She developed a lifelong love for the Boston Red Sox. She also enjoyed the times she was able to host her Irish and US family members when they came to visit.

In 1977, the family moved to Falls Church, VA where Denise started working as a teller at First Virginia Bank. She was great at her job and was immensely popular with the customers and her co-workers. Eventually, she left the teller line and went to work for the bank in the real estate appraisal department until she retired in 2002. During this time, nine of her fourteen grandchildren were born, and she was happy to be a part of their growing up by providing Grandma sitting services. She hosted her extended family from Northern Ireland, family gatherings for holidays, and any other occasion as well. She also became a US citizen in 2000.

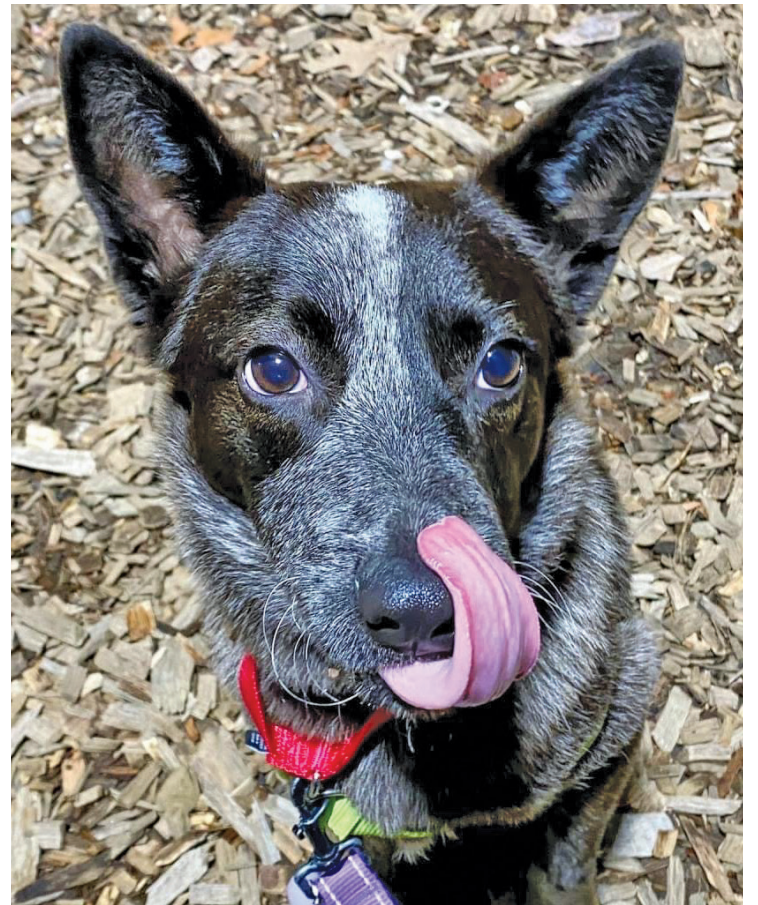
In 2003, she moved to Charlottesville, VA, here she continued to gather her family and help with her now fourteen grandchildren. Denise was a member and an active volunteer at Church of Our Saviour helping

with Vacation Bible School, Altar Guild, Salvation Army dinners, answering phones, visiting homebound parishioners and providing rides for friends. She loved to read and adored her cat companions. She was wonderful at staying in touch with her in-laws, her siblings, and their children, hosting and visiting them in turn. She attended an immeasurable number of dance recitals, school plays, sporting events, and birthday parties for her grandchildren. Her family is grateful she was able to celebrate the college and high school graduations of two of her grandchildren this spring.

Denise is survived by her four children: Katie Coppi (John) Charlottesville VA, Chris Buddendeck Louisa VA, Michael Buddendeck (Karen) Apex NC, and David Buddendeck (Kathy) Falls Church, VA as well as her grandchildren in order; William, Liam, Matthew, Noah, David, Sarah, Toulie, Duncan, Peter, Luke, Thomas, Alexandra, Adam and Andrew. She is also survived by the father of her children and friend, Lee A. Buddendeck Washington DC, her siblings, Louise Cotter and Ian Duncan (Sadie), in-laws Hazel Duncan, Mary Duncan and Kathy and Roy Hutchinson, and her many nieces, nephews and their families who loved her very much.

A celebration of her life is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, July 8, 2023, at Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church, 1165 Rio Rd., East, Charlottesville, VA. A reception will follow the service.

## CRITTER CORNER



RUBY joined our family, including big sister Mayav — a 15 year old lab — and the Falls Church City community by way of Lost Dog Rescue, who brought her up from Louisiana in January. She loves sharing her joy with both two-legged and four-legged critters on the bike path each evening... Thanks to her new puppy friends Ozzie, Marshmallow, Gypsy, McClintock, Jack and many others for welcoming her, and releasing some of her puppy energy.

Just because you're not famous doesn't mean your pet can't be! Send in your Critter Corner submissions to [crittercorner@fcnp.com](mailto:crittercorner@fcnp.com).

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For Breaking News

## The LGBTQ+ Reach

BY BRIAN REACH

### Father's Day

Father's Day, celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year, is a day many focus on honoring their dads and grandpas — paying them visits, giving them phone calls, taking them out to dinner, or otherwise showing appreciation for them.

For many, however, the day is a reminder of deep trauma and loss, prompting some to avoid social media altogether for the day.

Though stories of parental abuse, loss, and revisited trauma on Father's Day are not limited to LGBTQ+ folks, for them parental trauma is far more prevalent, even if no longer the norm; over the weekend I read an alarming number of heartbreaking posts recalling parental abuse and abandonment.

To be clear, I'm *really* lucky. My parents have always shown unconditional love that never faltered. They march in Pride parades, volunteer with me, and when they lived up here regularly came to LGBTQ+ social events with me. Unlike experiences more typical to queer people, my father did not take more time than my mother to adjust — he was enthusiastic about finally being able to support me out loud (they'd known for years, waiting for me to tell them).

My Paw-Paw called the cat an early boyfriend and I had his "great-grandson" — his first acknowledgement I was gay. Every time we speak he reminds me that his father always told him "don't judge

people by their preferences; judge them by their actions."

Even with my luck, I had an extremely hard time coming out. I waited until I was safely away at college before the subject came up with my parents (they finally intervened, told me they already knew, and loved me as-is).

Today, most LGBTQ+ youth still experience devastating familial grief, and the outcomes are hard to ignore.

According to The Trevor Project, only 38 percent of queer youth find their home to be affirming for them, and a full 41 percent have considered suicide — with 14 percent reporting a suicide attempt, including one in five trans youth — within the past year. LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to die by suicide, and at least one LGBTQ+ youth (age 13-24) attempts suicide every 45 seconds.

The same data shows that one third of LGBTQ+ youth still experience family rejection, while one third hide it to adulthood. Only one third are accepted. Twenty-nine percent report being kicked out, running away, or experiencing homelessness. Ten percent are sent to conversion therapy (which does nothing to change identity, but doubles the suicide rate).

The abusive experiences delivered by the hands of a parent to LGBTQ+ friends of mine include attempted murder, starvation, sexual and physical abuse, mental abuse, homelessness... being

forced into shock therapy, locked in rooms or basements, sent to religious camps, institutionalized, or fully abandoned.

It is truly shocking that parental love can be overridden at all, especially by beliefs that aren't based on observation, but cynical and inaccurate translations of ancient texts by religious charlatans, using the fear of hell to control people (and their tithing) with hateful self-righteousness.

### Progress Stalled

If you think the numbers above are alarming, remember that family rejection and intense homophobia was nearly universal as recently as the early 1990s, with families abandoning their sons in hospitals as they slowly died from AIDS. Prior to 2003, homosexuality was illegal in Virginia and 13 other states. Today you can still be fired, evicted, denied public accommodations, and harassed — legally — for being LGBTQ+ in 23 states.

The ACLU is tracking 491 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced across 46 states in 2023, most of which passed or are currently advancing. In Virginia a single Senate seat advantage kept 12 bills targeting queer folk from becoming law.

### To The Fatherless

Many of the finest people I know — including a number of gay and trans fathers (nearly half of queer women and 20 percent of queer men under 50 are raising a child) — had objectively terrible or absent father figures or parents. They survived, grew, and became themselves without the stability of a warm and loving home.

In my experience, the kindest, most genuinely empathetic people are those who have experienced harm. Similarly, the most dedicated and fabulous parents are often the ones hell-bent on doing better than their own.

To those for whom this applies: I celebrate your strength and perseverance, the kindness you show others, and appreciate that you developed that on your own. You're better equipped to listen to and comfort and support hurting people, and understand the profound impact of kindness (or a lack thereof).

Hold your heads up high. You are whole.

### A Quick Primary Mention

Two candidates lost their primaries after being quite weak, if not downright problematic, on LGBTQ+ issues. Congratulations to Saddam Azlan Salim and Steve Descano for fighting, and winning, the good fight.

Thank you, allies, for voting.

## Solar Panels to be Installed This Summer at Meridian

BY KYLEE TOLAND

FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS

Solar power is coming to Meridian High School this summer, and the Little City will soon be soaking up the environmental benefits.

Beginning in late June, the installation of solar panels at Meridian High School will be the latest environmentally sustainable feature in Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS). According to a June 8 article by the Falls Church Climate Action Network (FCCAN), these installations will deliver a "significant part of the electric power needed to operate the building and taking a step toward the City goal of drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its operations."

Madison Energy Investments, a Vienna-based funder of distributed generation projects, will install 818 panels that will supply roughly 20 percent of all the power used by Meridian. Madison Energy Investments develops, finances, constructs, owns and operates renewable energy assets including solar, battery storage and EV charging.

Ben Hunter, the executive vice president of operations at Madison Energy, said the solar panels will produce "roughly 20 percent of total electricity," and generate "direct current (DC) power" from insolation (sunlight, or solar energy) that will then be converted to alternating current (AC) power that can be used to power the school's operations and offset electrical consumption.

"It hopefully shows that rooftop solar projects can have a significant impact on FCC's overall environmental sustainability goals and helps build momentum for more rooftop solar projects in the city," Hunter said.

According to the FCCAN article, the project is being implemented through a 25-year "power-purchase agreement" with SunTribe Solar, a solar installation company based in Charlottesville.

FCCPS Chief Operating Officer Kristen Michael said when the new building for Meridian was built, it was designed to be "net-zero energy ready" and partnered with SunTribe Solar to help install solar panels as part of the school's environmental goals. FCCAN's

article states that FCCPS will pay a fixed cost for power from the solar panel over 25 years of \$0.131 per kilowatt hour (kWh), while SunTribe Solar will pay to install and maintain the system.

"Our school system has a deep and long-term commitment to sustainability," Michael said. "With the opportunity of building a new high school, we were very fortunate to have support from the school board, city council and our community in terms of really looking to be as sustainable as we could."

The panels will be installed on the roof of Meridian, with Foster saying that they are anticipating the system to be operational by "late 2023." To ensure a connection to the school's curriculum, a power production meter will be provided so that students can use it in areas such as math and social studies.

"When we built our high school, we incorporated energy dashboards as part of our sustainability curriculum," Michael said. "We've been really engaging our students in the instructional process with sustainability, [as it] is an absolutely perfect alignment with our goals in terms of instruction."

This is not the first energy-efficient feature Meridian has. Geothermal and high-efficiency Variable Refrigerant Flow (VFR) units for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), high-performance building envelope and LED lights throughout the building are just a few examples of energy-saving initiatives that have qualified the building for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

Meridian is the only FCCPS campus having solar panels installed because the new roof can accommodate the panels, while other schools may need to have their roofs replaced in order to install the panels. Michael further said the school system will "look to opportunities to incorporate solar" for the other schools in the future.

"We're generating electricity from solar, reducing our need for electricity that is powered from other sources," Michael said. "Hopefully, this will be the first of many projects that we do in terms of incorporating solar."



PROUD PARENTS OF this writer march in the 2015 Capital Pride Parade. (FROM LEFT: DEBBI, MIKE, AND BRIAN REACH. PHOTO: TJ FLAVELL)

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