



Venerated James Madison Coach Lauded as Talented, Caring Leader

Dave Facinoli/Sun Gazette Newspapers

To a person, those remembering the late Don Roth, speak of his genuine and sincere regard for the well-being of others.

Roth, a popular and longtime head baseball and golf coach and driver education teacher at James Madison High School, died Dec. 7 of various health issues that worsened the last three months. He was 75.

"It would really be hard to find anyone who didn't like coach Roth or would say anything bad about him, because there wasn't anything like that to say," said Billy Emerson, who played baseball under Roth at Madison and is now the head baseball coach and athletic director at Paul VI Catholic. "He was such a modest and honest person and he made everybody feel important, like they were his best friend for a million years."

Emerson said Roth helped him get the opportunity to play college baseball, then did the same in getting his career started as a high-school coach, teacher and administrator.

"He was like a second father to me." Emerson said. "We'd keep in touch, but now the worst part is I can't pick up the phone and hear his voice again."

Find the full story in this week's edition of the Fairfax Sun Gazette.



Arlington Chamber OF COMMERCE

Arlington Chamber of Commerce Taps Its Leadership Team for 2021

Sun Gazette Newspapers

Todd Ihrig of Avantax Investment Services has been tapped to chair the 2021 Arlington Chamber of Commerce, succeeding R. Scott Ritter of United Bank.

The business organization's 2021 leadership team was announced on Dec. 11 at the Chamber's 96th annual meeting, held "virtually" due to public-health conditions.

Beth Borowski of CNA will serve as chair-elect, Tina Leone of the Ballston Business Improvement District as treasurer and Jim Wilmot of Arlington Community Federal Credit Union as assistant treasurer.

Also serving on the 2021 executive committee will be president/CEO Kate Bates; past chairs Ritter and Greg Hamilton and vice chairs Scott Reamy, Betsy Frantz, David Kinney, Nicole Collier and Steve Cooper.

The annual meeting, sponsored by Comcast, provided a chance to review the highlights of a unique year, and look ahead to what 2021 will bring.

"The many accomplishments we celebrated this year were a product of the hard work and dedication from our Board of directors, executive committee, members, and Chamber staff," Bates said. "Our Chamber looks forward to building on all of these accomplishments."

For information on the organization, see the Website at www.arlingtonchamber.org.

State Transportation Panel OKs Funding for Six New Local Projects

Sun Gazette Newspapers

The Commonwealth Transportation Board on Dec. 9 approved six projects for funding using revenues from the Interstate 66 Express Lanes, and directed the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to make the funding available.

Localities and transportation agencies across the region submitted proposals for the projects, which were scored via a cost-benefit analysis.

Because of a significant drop in toll traffic during the current public-health situation, funding for proposed projects has declined from what had been anticipated pre-pandemic. The six projects represent total spending of \$3.48 million.

"We're expanding the transportation network now using a conservative strategy focused on low-cost projects and longstanding assets to ensure access to convenient, safe and reliable choices whenever people are ready to commute," said Northern Virginia Transportation Commission executive director Kate Mattice.

Projects approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board include:

- \$1 million toward the north entrance to the McLean Metro station, submitted by the Fairfax County government. It was the highest-scoring proposal among those approved for funding.

- \$710,000 for an HOV- and bus-only lane in Rosslyn, submitted by the Arlington County government.

- \$709,030 for renewal of Metro-connection service from Purcellville, submitted by the Loudoun County government.

- \$461,100 for renewal of bus service from Gainesville to the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard, submitted by OmniRide.

- \$460,000 for implementation of BikeShare service, submitted by the city of Fairfax.

- \$137,100 for renewal of bus service from Haymarket to Rosslyn, submitted by OmniRide.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission previously used toll revenue to fund 36 projects, investing more than \$60 million into multimodal improvements in both the I-66 and I-395 corridors.

Arlington, Fairfax Officers Lauded in Battle Against Impaired Driving

Sun Gazette Newspapers

Arlington County Police Officer Anthony Gatto and Fairfax County Police Department 2nd Lt. Jason Long were among 18 law-enforcement personnel from across the region who were cited Dec. 11 with the area's 23rd annual "Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention."

Owing to current public-health conditions, awards were bestowed "virtually" by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, known as WRAP.

"This year's awardees represent the front lines in greater Washington's continuing fight against drunk driving," said WRAP president Kurt Erickson. "Their collective effort to annually arrest and remove nearly 14,000 drunk drivers from Washington-area roadways has undoubtedly saved lives."

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington region. Among its initiatives is the SoberRide service, which provides free rides home (via Lyft) for would-be drunk drivers during high-risk times of the year.

This award presentation – viewable online at <https://youtu.be/o6Bs9JsUZak> – were dedicated in memory of Metropolitan Police Department Motor Patrol Officer Anthony Simms, who lost his life to an impaired driver while on duty during the 1996 Memorial Day weekend.

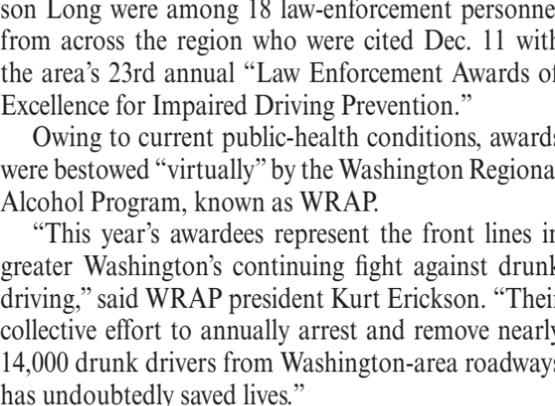
Philharmonic Celebrates Holidays

Sun Gazette Newspapers

The Arlington Philharmonic will host an online concert of holiday music on Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Led by music director A. Scott Wood, the program will feature video presentations by musicians of the philharmonic and their family members.

For information and registration, see the Website at www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org.



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