County’s Leaders Aim Efforts on Tourism

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

Fairfax County economic-development and tourism officials have pivoted during this year’s pandemic and tried new ways of bolstering job creation and promoting the county to visitors, whether for business or recreation.

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (EDA) has undertaken a talent initiative, including virtual career fairs, to connect unemployed people with businesses that have been hiring during the pandemic, said Victor Hoskins, the agency’s president and CEO.

“We have worked especially hard to link workers in the hospitality, transportation, restaurant and retail sectors with businesses in the logistics, warehousing and distribution, grocery and even tech sectors that are hiring,” he said. “Every job we save, every job that we help people get, that is a family saved, a household saved. And as you save households, you save communities.”

Thousands of jobs—about half in the technology sector—have been available in Northern Virginia, even through the public-health crisis, Hoskins said. The EDA on Oct. 8 will hold a “Hiring and Reskilling Virtual Career Fair” featuring 20 companies and organizations, including major names such as Amazon, Walmart and Wegmans.

Continued on Page 16

Townhouses on the Horizon in Vienna?
Proposal Would Replace Offices with 36 Mid-Priced Units

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

Nestled between Maple Avenue commercial properties and residences along Church Street, N.E., is a 1.76-acre transitional parcel at 127-133 Park St., N.E., that soon will be transformed.

The question is, should it be kept as a transitional commercial property, or rezoned to accommodate up to 36 townhouse-style condominiums?

John Sekas of Sekas Homes Ltd., who has been building houses in the local area for decades, floated the latter option during an exploratory discussion at the Sept. 28 Vienna Town Council work session.

The 72,173-square-foot (about 1.73-
FCPS Officials Defend Revamp of Admissions at TJ

BRIAN TROMPFETER  
Staff Writer

Fairfax County Public Schools officials on Sept. 23 gave their rationale for proposed admissions-policy changes at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology (TJ), but the public appears unconvinced.

The regional governor's school, located in the Alexandria area, routinely ranks near the top of U.S. high schools, but has been criticized by some for years because its demographics differ considerably from those of the school system overall.

Current TJ admissions policies require applicants to have at least a 3.0 grade-point average in core classes, be taking Algebra 1 in eighth grade, take an admissions test, provide recommendation letters from teachers, fill out a student-information sheet, pen a problem-solving essay, meet a $100 application fee, enhance the problem-solving essay, boost the core-class GPA requirement to 3.5 and conduct a “merit lottery” of qualified applicants, based on geographical location.

If approved, the new policies would take effect in time for next spring’s TJ application process. The new lottery would apply to students selected for the semifinalist pool.

“We are not lowering the standards of the education at TJ,” said Jeremy Shughart, the school’s admissions director.

The new rules would emphasize the admissions test, which screens out some talented applicants, Brabrand said. Some families spend $10,000 to $15,000 per year on test-preparation services to get their children into TJ, he said.

“This is the best way to find and spot talent,” he said. “There has to be a better way.”

TJ accepts students from Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties, as well as the city of Falls Church. Some jurisdictions have declined to allow students to apply to TJ out of fear it would lead to a “brain drain” in those localities.

Under the proposed lottery system, FCPS would set aside 350 spaces for Fairfax County students, with 70 qualified applicants randomly selected from each of five geographical areas.

Another 62 applicants would be chosen from Loudoun, 68 from Prince William, 18 from Arlington and two from Falls Church. Applicants from private schools would be assigned application pathways based on where they reside.

FCPS by Oct. 9 must submit to the state a report on the demographic makeup of TJ’s student body. TJ’s Class of 2019 was 70 percent Asian, 21 percent white, 3 percent Hispanic, 2 percent black and 2 percent of two or more races.

Under the new merit lottery, those figures would have been 52 percent Asian, 29 percent white, 8 percent black, 5 percent Hispanic and 6 percent those of two or more races, FCPS officials said.

(The school system’s overall population is 37.8 percent white, 26.8 percent Hispanic, 19.5 percent Asian, 9.8 percent black and 5.7 percent two or more races.)

Just 1.2 percent of TJ’s Class of 2019 was made up of economically disadvantaged students and 1 percent were English-language learners. Under the merit lottery, those figures would have been 8.8 and 2.3 percent, respectively.

TJ officials have made numerous changes since 2011 – from creating the position of an outreach specialist (later reduced to half-time) and adding the problem-solving essay to reducing minimum requirements for semifinalists – but these have not had a significant impact either on the applicant pool or the demographics of those admitted.

“We must remember, representation matters,” said Leona Smith Vance, the school system’s director of equity and family engagement. “Who our children see around them, who they learn with, will impact how they become as adults.”

FCPS officials must decide whether the TJ admissions process rewards the right student attributes, Smith Vance said.

“For a long time, we’ve rewarded people that have privilege,” she said. “It will be important, when we’re doing any selection process, that we check our biases . . . We all hold them. It helps us make sense of information, it helps us take shortcuts. We must be conscious of our biases.”

Callers at the Sept. 23 virtual town hall, who did not identify themselves, expressed a gamut of views.

One suggested that the demographic disparities needed to be addressed at the elementary- and middle-school levels, not during the TJ admissions process.

Another caller opposed the proposed merit lottery, saying it relied on luck, while a different participant supported the changes, saying they would uncover untapped talent.

One who telephoned in said 3.5 GPAs at some schools were worth more than at others. The School Board is slated to decide Oct. 8 on the final TJ admissions proposal. If the board rules in favor, FCPS officials will develop the revised admission process in the fall and winter, begin accepting applications in December and January and implement the merit lottery in February and March.

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Dranesville Supervisor, ‘Land-Use Encyclopedia’ Lilla Richards Dies at 81

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

Lilla Richards, a former Dranesville District supervisor renowned for her land-use acumen and community activism, died Sept. 22 at age 81.

Richards died of congestive heart failure at The Jefferson, a retirement community in Arlington.

Richards “was the embodiment of the ‘professional citizen,’” said former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11th), who served with Richards on the Board of Supervisors. “Whether president of the McLean Citizens Association or a Fairfax County supervisor, she never deviated from her moral compass nor her commitment to making McLean one of the most attractive residential communities in the country.”

Richards was committed to improving the quality of life for Dranesville District residents and involved in everything from the arts to the zoning code, said former Board of Supervisors Chairman Katherine Hanley (D).

“During the time we served together on the Board of Supervisors, I appreciated her perspective, her perseverance and her dry wit,” Hanley said. “She made Fairfax County a better place.”

Lilla McCutchen Richards was born April 17, 1939, in the District of Columbia, the daughter of James and Emily McCutchen. She grew up in Arlington and in 1961 earned a degree in English and history from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. Her grandfather, George McCutchen, was an economics professor there for 48 years, and a house on the university’s historic Horseshoe is named after him.

Richards was the first female student in the college’s engineering school, but later changed majors after receiving a poor report card. “There was a distinct difference in expectation,” she told an interviewer for a 2019 article published by the university.

“There was still a hangover of the women’s movement,” Richards said in a 2019 interview that also included Carole Herrick. “There were professors who really thought we shouldn’t be there just to get married, which was not my goal at that point.”

Richards later became an editor and writer for the Economic Research Service; launched The Farm Index, a magazine for economists; and wrote for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Richards was elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors following a contentious campaign focused on the pace of county growth in 1987, defeating Republican incumbent Nancy Falck in an election that also featured independent candidate Robert Thoburn.

Four years later, when the electorate had soured on the slow-growth policies of Democrats under board chair Audrey Moore, voters sent Richards packing after electing Republican Ernest Berger in a race that also included Carole Herrick.

“I have always held Lilla in high regard for her dedication through such organizations as the McLean Citizens Association, McLean Citizens Foundation, McLean Project for the Arts, Old Firehouse Teen Center and Pleasant Grove Church,” Herrick said.

Former Dranesville District Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn (R) credited Richards for inspiring him to seek office.

“Lilla was very active in the community over many years and played an important role in the development of McLean,” he said. “It was during her term as supervisor that I first thought of becoming involved in politics.”

Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder in the early 1990s appointed Richards to George Mason University’s board of visitors, where she served for six years. Richards prioritized academics during that stint, and cast the board’s deciding vote against offering a football program at Mason, the University of South Carolina article read.

Richards also was a past president of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and the McLean Citizens Association (MCA). Current MCA president Robert Jackson said Richards evinced a strong interest in and commitment to McLean.

“While our terms of service with the MCA did not overlap, during my first term as president, Lilla Richards would call me from time to time to make thoughtful suggestions,” Jackson said. “She also encouraged the MCA in its efforts to protect the interests of McLean residents during the re-planning of Tysons.”

Richards loved McLean and made many lasting contributions that improved the community’s quality of life, said Sun Gazette columnist and former MCA president Robert Jackson said Richards evinced a strong interest in and commitment to McLean.

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Continued on Page 16

Carol Temple  
Arlington’s Realtor®

“Carol kept me focused throughout the whole process. Her knowledge of real estate is amazing. I never would have gotten to this point without her help.”

— Betsy Andrews

Former Dranesville District Supervisor Lilla Richards, pictured during a 2019 luncheon celebrating the dedication of her archives, died Sept. 22 at age 81. PHOTO BY BRIAN TROMPETER
All-Star Action at McLean Little League


Photos by Dave Facinoli
Plan OK’d for Restaurant to Use Former Bank Space

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

Mint Café, a new restaurant on the southern edge of Tysons, will occupy the space of a former bank, following unanimous approval of special exception Sept. 15 by the Board of Supervisors.

The two-story building occupies a 25,287-square-foot property at 7787 Leesburg Pike, near Ramada Road. The 5,916-square-foot structure’s second floor will continue to be used for offices, but the restaurant will be located on the first floor where a former financial institution with drive-through capacity existed.

The new restaurant will not have a drive-through function, but instead will use that area for outdoor dining for up to 20 people. Officials estimate the facility at any given point would have about four employees and a maximum of 72 patrons.

The application will involve minimal land disruption and no new construction. The applicant, Mohamed El Rafaei, plans to replace and improve pedestrian ramps to the crosswalk at both the site’s entrances off of Ramada Road, as well as the north pedestrian crossing to the multi-purpose trail along Leesburg Pike.

The applicant also will upgrade handicap-capped ramp access from the parking lot; repaint all parking spaces, including ones for handicapped people; and plant 16 additional trees on the site’s peripheral landscaping to provide more screening for residences located to the north.

The restaurant will operate seven days per week between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., but will not have live entertainment or loud music, officials said.

The site will have 36 parking spaces for the restaurant and office uses, which is six more than required under the Planned Tysons Urban Center District regulations. Regular county zoning would have required 41 spaces overall, including 30 for the restaurant.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission approved recommended approval of the application July 29, and Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence) moved for its passage at the Sept. 15 meeting.

“Replacing an existing, vacant, first-floor bank use with a restaurant will help to rejuvenate this prominent location as you enter and exit Tysons on Leesburg Pike,” Palchik said. “The planting of 16 new trees will also help to spruce up this property.”

Palchik also supported the application’s adaptive-reuse aspects.

“A new restaurant and retention of an office use on the second floor of this existing building will fit well with the pending construction of a new hotel immediately behind this property,” she said.

Supervisors Approve 3-Lot Subdivision North of Tysons

A property just north of Tysons that has been owned by a local family for several generations now will be turned into a three-home subdivision.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 15 unanimously approved plans by the applicant, Margaret F. Abbe Trustee, to create the new subdivision on 1.71 acres at 8801 Jarrett Valley Drive.

The site now is occupied by a home built in 1940. The developer will subdivide the property into lots for three single-family detached homes, plus a 35,520-square-foot lot that will have open space, two bioretention stormwater facilities, passive recreation facilities, a walking trail, tree-save areas and a noise wall.

The site, 47 percent of which will remain open space, will have one access point from Jarrett Valley Drive and the home will be arrayed along a “pipestem” driveway configuration.

Each home would have a maximum footprint of 3,500 square feet and a three-car garage, plus parking courts.

Part of the site is located within 200 feet of the Dulles Airport Access Road. The developer will build a sound wall between 4 and 10 feet tall along the property’s eastern and southern boundaries to block noise from that highway and Leesburg Pike.

The walls will be made of masonry, brick or another non-wood material and designed to reduce noise levels inside the property to no more than 65 decibels. The applicant later will have an acoustical analysis done to find ways to knock down the interior noise to 45 decibels, officials said.

To meet the county’s 10-year tree-canopy target, the developer will preserve some of the existing vegetation and plant 58 canopy trees, 21 understory trees and 38 evergreens.

While the existing home is oriented toward Leesburg Pike, the three future ones at the site will be arrayed toward Jarrett Valley Drive, said Aaron Frank, a land planner representing the applicant.

The proposal had backing from the county’s Planning Commission, McLean Citizens Association and adjacent Carrington Homeowners Association, Frank said.

Unless the county school system adjusts boundaries, children living within the subdivision will attend Colvin Run Elementary, Longfellow Middle and McLean High schools. The developer has proffered $12,282 to the county to finance capacity expansion at public schools serving the subdivision.

– Brian Trompeter

Supervisors Approve 3-Lot Subdivision North of Tysons

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– Brian Trompeter
Opponents of Redistricting Amendment Resorting to Mistruths in Trying to Beat It

Editor:

My husband and I voted at the Fairfax County Government Center, and were shocked to see a billboard stating “STOP GERRYMANDERING. Vote NO on Amendment #1. Virginia Democratic Committee Voted No. You Should, Too.” This billboard is not just misleading. Virginia redraws its legislative and congressional district lines every 10 years based on the most recent census. This responsibility currently is entrusted to members of the General Assembly. Historically, the party that controls each house of the legislature redraws the district lines with the goal of unfairly favoring its candidates to the disadvantage of the other party. In short, elected officials redraw the districts to keep themselves in power, which results in politicians picking their voters when it should be the other way around. That is the definition of “gerrymandering.”

The amendment on the Nov. 3 ballot would end partisan gerrymandering through the creation of a bipartisan commission on redistricting that will be responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts, with responsibility devolving to Virginia’s Supreme Court if the commission is unable to reach agreement on the districts, or if the General Assembly fails to enact the districts agreed upon.

Contrary to what the billboard states, the amendment will end gerrymandering, resulting in legislative district lines that are drawn fairly in a bipartisan manner that will not improperly favor one party over the other. Voting “no,” as the billboard urges you to do, will result in the continuation of the repugnant practice of gerrymandering. The ONLY way to end gerrymandering is to vote “yes” on the redistricting amendment.

Shame on those who posted such a misleading billboard.

Sharon and Lyle Lentzer
Annandale

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Yes, We Are at Risk of Forgetting Sacrifice of Those Who Died, Helped Others on 9/11

Editor:

We recently marked 19 years since the attack on our country on Sept. 11, 2001. People say “Never Forget,” but words without actions mean nothing.

Having been invited to the Pentagon after the attack on our country, I won’t forget. I was invited to the fulfill mandates in security.

After success of that, I was asked to stay. They created a career specifically for me. My offer came via phone call to my office in the Pentagon on the day Madrid, Spain, was attacked: March 11, 2004. It was exactly 11 months from when they asked me to stay.

It took exactly 11 months to create that career. I have a photo, with the Taylor 9-11 01 guitar made specifically by my request from Taylor for the Pentagon, was taken inside the Pentagon Memorial, 50 feet away from where American Airlines flight 77 crashed inside the building.

I created a nonprofit, the only one started in the Pentagon, also as a result – and I assure you, people forgot. Trying to get funding to help those who defend freedom, is at the least an example that people have forgotten.

Dave Minyard
Vienna

Our View: Mo’ Money, Mo’ Money, Mo’ Money

Fairfax County’s new-for-2020 commonwealth’s attorney, Steve Descano, apparently has figured out it’s harder to run the prosecutor’s office efficiently than he thought. As Gomer Pyle used to put it: Sur-prise, sur-prise, sur-prise!

Last week, Descano he went to the Board of Supervisors and pushed for significantly higher office funding even though the county budget is under siege due to the COVID pandemic and resulting economic downturn. This is what happens when ideologues ascend to serious government posts. Unlike, say, in Congress – a haven for loons, to be sure, but a place where the damage that can be done by any individual member is relatively slight – a public prosecutor who can’t get his or her act together poses a real problem for the citizenry.

(We might also wonder aloud why a prosecutor who won office by promising not to prosecute so many people is in need of so much cash to make that happen. But we digress.)

Anyway, we hear that supervisors, in private, were even less pleased with the attempted cash grab than they responded in public.

It’s just too bad they can’t tell Descano to take his request to his benefactor, George Soros, whose money helped oust a veteran commonwealth’s attorney who, by most appearances, knew what he was doing.
New Commonwealth’s Attorney Seeks Extra Funding; Members of Board of Supervisors Skeptical of Request

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

The Board of Supervisors sympathized Sept. 22 with Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney Steve Descano’s multimillion-dollar request for more staff, but hesitated to endorse his proposal.

Descano advanced scenarios asking for between 15 and 137 more employees, described an “unsettling” lack of resources in his office. He projected charts showing how Commonwealth’s attorney offices in other jurisdictions had more staff per capita and lower ratios of police officers to attorneys.

“When prosecutors don’t have the ability and the resources to do their work, it makes it difficult to meet our ethical obligations,” Descano said. “What we have is results [under which], quite frankly, potentially innocent people could be wrongly convicted or dangerous people can be left out on the street, making our community more vulnerable.”

Descano outlined proposals aimed at obtaining “ethical, thorough prosecutions,” not just clearing dockets. His office has had a brief reprieve during the pandemic, but felony trials will resume in November, he said.

Supervisors during the upcoming budget-carryover process may boost Descano’s staff by 15 employees, at a cost of $2 million for fiscal 2022. The board usually eschews recurring expenditures during carryover, but this time wants to implement the police body-worn-camera program’s next phase.

The extra staff would allow the prosecutor’s office to handle cases involving animal cruelty, peeping, obstruction of justice, resisting arrest and domestic violence not involving domestic partners, plus every case in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Descano said.

“Interventions at the juvenile level can be very, very effective at ending recidivism,” he said. “A small investment there has a big payoff down the road.”

If the board adds five staffers beyond that, for a new total of 20 and annual cost of $2.7 million, the office could handle the remaining cases involving violence, Descano said.

Because prosecutors will finish the backlog of felony cases by next summer, the office will need 22 more staffers (bringing the total annual cost to $5.8 million) to maintain the level of service described above, he said.

If supervisors agree to fund 19 additional staffers beyond that (61 more overall, with an annual cost of $8.3 million), the office will be able to tackle cases thefts, property crimes and “quality-of-life” offenses, Descano said.

A further 23 staffers (boosting the total request to 84 and annual cost to $11.5 million) would help implement the police body-worn-camera program fully. Officials estimate that program will generate about $9,000,000 ‘worth of video recordings annually, which prosecutors must watch, review, redact, distribute and use, Descano said. His office will allocate that work to all of the prosecutors, as each must review footage for his or her cases, he said.

The office now handles traffic cases involving fatalities and drunk drivers, but needs 53 more employees (for a total of 137 and annual cost of $19.1 million) to address the remaining traffic infractions, Descano said.

“We’re all kind of in a little bit of a state of shock here,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay (D) said of the proposed costs. The budget for the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office has risen 50 percent in the past decade and would jump another 40 percent with the 15-employee carryover request, McKay said.

Descano said his office has 45 staff members including 32 attorneys who end up doing much non-legal work.

The cost figures for additional staff only account for salary and benefits, not other expenses such as office space, said Supervisor Penelope Gross (D).

Short staffing means prosecutors lack sufficient time to review evidence and must farm out much of that work to police officers, Descano said.

Deputy County Executive for Public Safety David Rohrer said police officers and detectives should be protected from allegations of unlawfully practicing law. County Police Chief Edwin Roessler Jr. concurred, saying the additional case duties harm officers morale.

“It’s very frustrating for officers to all of the sudden have to create casework, come to the courtroom and no longer be able to depend on [having] a prosecutor in the courtroom and having to face a defense attorney,” he said. Officials have discussed having the

County Attorney’s Office handle some of Descano’s cases, but that likely would have additional impacts on that office, Rohrer said.

County Attorney Elizabeth Teare said her office, traditionally has handled the county’s civil legal work, but not prosecuted criminal cases. Lawyers in that office frequently rack up overtime and do not need extra cases to keep them busy, she said.

Handling criminal cases also would require more staffing for her office, Teare added.

Descano, elected last November, hinted that his two predecessors, Robert Horan and Ray Morrogh, had not boosted staff size sufficiently over time.

“It’s a real shame,” Descano said. “It wouldn’t have to go through this ‘shock moment’ with such a big number.”

But Rohrer, formerly the county’s police chief, defended Horan’s and Morrogh’s actions.

“I only observed the highest integrity and ethics by them and their staffs,” said Rohrer, who added that Morrogh and his team had identified staffing needs in 2014 and 2017. “They were not ignoring the needs in their office.”

Prompted by questions from Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield), Descano said he did not plan to try cases, as his predecessors had. Herrity also wondered about Descano’s newly created chief-of-staff position. The Commonwealth’s attorney responded that Herrity also had such an employee.

But lawyer Andrew Kersey, a former prosecutor under Horan, said Descano’s chief of staff was a non-attorney making nearly $135,000 per year.

“I have little hope that the Board of Supervisors will put a full stop to Mr. Descano’s blatant attempt to hide his own shortcomings and inefficiencies by blaming his predecessors as he tries to get more money from an already cash-strapped county,” Kersey wrote in a Sept. 21 e-mail to McKay.

Rob Ferguson is as local as they come. A lifelong Northern Virginian with more than 24 years of Arlington real estate expertise, Rob knows the neighborhoods and the local market.

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Steve Descano, who last year ousted long-time Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney Ray Morrogh, says his office needs more money to function, but Fairfax supervisors were skeptical.
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The average person can help the immune system do its job more effectively by making the immune system as strong as it can be.

Harvard Medical School says that diet, exercise, age and psychological stress may affect immune system response. Certain lifestyle choices also can promote a strong immune system.

- **Get adequate sleep.** Doctors believe sleep and immunity are closely tied. A study of 164 healthy adults published by the National Institutes of Health found those who slept fewer than six hours each night were more likely to catch a cold than people who slept for more than six hours. Aim for adequate rest each night to keep your body in top form.

- **Increase your intake of fruits and vegetables.** Fruits and vegetables supply the powerhouse antioxidants that are essential for protecting a body against free radicals. That may play a role in heart disease, cancer and other diseases. Serve fruits and/or vegetables with every meal to ensure you’re getting enough antioxidant-rich foods.

- **Consume fiber and fermented foods.** Fiber can help feed the gut microbiome, which is linked to a robust immune system. The microbiome also may prevent harmful pathogens from entering the body through the digestive tract. Data also suggests that eating more fermented foods can further strengthen and populate healthy bacteria in the gut.

- **Exercise regularly.** Aim for 30 minutes of moderate exercise per day, advises the American Heart Association. Thirty minutes of exercise each day can go a long way toward keeping the body healthy. The U.S. National Library of Medicine says physical activity may help flush bacteria out of the lungs and airways.

Exercise causes changes in antibodies and white blood cells. These antibodies and white blood cells circulate rapidly, so they may detect illnesses earlier than they would if you do not exercise. Body temperature also rises during exercise, which could naturally prevent bacteria from growing.

- **Try to minimize stress.** According to Simply Psychology, when people are stressed, the immune system’s ability to fight off antigens is reduced, making them more susceptible to infections.

The stress hormone corticosteroid can suppress the effectiveness of the immune system. Limiting stress through meditation and breathing exercises, or trying to remove stressors from one’s life, may help.

A healthy immune system is vital to fending off or recovering from illness. (TF207090)

**Coping with Loss of Loved One During Pandemic**

Coping with the loss of a loved one can be challenging in the best of times, but many people have had to confront such challenges at a time that is unlike any other in modern history.

Many of the more than countries, areas or territories that reported cases of COVID-19 implemented social distancing measures in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. While such efforts do not doubt saved lives, they also left many people without traditional means of grieving their deceased loved ones.

For example, in March, the Church of England limited the number of people who could attend funerals to immediate family members only, while restrictions on gatherings in the U.S. made it difficult if not impossible for more than 10 people to grieve together in person.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that grief is a normal response to losing a loved one. In addition, the American Psychological Association says that research has shown that social support can help people recover from such losses.

Though traditional funerals and family gatherings may not be possible as the world responds to the COVID-19 outbreak, those who have lost loved ones can embrace various strategies to cope with their loss even while stay-at-home orders remain in place.

- **Host calls with family members and friends.** The videotelephone and chat service Zoom has helped millions of people stay connected with loved ones while social-distancing. Schools and universities even employed the service when in-person classroom sessions were canceled to stop the spread of the virus. The CDC recommends griefing families employ such technology to connect with each other in the wake of a loved one’s death.

- **Share stories.** Grieving family members are urged to share stories and pictures much like they would during wakes and funerals. Share them during group conference calls and/or via social media, e-mails or other modern modes of communications. Connecting in such ways can ensure no one is forced to grieve alone.

- **Seek support from your community.** The CDC recommends seeking support from faith-based organizations or other trusted community leaders and friends. While in-person church services may not be available, many local religious leaders have made themselves available to congregants and even non-congregants who may need help grieving. Local community organizations may have grief counselors available to help people cope with loss.

- **Take part in an activity that meant something to you and your deceased loved one.** The CDC notes that doing something in memory of a loved one can help people cope. For example, plant flowers in honor of a deceased parent with whom you shared a love of gardening.

Confronting the loss of a loved one during the COVID-19 outbreak can be challenging. But families can still overcome this challenge even if they cannot always gather together in person. (TF207123)
Dehydration is a simple condition to understand, but one that can lead to a host of complicated problems. Many people may be quick to associate dehydration with athletes, particularly those who exercise outdoors in warm climates. But dehydration can affect anyone at any time, which only highlights why men, women and even children should learn to identify signs of dehydration and what to do should it surface.

What is dehydration?
Dehydration happens when the loss of body fluids, namely water, exceeds the amount of fluids that is taken in. When a person is diagnosed as dehydrated, that typically means his or her body has lost so much fluid that it has begun to lose its ability to function normally.

Who is vulnerable?
Anyone can suffer from dehydration, which can be especially dangerous to young children and older adults. The Mayo Clinic notes that older adults, who naturally have a lower volume of water in their bodies, may not feel thirsty until they are already dehydrated, so it’s important that aging men and women understand that thirst is not always the best indicator that they’re becoming dehydrated. Babies may become dehydrated when they get sick with an illness that causes vomiting and diarrhea. But even teens and otherwise healthy adults can suffer from dehydration.

What are the symptoms?
Symptoms of dehydration vary with age. Parents of babies and young children should be on the lookout for signs of dehydrations, as infants and even toddlers may not be able to communicate that something is wrong.

Signs of dehydration in infants and young children include dry mouth and tongue, a lack of tears when crying, sunken eyes and cheeks, and a sunken soft spot on the top of the skull. In addition, babies who produce no wet diapers for three hours may be suffering from dehydration. A sense of listlessness or irritability in infants and young children is another potential indicator of dehydration.

Adults who experience extreme thirst may be suffering from dehydration. Less frequent urination and a dark-colored urine when going to the bathroom also is symptomatic of dehydration. Fatigue, dizziness and confusion are some additional indicators of dehydration in adults.

Can dehydration be prevented?
Dehydration can affect anyone, but there are ways to prevent it, even among those people who are especially susceptible to dehydration, such as children and older adults. Parents of babies who are vomiting or experiencing diarrhea should speak with their pediatricians and discuss the ways to prevent such children from becoming dehydrated.

Breastfeeding more frequently and to take a proactive approach to preventing dehydration in young children, meaning they should not wait until dehydration occurs or symptoms of dehydration present themselves before taking action.

Adults who want to prevent dehydration should drink plenty of fluids and include lots of fruits and vegetables in their diets. Such foods contain lots of water and can help the body avoid becoming dehydrated.

The Mayo Clinic recommends that athletes begin hydrating the day before engaging in strenuous exercise.

Older adults should make a concerted effort to drink more fluids when suffering from minor illnesses, which is when such men and women most commonly become dehydrated. Drink extra water when battling influenza, bronchitis or bladder infections, remembering that feelings of thirst often surface only after the body has become dehydrated.

What is herd immunity?
Herd immunity is a term that often arises in relation to infectious diseases. Herd immunity has taken on renewed significance as the world has been battling COVID-19, the novel coronavirus introduced in late 2019.

Herd immunity, which is sometimes called “community immunity,” “population immunity” or “social immunity,” refers to the indirect protection from infectious diseases that occurs when a large percentage of the population has become immune to that disease. If enough people are resistant to the cause of a disease, whether it is a bacteria or virus, that disease has nowhere to go, and the spread stalls, according to WebMD.

How does herd immunity occur?
There are two ways that herd immunity can occur. The first is when resistance develops naturally when the body is exposed to the virus or bacteria. At this point, the immune system will produce antibodies to fight off the infection.

After recovery, these antibodies are still circulating, and should exposure to the same disease occur again, the body can defend against another infection.

Another way that herd immunity occurs is when children are vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that when the majority of people are vaccinated, it creates the same disease lockdown – fewer people get sick and fewer germs are able to spread from person to person.

What’s more, even those who are not vaccinated, such as newborn babies or those who may not be able to get vaccinated due to chronic illnesses, will get some level of protection because the disease will not be spreading as readily within their communities.

When is herd immunity reached?
When enough of a population is immune to a pathogen it prevents further spread and herd immunity is apparent.

Diseases are different and herd immunity is reached based on the pathogen’s reproduction number, or R0. Essentially, this boils down to how contagious the pathogen in question is.

WebMD says the R0 tells the average number of people that a single person with the virus can infect if those people aren’t immune. The higher the R0, the greater number of people need to be resistant to reach herd immunity.

Measles, which is very contagious at an R0 of 12 to 18, requires 93 to 95 percent of the population to be immune for herd immunity to be reached. The World Health Organization estimates the R0 for COVID-19 to be between 2 and 3. This means between 40 and 70 percent of the population will need to be immune to halt the spread.

In the case of COVID-19, it’s still unclear whether anyone can get reinfected, and whether antibodies produced for one strain can fend off another strain. This reinfection mystery is what makes herd immunity – both through a vaccine or through natural exposure – challenging for epidemiologists in relation to COVID-19.

Herd immunity is an important factor in disease prevention. Getting the facts about this phenomenon is important.
Re-Starting Exercise? Check in with a Physician

Exercise plays a significant role in disease prevention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, physical activity helps to reduce individuals' risk of chronic conditions, including type-2 diabetes, heart disease, various types of cancer, and dementia.

As vital as exercise is to a healthy lifestyle, many people simply are not getting enough of it.

A 2018 report from the National Center for Health Statistics found that only about 23 percent of American adults between the ages of 18 and 64 are meeting the benchmarks for physical activity guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And that problem is not unique to the United States.

A recent study from Statistics Canada found that only about 17 percent of adults north of our border were meeting the minimum guidelines for weekly physical activity established by the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology.

Such figures illustrate the emphasis that many adults must place on getting more physical activity.

But returning to physical activity after a long layoff or becoming physically active for the first time are not as simple as lacing up a pair of running shoes and hitting the road. In fact, the American College of Sports Medicine notes the importance of preparticipation health screening for adults about to engage in physical activity after a period of inactivity.

What is a preparticipation health screening?

A preparticipation health screening is an examination conducted by a physician that looks for particular issues that may interfere with one's ability to exercise. Doctors likely will ask patients about their medical histories and their family histories as well, as each of these factors can be used to determine whether a person is ready for physical activity or any restrictions need to be put in place to protect them.

What happens after a preparticipation health screening?

Once a physician conducts a health screening, he or she will conclude if an individual can exercise and how much he or she can exercise.

Adults who are cleared to exercise but have never been physically active or have gone years without exercising will likely be advised to take it slowly at first. Doctors may provide specific exercise recommendations or refer patients to a sports medicine professional who can help them devise an appropriate workout regimen.

Doctors also may recommend followup appointments to track patients' progress. Such appointments can be invaluable, as they can help people whose overall health has improved after limited exercise ramp up the intensity of their workouts, which can help them continue on the course to a healthier life.

However, it's important that people consult their physicians before increasing the intensity of their workouts.

A second screening might even be worthwhile, helping people and their physicians alter workout regimens that reflect their improved overall health.

Many people aspire to exercise more. In many instances, a preparticipation screening is a vital component for people looking to become more physically active after a long layoff. (HM201574)

Side Effects Could Appear Once Eating Healthier

For many people, the road to a healthy lifestyle begins in the kitchen. But the road to a healthy diet can be a bumpy one. People make changes to their diets of their own volition or at the recommendation of their doctors, and those changes can have a profound effect that might surprise even the most devoted of healthy eaters.

According to the Center for Advancement in Cancer Education, 90 percent of all cancer cases can be prevented through environmental and lifestyle choices like deciding to eat a healthy diet.

In addition, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, notes that a history of poor eating is one of the biggest contributors to the various nutrition- and physical activity-related health challenges that now face the U.S. population.

By simply altering their diets to make them more nutritious, millions of people across the globe can significantly reduce their risk for various chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

People who are committed to eating healthier should know that changing diets can produce some adverse, but typically temporary, side effects.

The CACE notes that such side effects are predictable, as they are essentially just manifestations of the body's adjustments as it responds to eating better. People adopting healthier diets should discuss the appearance of the following side effects with their physicians while recognizing that they are not necessarily a cause for concern.

Skin rashes

The CACE notes that people who have histories of recurring skin rashes or eruptions may experience such rashes as they adjust to healthy diets. That's because the skin is becoming more active and alive due to the healthy diet and expelling toxins that could potentially prove hazardous down the road.

Doctors unfamiliar with patients' histories may mistake these rashes for food allergies, so it's important that patients be open and honest about their medical histories and remind their doctors that they are in the process of changing their diets for the better.

Colds or fevers

Colds or fevers can be another way the body indicates it's working hard to cleanse itself. Fevers should always be monitored closely, even while in the midst of changing one's diet for the better.

But the CACE notes that colds or fevers, while unpleasant, can serve as a natural form of housecleaning as the body adjusts to a healthy diet. Persistent colds and fevers should be brought to the attention of a physician.

Additional symptoms

Some people may experience withdrawal symptoms like headaches and irritability as they transition from unhealthy diets to healthy ones. Such symptoms may be more likely to occur among people who suddenly adopt extreme diets.

A gradual transition may help mitigate these symptoms, as can choosing a less extreme, balanced diet as opposed to one that demands certain foods be avoided entirely right off the bat.

Choosing to eat a healthier diet is a smart move that can pay long-term dividends. But the transition may require people to confront potentially uncomfortable side effects as their bodies adjust. (HM201580)
Is There Proof that 10,000 Steps a Day Works?

Over the last several years, many people have embraced the notion that 10,000 daily steps are the way to being physically fit. Health experts espouse that notion and trainers endorse it, but is there scientific proof behind the recommendation?

The 10,000-step standard – which equates to roughly five miles, depending on a person’s stride length and speed – has some surprising origins that are not necessarily rooted in medical science.

I-Min Lee, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard University T. H. Chan School of Public Health and the lead author of a new study published in May 2019 in The Journal of the American Medical Association wanted to explore the origins of the 10,000-step recommendation.

She discovered the guideline evolved from a marketing strategy devised by a Japanese company called Yamasa Toki. That firm introduced its new step-counter in 1965, naming it Manpo-Kei, which translated into “10,000 steps meter,” and marketed the meter using the Japanese character for “10,000,” which resembles a man walking.

The character and round number proved memorable and the slogan, “Let’s walk 10,000 steps a day” was catchy.

As a result, many people adopted the 10,000-step approach, even though its medical benefits might not have been proven.

But this isn’t to suggest that taking 10,000 steps per day cannot be part of a healthy living plan. In fact, such a goal promotes physical activity, which is a key component of a healthy lifestyle. However, simply taking 10,000 steps per day might not be enough to achieve long-term health.

Lee conducted her own research to test if the Japanese were on to something by inadvertently setting the 10,000-step standard. She found that an increase in walking correlated to lower mortality rates among more than 16,000 elderly American women.

However, when these women reached about 7,500 steps, the mortality rates leveled out, suggesting that those extra 2,500 steps might not be necessary.

Even the manufacturer of one of the most popular fitness trackers, Fitbit, says that users’ step goals can vary depending on need, and that goals may even shift over time.

People who are looking to lose weight and maintain their existing health will need to modify their step count accordingly. Working with a qualified trainer or using a medically sanctioned training program can help people exercise safely and effectively.

Taking 10,000 steps per day may help people achieve their health-related goals. But 10,000 steps alone likely won’t be enough to achieve optimal health. (TF19C480)

Arthritis Comes in Many Forms, So Be on Lookout

Arthritis has name recognition, even among people who are not suffering from it. But despite that recognition, arthritis is not as well understood as one might think.

According to the Arthritis Foundation, arthritis is not a single disease, but rather an informal way of referring to joint pain or joint disease. In fact, the term “arthritis” is so wide-ranging that it actually refers to more than 100 types of conditions.

Despite that complexity, arthritis often produces four important warning signs, regardless of which type of arthritis a person may have.

1. Pain
   The Arthritis Foundation notes that arthritis-related pain may be constant or intermittent. One common misconception about arthritis pain is that it only occurs during or shortly after a body is at rest.

   However, arthritis-related pain can occur while the body is at rest and is not always triggered by an activity that incorporates a part of the body affected by arthritis.

   In addition, pain from arthritis can be isolated to one area of the body or affect various parts of the body.

2. Swelling
   Skin over the joints affected by arthritis may become red and swollen. This skin also may feel warm to the touch. The Arthritis Foundation advises anyone who experiences this swelling for three days or longer or more than three times per month to contact a physician.

3. Stiffness
   This warning sign is, along with pain, the one that is most often associated with arthritis, even by people who don’t suffer from the condition.

   Stiffness when waking up in the morning or after long periods of being sedentary, such as sitting at a desk during the workday or taking a long car ride, can be symptomatic of arthritis, especially if the stiffness lasts an hour or longer.

4. Difficulty moving a joint
   The Arthritis Foundation notes that people should not experience difficulty moving, such as when getting out of bed. People who experience such difficulty may have arthritis.

   People who recognize any of these warning signs should report them to their physicians immediately. Be as specific as possible when describing these symptoms, as specificity can help physicians design the most effective course of treatment. (TF205924)
Exceptionality Reins Supreme in Elegant, Showstopper Property

The Maymount community of Vienna is an always-in-fashion neighborhood of upscale but still warmhearted living, and this week’s featured property is a testament to each of those traits.

An exuberant manor house with room after room of interconnectivity, the home offers luxurious detailing, vast window walls, four fireplaces, four garages and even an elevator. Meanwhile, the exterior is as beautiful as what exists inside, featuring a huge deck, patio and meticulous landscaping.

The result is a home in turnkey condition just waiting your own special touches to make it your own.

The property currently is in the market, listed at $2,195,000 by Lilian Jorgenson of Long & Foster Real Estate.

Marvelous curb appeal provides a fitting backdrop for our exploration of the property, and the showstopper features start right at the beginning, as the foyer is dressed with a gorgeous chandelier and opens to the formal living and dining rooms.

The amenities continue, one after another, including a music room, light-filled sunroom, library (with built-ins) and a family room that overlooks the rear grounds and is designed to meet and even exceed the expectations of the most serious chefs among us. A caterer’s station is an added bonus.

To the second level we go (whether be stairs or elevator) to find ourselves greeted by the centerpiece: an embassy-sized master suite that serves up a lounge area, sitting room, showstopper bath and two large walk-in closets.

Each of the additional additional bedrooms on this level is a testament to elegance and style.

The lower level is designed to entertain, and features a recreation room, club room, wet bar, exercise room, bonus room and the home’s final bedroom.

Well, not quite the final bedroom, for above the second garage is an in-law suite that serves up a separate bath, walk-in closet and wet bar.

As noted earlier, the exterior is just as stylish as what we have explored inside. Add in the central location, and you have a property that is hard to top.

Articles are prepared by the Sun Gazette’s real estate advertising department on behalf of clients.

For information on having a house reviewed, contact the Sun Gazette’s real estate advertising department at (571) 239-8014.

### Facts for buyers

**Address:** 9637 Maymount Drive, Vienna (22182).

**Listed at:** $2,195,000 by Lilian Jorgenson, Long & Foster Real Estate (703) 407-0766.

**Schools:** Westbriar Elementary, Kilmer Middle, George C. Marshall High School.

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**August Growth Significant in All Areas of U.S.**

Existing-home sales continued to climb in August, marking three consecutive months of positive sales gains, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Each of the four major regions experienced both month-over-month and year-over-year growth, with the Northeast seeing the greatest improvement from the prior month.

Total existing-home sales rose 2.4 percent from July to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 6 million in August. Sales as a whole rose year-over-year, up 10.5 percent from a year ago (5.43 million annual rate in August 2019).

“Home sales continue to amaze, and there are plenty of buyers in the pipeline ready to enter the market,” said Lawrence Yun, NAR’s chief economist. “Further gains in sales are likely for the remainder of the year, with mortgage rates hovering around 3 percent and with continued job recovery.”

The median existing-home price for all housing types in August was $310,600, up 11.4 percent from August 2019 ($278,800), as prices rose in every region. August’s national price increase marks 102 straight months of year-over-year gains.

Total housing inventory at the end of August totaled 1.49 million units, down 0.7 percent from July and down 18.6 percent from one year ago.

Unsold inventory sits at a 3-month supply at the current sales pace, down from 3.1 months in July and down from the 4-month figure recorded in August 2019.

Scarcity inventory has been problematic for the past few years, according to Yun, an issue he says has worsened in the past month due to the dramatic bump up in lumber prices and the dearth of lumber resulting from California wildfires.

“Over recent months, we have seen lumber prices surge dramatically,” Yun said. “This has already led to an increase in the cost of multi-family housing and an even higher increase for single-family homes.”

Yun says the need for housing will grow even further, especially in areas that are attractive to those who can work from home.

“Housing demand is robust but supply is not, and this imbalance will inevitably harm affordability and hinder ownership opportunities,” he said.
The six-months-and-counting roller coaster ride that has impacted virtually every facet of daily life in Virginia hasn’t left untouched the commonwealth’s real-estate community.

“The landscape of our business has changed – week to week,” said Kemper Funkhouser, current chairman of the Virginia Realtors trade organization, speaking at the 26 legislative meeting of the organization.

That said, “the business of our association did not stop – we’ve probably done more work than we have in the past. We’ve really shown value to our members,” Funkhouser said.

Despite the immediate impact of the COVID pandemic and subsequent government mandated shutdowns, the real-estate market pulled out of a brief tailspin and has defied expectations with a solid summer rebound.

“Residential housing is booming,” said Deborah Baisden, a regional vice president of the National Association of Realtors, who spoke at the event (held, like most other meetings these days, “virtually” due to the pandemic).

The Virginia real-estate market started surging back to life in June, fueled by pent-up demand. Coupled with an inventory shortage that was baked in even before the pandemic, that burst of home-buying has pushed median home prices statewide to $332,000 in July, up 7.4 percent from a year before. Median prices were up in all corridors of the commonwealth that month, ranging from $130,000 in Southern Virginia to $513,677 in Northern Virginia.

“We with great challenges we see great opportunities,” said Funkhouser, a Realtor from the Shenandoah Valley. “Our members are more engaged.”

The organization has worked throughout the year to build partnerships in efforts to support, and at times oppose, legislation emanating from the new Democratic majority in Richmond. In addition, the trade group is implementing its new strategic plan, adopted in the summer of 2019.

The plan is “so critically important,” said Virginia Realtors’ CEO Terrie Suit, because it allows staff to take a long-term approach to meeting the needs of members.

“In the old days … year to year, those goals would change,” Suit said.

Homes Getting More Per Square Foot Across Area

Homeowners across the region were getting more, on a per-square-foot basis, for their properties during the first eight months of the year compared to 2019, according to new data.

Each of the five major jurisdictions in Northern Virginia saw boosts in average sales price per square foot in the January-to-August timeframe, according to data reported in mid-September by MarketStats by ShowingTime.

As always, the average varied significantly by locality:

- The average per-square-foot cost of homes sold in Arlington was $453, up from $434 during the same period in 2019.
- The average cost in Alexandria ($396) was up from $368.
- The average cost in Falls Church ($391) was up from $374.
- The average cost in Fairfax County ($289) was up from $279.
- The average cost in Loudoun County ($209) was up from $198.
- The average cost in Prince William County ($175) was up from $168.

Across the region, the highest per-square-foot cost for the first eight months of the year was turned in by the District of Columbia at $499, up from $488.

In the Maryland suburbs, the per-square-foot cost rose from $247 to $251 in Montgomery County and from $181 to $190 in Prince George’s County.

Mid-Sized Cities Find Success in New Survey

A new Zillow analysis shows mid-sized cities are now leading the country as expensive coastal metros such as San Francisco and Seattle that had led the way in the past.

Many of these markets also happen to be the top markets poised for growth, replacing the metros that were once in the spotlight.

As always, the average varied significantly by locality:

2. Ogden (Utah): Population 600,000; typical home value: $344,816.
3. Ogden (Utah): Population 600,000; typical home value: $344,816.
8. Ogden (Utah): Population: 600,000; typical home value: $344,816.
9. Ogden (Utah): Population 600,000; typical home value: $344,816.

Home sales increased a whopping 75.7 percent from the previous month, and are 17.7 percent above last year’s levels.

Rounding out the top 10: Colorado Springs (Colo.): Population: 465,000; typical home value: $336,927.
Lancaster (Pa.): Population 520,000; typical home value: $242,009.
Modesto (Calif.): Population 515,000; typical home value $340,762.
Syracuse (N.Y.): Population: 665,000; typical home value $154,596; and Visalia (Calif.): Population 445,000; typical home value $232,800.

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McLean AAUW HAS SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISER: The McLean area branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) raised $25,700 through a fund-raiser effort conducted in lieu of the organization’s annual fall used-book sale, which was canceled due to the public-health situation.

“The branch was particularly rewarded by the many notes and comments we received from the community, expressing their support and shared disappointment in not having a book sale this year,” organizers said.

While down from the record $47,000 raised by the 2019 book sale, the event was deemed a success. Funding will support scholarships for women attending George Mason, Marymount and Trinity universities.

“This money is greatly needed by these women, who are often single moms,” AAUW officials said.

As part of the fund-raiser, there was a raffle of baseballs signed by Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer, which resulted in nearly half the total amount raised. Winner of the balls were K. Robbett of Alexandria, T. Spulak of McLean and J. Reimers of Falls Church.

McLEAN PROJECT FOR ARTS PREPS ‘VIRTUAL’ ARTFEST: The McLean Project for the Arts’ 14th annual MPAArtfest, with activities running from Oct. 4-18 at www.mpaartfest.org.

The work of more than 50 juried artists will be on view and for sale, and there will be an online version of the Children’s Art Walk (sponsored by the New Dominion Women’s Club), artist talks and musical performances.

There is no charge for anything except musical performances. For information and a schedule of events, call (703) 790-1953 or see the Website at www.mpaart.org.

SOUL SINGERS TO HELP KICK OFF ART FEST: The McLean Project for the Arts’ 14th annual MPAArtfest 2020 will kick off on Sunday, Oct. 4 with two “drive-in” concerts in the parking lot at the McLean Community Center.

Starring the “Voices of Classic Soul” – a trio comprised of the lead singers from four legendary vocal groups: the Drifters, Four Tops, Platters and Temptations – concerts will take place at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Concert attendees will be treated to incredible showmanship, classic dance moves, and some of the biggest hits of all time, including “My Girl,” “The Way You Do the Things You Do,” “Get Ready,” “Only You,” “Under the Boardwalk” and “Save the Last Dance for Me.”

Tickets are $25; participants can view the concert in or on their cars, with vehi

Over the course of its history, almost $1.8 million has been presented to non-profit organizations.

Recently, grants were awarded to SHARE Inc., Clenjontri Park, McLean High School, Churchill Road Elementary School and Franklin Sherman Elementary School.

Applications can be found on the Website at www.mfcbonline.org.

‘PET FEST’ MOVED TO ONLINE FORMAT: The McLean Community Center’s 2020 Pet Fest has been transformed into a “virtual” event, to run from Sept. 27 to Nov. 26 online.

Programming will include a petting zoo, dog-obedience tricks, pet-adoption information, dog-trick demonstrations and exhibitors with pet-related products.

“Pet lovers will find a lot to love,” said Matthew Hockensmith, special-events assistant manager at the center. “It’s perfect for pet owners or anyone thinking about becoming a pet owner.”

There is no charge, but registration is required. For information, see the Website at www.mcleancenter.org.

SHEPHERD’S CENTER SEeks VOLUNTEER DRivers: The Shepherd’s Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church is seeking volunteer drivers to assist seniors in getting to medical, therapy and other appointments.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, and will receive training. Volunteers need only accept requests for rides that fit their time availability, and there is no minimum number of rides required.

Volunteers are covered by insurance, and the miles driven in many cases are tax-deductible.

For information, call (703) 506-2199 or see the Website at www.scmafc.org.

VIENNA COMMUNITY BAND PREPPING FOR ‘POP-UP’ PERFORMANCES: The Vienna Community Band is organizing small musical groups to present “pop-up” concerts across Vienna.

“Keep your ears attuned to the sound of musical strains as you are out and about in your neighborhoods or within the town or strolling about,” organizers said.

Rehearsals and performances of the main band have been canceled through December due to the public-health situation, but new musicians are being sought in all sections. Particularly in need are flutes, clarinets, bassoons, oboes, tubas and euphoniums.

For information, see the Website at www.viennacomunityband.org.

Vienna/Oakton Notes

‘CROP WALK’ TO BE OFFERED IN TWO FORMATS: The annual Vienna CROP Hunger Walk this year will be offered two ways.

Funds raised through the event will support the Committee for Helping Others and Church World Service, which provide hunger-relief support at the local and international levels, respectively.

The event will kick off on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. at Vienna Court Condos, 133 Park St., N.E. Participants can walk on that day, or do the walk on their own or with others anytime through Oct. 24.

For details and registration, see the Website at www.crophungwalk.org/vienna.

MADISON BAND ‘TAG DAY’ EVENT IN NEW FORMAT FOR 2020: The James Madison High School “Pride of Vienna” Band is conducting its annual tag-day fundraiser in a different format this year.

Because of restrictions on students canvassing communities, parents will be distributing tag-day information through neighborhoods in the school’s attendance area. The effort will run through Oct. 3.

For information and to make a contribution, see the Website at www.jmhsband.org.

VIENNA COMMUNITY BAND PREPPING FOR ‘POP-UP’ PERFORMANCES: The Vienna Community Band is organizing small musical groups to present “pop-up” concerts across Vienna.

Because of restrictions on students canvassing communities, parents will be
Public-Safety Notes

**Schools & Military**

Margaret McLaughlin of McLean has been named to the dean’s list for the spring semester at St. Lawrence University.

Our Lady of Good Counsel parish and school in Vienna has launched a unified once-a-month giving-outreach program to promote fellowship and community service.

“The goal is to conduct each drive on a single day – or weekend each month,” parish leaders said. “The month’s communications and liturgies will coordinate with the drive. The mission, so that we are praying for the organizations and those that we are helping. During the month, we will showcase the organization – explain the mission and give a spiritual reflection on it. Someone may talk to the students at the school and CCF [Catholic Community Foundation] so they are aware of what the organization is and how it affects those in need.”

Devised by Father Matt Hillyard with the Omaha Community Foundation, the program to promote fellowship and community service is offering a new program to provide support to families doing distance-learning due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“The Learning Connection” is a supervised e-learning program held at the center and supervised by staff, designed for students in fifth through 10th grades. The program will provide a supervised environment for students to complete their individual, school-led “virtual” instruction. In addition, staff will provide limited socially-distanced recreation opportunities for students during their breaks.

The program meets Tuesdays through Fridays, and parents can drop off students as early as 7 a.m. and pick them up as late as 3 p.m. Three of the four sessions remain open for registration. More information can be found [here](https://www.mccfalcons.org/).
Tourism
Continued from Page 1

The Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance, of which the EDA is a member, recently finished a 12-part Webinar series that gave companies information, resources and guidance to survive the pandemic and succeed in the future, Hoskins said.

The Board of Supervisors also has allo- cated $5 million in federal CARES Act money, plus $1 million in such funds supplied by the town of Vienna, to finance the county's Fairfax RISE (Relief Initia- tive to Support Employers) grant pro- gram, which benefits small businesses and non-profit groups.

The Fairfax County Convention & Visitors Corp. (isit Fairfax) has been promo- loping local businesses with a campaign titled “We’ll Be Ready for You,” which aims to reassure the public that proper precautions are in place. Fairfax County’s hotels and restaurants “truly have gone over and above” to ensure safe experienc- es for their customers, said Barry Biggar, its president and CEO.

“We’re now at a point where people are feeling a little more comfortable about traveling,” he said.

Visit Fairfax did not lay off or furlough any employees during the pandemic and continued serving its stakeholders, Biggar said.

“We repositioned, stopped all our mar- keting and really concentrated inside the county,” Biggar said. “We needed to make sure, first and foremost, that all of our in- dustry stakeholders – hotels, restaurants, the attractions, retail and the like – all had the necessary information they needed to continue to have their doors open and em- ploy people.”

The pandemic likely will have far- reaching effects on how and when people work, he said. Teleworking’s popularity likely will continue even after the pan- demic abates, said Biggar.

About 20 percent of people who have been working from home during the crisis say they’ve never been happier with their jobs, Biggar said. This shift in the work- force also will alter future commuting patterns and decrease roadway backups, he said.

Teleworking has plenty of advantages, from monetary savings to potentially in- creased productivity, but operating from one’s actual workplace can be beneficial, too, Biggar said.

“I’ve been coming in ever since this all began and as a result I think my outlook on life and my general, overall emotional well-being, have been more positive and happy,” he said. “If I was staying home this time, I think I’d get a little stir- crazy.”

Increased reliance on virtual meet- ings may herald a sea change in business travel. Companies will be less likely to fly employees long distances to meet with cli- ents when a Web call would suffice, Biggar said.

“Corporate travel as we once knew it is indeed now going to be permanently af- fected by all of this,” he said.

The pandemic also has clobbered the airline industry, which now is running only at about one-quarter of its potential, Biggar said.

“Travel and tourism is so dependent on access,” he said. “The leisure travel will certainly come back first. People are still traveling, but they’re taking trips of a shorter distance.”

Corporate travel, upon which hotels largely depend, likely will not recover until 2022. Conventions and conferences have switched mostly to a “virtual” for- mat – and have seen significantly more participation because of the increased convenience and decreased travel costs.

“Annual conventions are costing organi- zers a quarter of what it would be if they were to do it person-to-person,” Biggar said. “And in almost every case, they’re seeing higher attendance. So it’s going to take a while for that to come back.”

Industry watchers expect travel and tourism will not return to pre-COVID-19 levels until 2023; Biggar more optimisti- cally pegged the recovery at a year ear- lier. Student travel likely will not return to normal levels for another two to three years, he predicted.

Townhome
Continued from Page 1

acre) property now is occupied by the Vi- enna Courts commercial condominiums, which consists of four three-story brick buildings. The structures, built in 1973, have a total of about 24,000 square feet of office space and are served by 80 park- ing spaces.

The site currently is zoned T-Transi- tional, which allows for professional uses. Twelve tenants now occupy the site, but the majority owner has eight of them and is moving elsewhere, Sekas said.

A developer by-right could build a 72,000-square-foot, three-story condo- minium on the property, Sekas said.

But Council member Charles Ander- son, citing the Vienna Market mixed-use development being built across the street from his house, said builders had said similar things about sizeable commercial buildings that otherwise could have been constructed there. Market forces dictated otherwise, Anderson said.

Anderson called the property a “secret gem” and said town officials needed to make sure it is used for its best purpose, including possibly for a parking garage. Anderson questioned whether a new office building at the site would prove marketable, given fears prompted by the pandemic. Sekas countered that office condominiums like the one he uses likely will be more popular in the future, as they have separate entrances and no common areas.

“They’re safe, small, convenient and manageable,” he said.

Sekas may ask the town to rezone the site to RM-2, which would permit resi- dential development, which could cost up to $375,000 per unit. RM-2 lots have to be at least 2,000 square feet, so up to 36 units could be built.

Sekas is pondering a development with a 36,000-square-foot footprint and park- ing underneath, which would leave about 49 percent of the site as open space. The developer said such a project possibly could result in residential units priced at between $700,000 and $900,000.

“There is a need for mid-priced hous- ing,” said Sekas, who acknowledged that term is relative in Vienna’s always-hot real-estate market.

The town often is ranked as one of the country’s based places to live and, as re- sult, homebuyers are willing to pay a pre- mium and sellers aren’t willing to lower their prices, Sekas said. Low interest rates also buyers to go deeper into debt for a larger home, he said.

Developers often pay $700,000 for a 10,000-square-foot parcel in the town, and hence need to construct buildings that have their doors open and em- ploy people.”

“We look to make, believe it or now, a very marginal gross profit,” he said.

Given the Town Council’s decision later this year to scrap the Maple Ave- nue Commercial zoning ordinance, which drew plenty of interest from developers and heated opposition from some resi- dents, there is little room left in town for this kind of multi-family housing, Sekas said.

The property now does not have a storm-water-management system, but if it were redeveloped with such a system – at a cost of about $400,000 – “we’d be responsible for capturing every drop of rain,” he said.

Any rezoning proposal first would have to be reviewed by the Vienna Plan- ning Commission and then sent to the Town Council for final approval.

The Council tentatively agreed to take up Sekas’ proposal at a Dec. 14 work session. In the meantime, the developer will prepare sample layouts for different scenarios and solicit input from Council members, one or two at a time, at Town Hall.

Richards
Continued from Page 3

Richards will be buried at a later date at Pleasant Grove Church in McLean, which she helped preserve when she was a county supervisor.

“She was very faithful in getting in- junctive support to save the church,” said Judith Mueller of McLean, who also has been active in those efforts.

Schools & Military
Continued from Page 15

sion 2 will be held Oct. 6 through Oct. 30; Session 3 will be held Nov. 4 through Nov. 24; and Session 4, which will be held for
Marshall Seniors Commit

Twins to Play for St. Louis College

DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writer

Twin sisters Christina and Mary Trivisonno, who have helped the Marshall Statesmen win two region high-school championships in the last three years, recently made their commitments to play women’s college basketball at Washington University in St. Louis.

Washington University is a high-level Division III team that has won multiple national championships in program history. The sisters plan to major in business.

“The family is excited about this opportunity,” said their father, Mike Trivisonno, who is the girls head coach at Marshall High School. “They wanted a good academic school where they could play basketball together.”

As juniors last winter, the guards helped engineer Marshall’s 37-35 victory over the previously undefeated Madison Warhawks in the 6D North State Tournament over the previously undefeated Madison Warhawks in the 6D North State Tournament.

Vienna 180’s postseason record this past summer was 0-2 in what became a 9-7 finish independent from Legion baseball season. The team basically had two four-hit games and doubles and a triple. Huebsch drove in four runs. He had two four-hit games and doubles and a triple. Huebsch had 27 hits, including two home runs, in finishing 9-7.

“Braden was such a special player for the Virginia Tech club team,” said Vienna manager Nick Good. “He is as fierce a competitor that I’ve ever seen.”

This summer, Huebsch had a brief shoulder issue that he nursed at the beginning of the campaign, limiting his innings during the early portion of the campaign. Good pointed out that, interestingly, Huebsch’s batting average was higher this past season than last summer after only playing limited ball for the Virginia Tech club team.

“Braden could have pursued many college baseball opportunities, but his brilliance as a high-school student and now as a computer engineer at Virginia Tech is going to take him to the summit of success,” Good said.

Vienna 180’s post-season record this past summer was 0-2 in what became a season independent from Legion baseball.

Vienna Post 180 Selects Summer-Season MVP

DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writer

With a team-high .422 batting average, a 2.1 pitching record and a stingy 1.28 earned run average, Braden Huebsch was chosen as Vienna Post 180 Most Valuable Player for the 2020 summer American Legion baseball season.

The right-handed pitcher worked 14 innings, struck out 19, walked only two and had a save for Vienna, which finished 9-7.

With the bat, the right-handed-hitting Huebsch had 27 hits, including two doubles and a triple. Huebsch drove in eight runs, walked eight times and scored 17 runs. He had two four-hit games and two more with three hits each. He totaled nine multi-hit contests.

Huebsch plays club baseball during the spring college season at Virginia Tech University. The team basically had no season last spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Braden was such a special player to coach,” Vienna manager Nick Good said. “While he has an unassuming stature, he is as fierce a competitor that I’ve ever been around.”

A year ago, Huebsch compiled an 8-0 record in helping Vienna win district-and state-tournament championships, and coming one victory within reaching the Legion World Series as the team enjoyed its best summer season in the program’s long history.

More on the Web

- High-school roundup.
- Youth-sports results.

For more sports, visit: www.insidenova.com/sports/Fairfax

Chilly Temps, Rain Don’t Stop Masters Swimmers

It is an intrepid crew for sure that regularly swims in all kinds of outdoor conditions – cold, rain, wind, dark and the early mornings – this time of the year.

They are the adult Masters swimmers throughout Northern Virginia. The group rents pool time, often each day for a few hours, from various outdoor neighborhood pools that are open during the spring and summer. Sometimes the swimmers start as early as 5 a.m.

When most pools close over Labor Day Weekend, the Masters continue swimming at those pools, sometimes renting time through September.

During September, the temperatures can cool a good bit, as has been the case in recent days. But that doesn’t stop the Masters.

One recent morning, many Masters filled the lanes of such a pool and were swimming away despite the chilly 48-degree outdoor temperature. That neighborhood pool, and those swimmers who were not wearing wetsuits, are regularly seen from the back second-floor window of home owners Wendy and Karl Kunc, who live in Northern Virginia.

Wendy snapped a photo of those swimming in the water on that 48-degree morning, and added a comment.

“I could hear them [swimmers] churning through the water like Beluga whales from inside [our house],” Wendy said.

A few days earlier, on another cold morning, and also raining and windy, at the same pool, the swimmers went about the routines. They didn’t stop or hesitate because of the nasty weather.

Actually, Masters swimmers prefer colder water. They often complain, during summer’s hottest days, that the water they swim in at those pools becomes too warm for their liking.

The Masters probably would swim through the winter at outdoor pools if such a situation could be arranged and the water didn’t freeze over.


Stop Masters Swimmers

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Beginning with the 2021-22 high-school sports season, the Marshall Statesmen will return to the Liberty District.

Marshall, which currently plays in the National District, last participated in the Liberty during the 2013-14 campaign. That year, Marshall was realigned into the National, which was renamed the Capital Conference for a few years, then changed back to the National.

In re-entering the Liberty District, which will consist of seven teams, Marshall teams again will regularly play natural close-by neighborhood rivals like the McLean Highlanders and Langley Saxons. Those two schools have remained in the Liberty since Marshall’s departure.

The three teams will renew their popular rivalries in many sports.

The performance on our way and tried to play teams like Langley and McLean anyhow as part of our non-district schedule,” Marshall girls basketball coach Mike Trivisonno said. “It will be fun to resume those rivalries on a regular basis.

One of the drawbacks to Marshall returning to the Liberty District is the Statesmen could have a more difficult time winning as many district championships as they did in so many sports while members of the National District.

The overall competition in the Liberty District is considered stiffer in many sports than the National. Nearly every Marshall team won a district title while in the National.

Also, Marshall’s big rivalries in boys and girls basketball with the Edison Eagles, when the teams often met multiple times during a season, won’t be as frequent. The girls basketball meetings became among the biggest in the area.

“The Edison rivalry has been so much fun for both programs. Edison has made us better, and we will miss that,” Trivisonno said. “Hopefully we can still play them in our non-district schedule.”

One of Marshall’s most successful teams in National District play was the Marshall High School girls field hockey team had a perfect six-year winning region in National District tournament play, winning each championship.

The Marshall team won a district title while in the National.

Senior Softball: Join Northern Virginia Senior Softball to play slow-pitch softball, with the average age of 66, and no tryouts, just an assessment to place players on teams in three skill-level conferences. Visit nvss.org or call Dave at (703) 663-7881 for information and to find out if the upcoming seasons are still on schedule with the COVID-19 situation.

Fairfax Adult Softball: Fairfax County Adult Softball offers play for men and women in a number of different leagues and for various ages. To register and for more information about the league, visit www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Vienna Youth Soccer: Vienna Youth Soccer’s house soccer program is open to all boys and girls ages 3 to 18. For information about the league, visit www.vys.org to register.

Marshall
Continued from Page 17

Region Tournament championship game. Marshall also won the National District tourney title last winter, defeating Edison in the final on a game-winning jumper by Mary Trivisonno after receiving a pass from her sister. Edison and Madison went on to be named Class 6 co-state champions when the tournament was cut short because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So Marshall had the distinction of handing each of its final loss of the 2019-20 campaign. Marshall was 0-1 in the state tourney, losing to Edison. Edison and Marshall played four times last season, with Edison winning three of those games.

As freshmen, the Trivisonno sisters helped Marshall nip Langley for a region crown.

Christina Trivisonno scored 1,000th career point last winter, was chosen first-team all-Sun Gazette and made all-state. Mary Trivisonno missed most of last season with a leg injury, returning in time for the playoffs to contribute considerably. She was a Sun Gazette honorable-mention selection.

The sisters have helped Marshall become one of the area’s top girls teams during their three years at the school. Marshall has compiled an overall record of 69-17 during that time, winning two district titles and placing in two of three district-tourney finals.

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS NEEDED: The Fairfax County Football Officiating Association needs more officials to cover all of its games. Candidates must be at least 16 years old and have reliable transportation. Training will be provided. Contact the FCFOA at fcoa1@gmail.com to find out more information.

GAME OFFICIALS NEEDED: Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires is in need of officials for baseball, softball and volleyball.

Officials are needed in all communities across the metropolitan area for youth recreational leagues, men’s leagues, high schools and colleges.

Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided.

Visit www.umpires.org or call John Porter at (703) 978-3601 for more information.
That class includes Oakton High School graduate and girls basketball standout Jasmine Thomas, one of the top scorers in VHSL history and the all- time leading scorer for boys and girls at Oakton.

MEET THE COACHES: Whether or not any public-school sports are played during the 2020-21 school year, varsity teams in the Sun Gazette’s coverage ar- eas are still holding meet-the-coaches- nights. They will be held “virtually.” For information, visit the high-schools’ ath- letic Web sites and Twitter sites.

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Renaming of Nauck Town Square Moves Forward
Advisory Panels Agree with Proposal to Honor Green Valley Leader Robinson

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

A year after it was first proposed, the renaming of Nauck Town Square in honor of a longtime Green Valley civic leader looks headed to success.

The name “John Robinson Jr. Town Square” has won the support of the Park and Recreation Commission, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the civic associations of Green Valley, Shirlington and Douglas Park.

County Board members will have the final say.

Robinson (1934-2012) was “always the go-to person – he was on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day,” said Robin Stombler, chair of the community-affairs committee of the Green Valley Civic Association.

“It’s difficult to think of any other name for this town square,” Stombler said. “He just personified what it meant to be a leader.”

For decades, Robinson was involved in community issues of the day, running the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and being active in food/clothing/furniture drives and efforts to rid the Green Valley community of its drug scourge in the 1980s.

He also published the Green Valley News, a compendium of local items, for four decades.

“This was our version of the Northern Virginia Sun – only better,” said Carmela Hamm, an HALRB member.

Hamm said Robinson’s motivation to help his community was deep-rooted.

“John went without for decades so others could have,” she said. “I cannot think of a more deserving person.”

The proposal to name the square – currently being rebuilt – in honor of Robinson was unveiled a year ago by the Green Valley Civic Association. At the time, association president Portria Clark said it was fitting to name the entire square after him, rather than some lesser honor.

“We’ve talked about a stage, we’ve talked about a plaque, we’ve talked about naming a stage,” Clark said then.

A mural by Romeo Taylor salutes civic leader John Robinson Jr. (1934-2012). The Arlington County Board is now slated to decide whether to name the town square in honor of Robinson, who left a significant legacy on a number of key issues.

A final vote on renaming the square could come by the end of the year.

“What the community wants is certainly the most important criteria,” now-County Board Chairman Libby Garvey told the Sun Gazette last year when the idea was first floated.

The proposal “sounds good to me,” Garvey said.

Construction has been ongoing for more than a year on the town square, located where 24th Street South, South Kenmore Street and South Shirlington Road come together. In recent years, the parcel has been mostly barren (with the exception of a few trees), but has served for decades as a gathering spot for those living in the historically African-American community of Green Valley.

Voters approved funding for the project in a 2018 referendum; County Board members in 2019 approved the final procedural steps needed to move forward, including purchase of an adjoining parcel.

Even before the Civil War, the Green Valley community (alternately known as Nauck) was one of the rare enclaves in what is now Arlington where free African-Americans could live. After emancipation, more moved into the neighborhood and it became one of the hearts of Arlington’s black community. In recent years, increasing home values have led to a degree of gentrification, but some longtime residents and a number of important facilities (including churches and the local YMCA) remain.

A mural of Robinson by artist Romeo Taylor now can be found close to the town-square construction site, next to one of another community stalwart, Leonard “Doc” Muse, longtime proprietor of the Green Valley Pharmacy.

Another part of the effort to honor Robinson’s legacy has been cataloguing his large collection of photographs and identifying who is in them.

Beyer: Rosslyn Boathouse May Be Delayed, But It Will Be Built

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

The seemingly interminable planning process for a new boathouse facility in Rosslyn already has outlasted one of its champions in Congress, and while U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th) is not planning to lead another effort to get the National Park Service to place a boathouse and ramp facility on the Potomac River, he is a backer of the effort being led – in part of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

“It’s moving very slowly, but it will be done,” Beyer vowed, speaking about a project that has been years in the making.

Like his predecessor Jim Moran (who retired in 2014), Beyer is a backer of the effort being led – in part of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

At the event, Beyer pushed back on the suggestion that the boathouse facility would be better located downriver at Gravelly Point. He said the Rosslyn site was the better alternative.

Google “Potomac River boathouse” and “Rosslyn boathouse” and you are likely to find an article from last year this time, when County Board members were promising a robust planning process for the design of the boathouse facility.

A planning process will take place “at a time when we feel like it’s appropriate to commence,” then-County Board Chairman Christian Dorsey said in response to a question at the Arlington County Civic Federation’s 2019 candidate forum.

Dorsey and fellow board member Democat Katie Cristol were being challenged last year this time by Katie Garvey, a candidate at the Arlington County Civic Federation’s 2019 candidate forum.

“Final say.

A mural by Romeo Taylor salutes civic leader John Robinson Jr. (1934-2012). The Arlington County Board is now slated to decide whether to name the town square in honor of Robinson, who left a significant legacy on a number of key issues.

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“A final vote on renaming the square could come by the end of the year.

What the community wants is certainly the most important criteria,” now-County Board Chairman Libby Garvey told the Sun Gazette last year when the idea was first floated.

The proposal “sounds good to me,” Garvey said.

Construction has been ongoing for more than a year on the town square, located where 24th Street South, South Kenmore Street and South Shirlington Road come together. In recent years, the parcel has been mostly barren (with the exception of a few trees), but has served for decades as a gathering spot for those living in the historically African-American community of Green Valley.

Voters approved funding for the project in a 2018 referendum; County Board members in 2019 approved the final procedural steps needed to move forward, including purchase of an adjoining parcel.

Even before the Civil War, the Green Valley community (alternately known as Nauck) was one of the rare enclaves in what is now Arlington where free African-Americans could live. After emancipation, more moved into the neighborhood and it became one of the hearts of Arlington’s black community. In recent years, increasing home values have led to a degree of gentrification, but some longtime residents and a number of important facilities (including churches and the local YMCA) remain.

A mural of Robinson by artist Romeo Taylor now can be found close to the town-square construction site, next to one of another community stalwart, Leonard “Doc” Muse, longtime proprietor of the Green Valley Pharmacy.

Another part of the effort to honor Robinson’s legacy has been cataloguing his large collection of photographs and identifying who is in them.

Beyer: Rosslyn Boathouse May Be Delayed, But It Will Be Built

The seemingly interminable planning process for a new boathouse facility in Rosslyn already has outlasted one of its champions in Congress, and while U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8th) is not planning to lead another effort to get the National Park Service to place a boathouse and ramp facility on the Potomac River, he is a backer of the effort being led – in part of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

“It’s moving very slowly, but it will be done,” Beyer vowed, speaking about a project that has been years in the making.

Like his predecessor Jim Moran (who retired in 2014), Beyer is a backer of the effort being led – in part of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

At the event, Beyer pushed back on the suggestion that the boathouse facility would be better located downriver at Gravelly Point. He said the Rosslyn site was the better alternative.

Google “Potomac River boathouse” and “Rosslyn boathouse” and you are likely to find an article from last year this time, when County Board members were promising a robust planning process for the design of the boathouse facility.

A planning process will take place “at a time when we feel like it’s appropriate to commence,” then-County Board Chairman Christian Dorsey said in response to a question at the Arlington County Civic Federation’s 2019 candidate forum.

Dorsey and fellow board member Democat Katie Cristol were being challenged last year this time by Katie Garvey, a candidate at the Arlington County Civic Federation’s 2019 candidate forum.

There will be a master-planning process, Cristol said at the 2019 debate, but that Dorsey was ill on a timetable.

Let so many projects, such a master-planning effort has fallen victim, at least temporarily, to the COVID crisis. There seems to have been little movement since 2019, when the National Park Service completed an environmental assessment and concluded the Rosslyn site was the better alternative.

Local high schools for decades have sought a convenient space for their crew programs, rather than having to travel either across the Potomac to Georgetown or down the river to Alexandria (or beyond) for training. And recreational non-motorized boaters and kayakers also are eager for better river access.

Funding is likely to come from a mix of federal, local and private dollars.
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October 1, 2020
October 2, 1949:
- County voters have approved a bond referendum to expand Fairfax’s sewer lines.
- The Virginia Milk Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed price increase in the retail price of milk.

October 2, 1958:
- Last rites have been administered to Pope Pius XII, who suffered a stroke and is clinging to life.

October 1, 1962:
- The new “Miss Vienna,” Jane Embrey, has been introduced at a Town Council meeting.
- October 6 is the deadline for Virginians to register to vote in the general election.

October 1, 1969:
- Pope Pius XII, who suffered a stroke and is clinging to life.
- The Madison girls tennis team squeaked by Langley, 5-4. In football action, John Warner has come out against creation of a federal education department.

October 2, 1978:
- Virginia’s jobless rate of 5.2 percent has remained steady over the past month.

October 2, 1979:
- Republic governor gubernatorial candidate Linwood Holton is about to release a list of prominent Democrats who are supporting him.

October 1, 2020:

Fairfax County Notes

**SUN GAZETTE LAUNCHES WEEKEND EDITION:** The Sun Gazette last week inaugurated an online “weekend edition,” providing fresh local news and bonus features online. The edition can be found at https://sungazette.news each Friday beginning around noon.

In addition to updated, all-new news and sports from the local area, there will also be a focus on home, real estate, health and family living, with bonus features throughout. Access to the weekend editions, as with the regular papers, is free, and those with interest can sign up for a “reminder” e-mail when they are posted online.

**WATERSHED-CLEANUP DAYS COMING TO FAIRFAX PARKS:** Watershed-cleanup days at a number of Fairfax County parks are planned voter the next few months. Individuals, families, service groups and students are encouraged to take part in the event, which involves removing tires, bottles, cans and other debris dumped in local waterways.

Cleanups are currently scheduled for Oct. 4 (Huntley Meadows Park), Oct. 7 (Ellanor C. Lawrence Park), Oct. 24 (Lake Fairfax Park) and Nov. 7 (Cub Run Recreation Center, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Providence RE Center and Riverbend Park).

For full details, see the Website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer.

**VIETNAM VETS ARE AGAIN SUPPORTING FAMILIES:** For the 10th consecutive year, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227 of Northern Virginia is donating gift cards to children of veterans in the Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program.

In addition to the 30 $75 gift cards, the chapter also presented two $100 gift cards to veterans who are enrolled as students and are taking part in the VASH program, a joint effort of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Locally, more than 100 veterans and their families are served through the programs.
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