



Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Happy Thanksgiving! Thank you to all of the veterans for your service, I hope you and your family had a relaxing Veterans Day. So far November has been busy, I hosted two town halls; addressing issues of antisemitism in our community and engaging with educators on challenges in our public schools. I also had the opportunity to visit classes at both Centreville High School and Chantilly High School.

Congratulations to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology graduate, Pratika Katiyar ('21), for being named one of Glamour Magazine's College Women of the Year!

Please read further for important community updates, including holiday safety tips and important information regarding holiday travel. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. K.', written in a cursive style.

JCRC Town Hall



We have seen multiple antisemitic targeted acts in our district, which is why we partnered with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington to host a town hall to raise awareness and solicit community feedback. Thank you to Sen. Jennifer Boysko, Del. Dan Helmer, and Del. Karrie Delaney for joining us for this important discussion.

Teacher Town Hall



Sen. Pekarsky and Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy hosted a Teacher Town Hall where the Senators shares their legislative priorities and bills for 2025 session and educators were given the opportunity to discuss their concerns and experiences. Topics discussed included concerns addressing curriculum challenges, pay gaps, achieving student success, and state public school funding. Thank you to all of the educators that participated.

2025 Legislation Ideas



Legislation Ideas?

Do you have an issue you are passionate about or a concern that you think the GA can address?

Submit your ideas for future bills!

SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov

Our office is currently accepting ideas for future bills from constituents ahead of the upcoming 2025 legislative session. Do you have an issue you are passionate about or a concern that you think the General Assembly could address?

If so, please let us know at SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov.

Elected Officials Visit KCPC



버지니아 민주당 정치인들이 류웅렬 와싱턴중앙장로교회 담임목사및줄 오른쪽서 다섯 번째와 함께 하고 있다.

한인교회 찾은 VA 민주당 정치인 14명

11월 5일 대통령 선거를 앞두고 버지니아 민주당 정치인 14명이 27일 센터빌 소재 와싱턴중앙장로교회를 찾아 한인 유권자들에게 한 표를 호소했다.

버지니아 아태연합 전경숙 회장의 주선으로 교회를 찾은 정치인들은 연방 하원의원에 도전하는 수하스 수브라마니암(32지구, 라우든 카운티)과 스텔라 페카스키(36지구, 센터빌)·사담 살림(37지구, 페어팩스) 주 상원의원, 비비안 왓츠(39지구, 애난데일)·미셸 말디나도(20지구, 매사세스)·마티 마티네즈(29지구, 라우든)·캐런 키즈 가마라(7지구, 레스턴) 주 하원의원, 캐시 스미스 페어팩스 카

운티 수퍼바이저(설리 디스트릭), 제임스 와킨쇼 페어팩스 카운티 수퍼바이저(브래더 디스트릭), 스티브 데스카노 페어팩스 카운티 검사장, 크리스 팰컨 페어팩스 카운티 법원 서기, 시미 디시트 페어팩스 카운티 교육위원(설리), 트리스톤 오 사비오 페어팩스 카운티 조닝 커미셔너와 내년 버지니아 법무장관 민주당 경선후보에 나서는 새는 테일러 헨라이코 카운티 검사장 등 14명이다.

이들은 모두 오전 10시 예배에 참석, 류웅렬 목사의 설교를 들은 후 교인들과 악수를 나눴다. 예배에 앞서 류웅렬 목사와 담소를 나누며 올해 교회 설립 51

주년을 맞는 와싱턴중앙장로교회를 축하했고 500대의 주차장을 포함한 다양한 시설이 추진되고 있는 550만 달러 규모의 교회내 블레싱 파크에 대해 소개받는 시간도 가졌다.

한편 버지니아 공화당 정치인 4명은 지난 13일 와싱턴중앙장로교회를 방문했다. 당시 방문에는 팻 헤러티 페어팩스 카운티 수퍼바이저(스프링필드 디스트릭)와 민주당의 팀 케인 연방 상원의원에 도전한 형 카오 후보, 연방 하원 8지구에서 민주당의 돈 바이어 의원에 맞서는 제리 토레스 후보, 연방 하원 11지구에서 민주당의 제리 코널리 의원에 맞붙은 마이크 밴 미터 후보가 함께 했다.

(이창열 기자)

This month, Sen. Pekarsky visited the Korean Central Presbyterian Church with fellow legislators. We had an opportunity to visit with parishioners and hear about the exciting plans for expansion. Thank you KCPC for your hospitality!

Staff Highlight



We are excited to highlight our Intern, Amelia Stoner, who is a Newman Civic Fellow and participated in the annual in-person Convening of Fellows last week. The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program that recognizes and supports student public problem solvers at Campus Compact member institutions. Fellows are nominated by their president or chancellor based on their potential for public leadership and their work with communities.

Amelia's work with JMU's Madison Center for Civic Engagement led to her nomination, she led the Dukes Vote voter registration initiative. In her role, Amelia leads campus-wide, student voter education efforts on a campus of 22,000 students. Please join us in congratulating Amelia!

2025 Resolution Nominations



Resolution Nominations

Do you know a business, organization who has served our community well? Do you want to honor a community member or loved one who has passed?

Submit their information to be considered for a commending or memorial resolution

SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov

Our office is currently accepting commending and memorial resolution nominations ahead of the upcoming 2025 legislative session. The Virginia Senate and House have the opportunity to acknowledge and commend individuals and organizations that serve our community, in the official record. We also do memorial resolutions for people who have a lasting impact, who have passed.

Resolution proposals are voted on by the entire body to acknowledge significant community members' achievements. **Do you or someone you know have a proposal for a resolution?**

Please let us know at SenatorPekarsky@Senate.Virginia.Gov.

Take Your Legislator to School Month



November is VSBA Take Your Legislator to School Month. Coordinated by the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), the goal of Take Your Legislator to School Month is to build a stronger relationship between schools and legislators. The event gives legislators an opportunity to observe what is going on in Virginia schools and provides Virginia's students the opportunity to meet and interact with an elected official.

This week, Sen. Pekarsky attended a Centreville High School Leadership Class with Del. Dan Helmer and Springfield School Board Member, Sandy Anderson. Sen. Pekarsky enjoyed speaking to these high school leaders about public service and the many issues that are on their minds. Sen. Pekarsky also visited an AP Government class at Chantilly High School.

The Arc of Northern Virginia's Gala



Sen. Pekarsky attended the The Arc of Northern Virginia's Gala. Founded in 1962, The Arc of Northern Virginia represents and serves more than 39,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) with direct service programs, education, and advocacy. The Gala supports their programs, services, and advocacy education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages and their families.

35 Years of Fairfax CASA



Congratulations to Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) on their 35th Anniversary. CASA was founded in 1989 by a group of community-minded Fairfax County citizens responding to a request for a CASA program from the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court (Court). Since that time, Fairfax CASA has operated as a 501(c)(3) public charity accepting support from individuals, corporations, and public funds to ensure that children who are victims of abuse and neglect are placed in safe and permanent homes as quickly as possible. This purpose is accomplished by recruiting, training, and supervising community volunteers to serve as special advocates for children who have been found to be abused or neglected by the Court.

Interested in becoming an advocate? [Learn more about becoming a CASA.](#)

Local News

TJ Graduate Named Glamour Magazine's College Women of the Year



Congratulations to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology graduate, Pratika Katiyar ('21), for being named one of [Glamour Magazine's College Women of the Year!](#) She is currently a senior at Northeastern in Boston and is double-majoring in business administration and communication studies. Glamour called her "the future of STEM with a side of soul!"

VDOT Lifts Road Closures for Holiday

Traffic



VDOT is suspending many highway work zones and lifting most lane closures on interstates and other major roads from **noon on Wednesday, Nov. 27 until noon on Monday, Dec. 2**. While lane closures will be lifted in most locations, motorists may encounter semi-permanent work zones that remain in place during this time.

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

Did you know that Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires? According to the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#), Thanksgiving Day has more than three times the daily average for such incidents. An estimated 1,610 home cooking fires were reported to fire departments in the U.S. in 2022, reflecting a 399% increase over the daily average.

Unattended cooking was the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths. Cooking causes half (52%) of all reported home fires and nearly two of every five (36%) home fire injuries, and it is a leading cause of home fire deaths (17%).

The [Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department \(FCFRD\)](#) wants you to have a safe and happy holiday. Help prevent an unexpected visit to your home from firefighters on Thanksgiving Day! Take a moment and review cooking and kitchen safety tips to have a recipe for Thanksgiving success:

- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. Long loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles.
- Keep things that can catch fire such as dish towels, curtains, or paper, at least three feet from the stove.
- Do not leave cooking food unattended. If you leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the stove.
- Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- Potholders or oven mitts prevent burns when handling hot dishes.
- Regularly clean your cooking equipment so there are no cooking materials, food items, or grease accumulation.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn the burner off and do not remove the lid until it is completely cool.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing. Have the oven serviced before you use it again.

You can access resources for kitchen safety on the [NFPA's website](#) or read more safety tips from [FCFRD](#).

FCPS Boundary Public Meetings

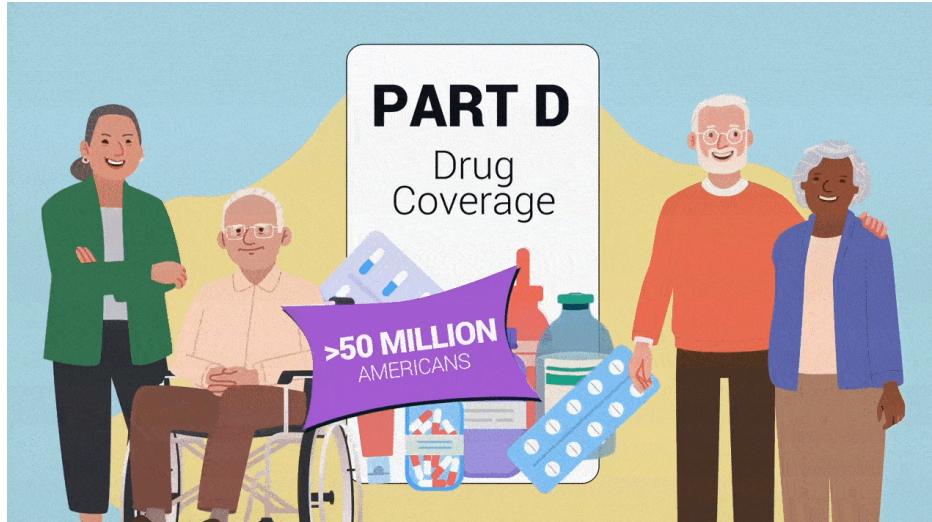
FCPS is holding a series of community meetings regarding school boundaries. FCPS has announced the schedule for the first round of community meetings. There will be a community meeting within Senate District 36 at:

Westfield HS - Monday, December 2 6:30 - 8 p.m. (Region 5) - [Register](#)

At each meeting, the Superintendent will present the rationale and process for revising school boundaries. Her presentation will be followed by small-group breakout sessions (with 8-10 people in each small group) wherein a moderator will facilitate a conversation with scripted questions. The information collected and views expressed during these meetings will inform the

development of potential scenarios for amending school boundaries.

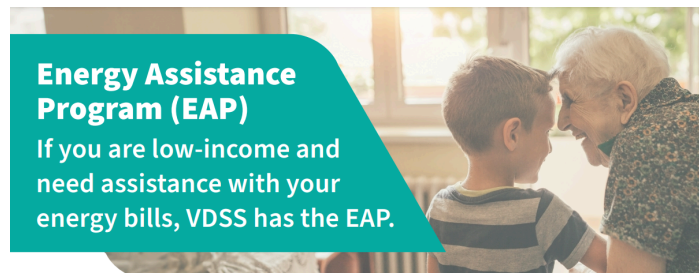
Community Resources



Project Loop (Lower Out of Pocket Costs)

Did you know Part D insurance plans help cover the cost of prescription drugs for >50 million older adults and people with disabilities?

[Learn about recent changes to Medicare Part D in the latest educational film from the Alliance for Aging Research!](#)



Energy Assistance Program Applications Open

The Virginia Energy Assistance Program (EAP) assists low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs. The EAP consists of four components: Fuel Assistance, Crisis Assistance, Cooling Assistance and Weatherization Assistance.

Fuel Assistance can help supplement your home energy costs and **accepts applications from the second Tuesday in October to the second Friday in November.**

Crisis Assistance can help with energy-related emergencies and accepts applications from **November 1 to March 15.**

For more information, [please visit the Virginia Department of Social Services site.](#)

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It is a pleasure to serve you in the 36th District

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**Cheers,
Stella Pekarsky
Senator, District 36**

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