

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

I hope you and your family had a happy and safe Thanksgiving! **I am excited to share that applications are now open for high school students to apply for the 1st annual Youth Leadership Program**, which will give students the opportunity to join our office during the legislative session in Richmond this January.

I'd like to congratulate members of our community, Ariya Lee and Nethra Purushothaman for receiving an honorable mention for their submission to NPR's national student podcast challenge, as well as Rev. Kevin Laskowski for winning Jeopardy last week.

Please see my statement regarding the VHS Class 6 Region C Playoffs that I shared before the Thanksgiving holiday as well as other important community and statewide updates.



---

## **1st Annual High School Youth Leadership Program**

*Applications Now Open*

# High School Youth Leadership Program

*Local highschool students are invited  
to apply to Senator Pekarsky's 1st  
Annual Youth Leadership Program  
& join the office for 2 days during  
the legislative session to learn about  
the legislative process*

**Apply by 12/17/2024**

reach out to [kthames@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:kthames@senate.virginia.gov) for more information

High School students within the 36th Senate District are invited to apply to the 1st annual Leadership Youth Program my office is hosting. **The program will bring high school students to Richmond Virginia during the legislative session to give them a firsthand experience of the legislative process.** The 2 night trip will come at no cost to students and allow them to join committee meetings, floor voting sessions, hear directly from issue experts + advocates, meet with members and their staff, and tour the Capitol.

**APPLY HERE**

# Statement on VHS Class 6 Region C Playoffs

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Kat Thames; Chief of Staff  
Email: Kat@stellapekarsky.com

**November 21st, 2024****VHSL Class 6 Region C Playoffs**

**CENTREVILLE, VA** –In recent days, it has become abundantly clear that our students have been let down by the adults around them. The integrity and sportsmanship of school sports must be protected at all costs, particularly because the actions of adults send a clear message to our students.

High school sports are not, and cannot, become the free agent game of colleges. Our students should not be recruited, encouraged, or asked to move to schools by coaches. These actions are not only unethical, but also go against the rules of VHSL, which coaches and schools agree to before being allowed to participate. At the end of the day, however, students do not usually have the ability to move alone.

The timeline of the decisions made, including from the courts, have hurt our students. I cannot imagine the disappointment felt by Robinson players when they had prepared to play in a playoff game, just to be sent home at the last minute. As a mother of high school student athletes, I know how hard parents work to fundraise for our programs and support our children in their passions. The decisions made resulted in devastating financial losses for our Boosters.

I have spoken to both Supt. Dr. Michelle Reid from FCPS and Dr. Billy Haun from VHSL to express my disappointment in the position we find ourselves in today. I have urged them to work together to address the current situation and to find ways to strengthen the cracks that have clearly come to light in eligibility and recruitment.

I am encouraged to see the steps that FCPS has initiated with an independent investigation to address this situation, but understand that for many students and families, this remains an incredibly difficult situation. I hope FCPS and the VHSL continue to do everything they can to never find ourselves in this situation again. I am willing to support them and families impacted in any way I can be helpful.

I know that we are united in our desire to ensure a level playing field for student athletes that models ethical and good sportsmanship.

###

---

## Autism Advisory Council



Hiring!

Sen. Pekarsky chairs the Autism Advisory Council, which facilitates the coordination of services and resources among agencies and helps develop legislation and policies that may further address the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

The Autism Advisory Council will meet on **Wednesday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m. in Senate Room A (305)**, located on the third floor of the General Assembly Building. This month, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) will be giving a presentation on Medicaid resources and the Council will review available legislation for the upcoming session. The Council welcomes any public feedback and input before the meeting.

The public is welcome to attend in person or virtually. **[Follow the link to view the agenda and live stream link.](#)**

---

## **Youngkin Loses RGGI Court Ruling**

**Virginia passed the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act of 2020, allowing the Commonwealth to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and establishing the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). RGGI is a market-based program of 11 states that generates funds while reducing electricity sector emissions.**

Half of its proceeds fund low-income energy efficiency programs and 45% fund the CFPF. **[The CFPF provides loans and grants for projects, studies, and planning throughout the Commonwealth to identify and address flood vulnerability for communities.](#)** CFPF funds can build capacity in localities that need additional resources to develop comprehensive flood vulnerability assessments and action-oriented flood mitigation approaches.

**Youngkin's administration withdrew from RGGI in 2023, prompting a lawsuit from the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals, represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC).**

In November, a judge ruled **[Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin broke the law when he attempted to withdraw the state from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\) climate program.](#)**

# FAIRFAX COUNTY

With over 1 million residents, Fairfax County is home to more than one tenth of Virginia's population. The County includes 30 watersheds which flow into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These watersheds require regulation and comprehensive mapping in addition to more localized projects to address specific concerns.



**\$ 15,679,200**



**POINT OF CONTACT**

Emily Foppe, Clean Fairfax,  
emily@cleanfairfax.org

## 1 27 FAIRFAX COUNTY WATERSHED STUDIES

This award will enable the county to create standardized and comprehensive mapping of 757 stream miles spread across 27 watersheds in the area. The completion of this study will enable the consolidation of floodplain data and regulatory standards, allowing the County to manage and mitigate flood hazards most effectively.

## 2 CHOWAN AVENUE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This CFPF award will be used to address flooding in the Chowan Avenue Neighborhood. Flooding occurs frequently in the area due to storm events, impacting street access and safety in the surrounding area. The project will implement an improved conveyance system in addition to the utilization of natural channel design to stabilize the stream.

## 3 FAIRFAX COUNTY PUMMIT RUN WATERSHED- TUCKER AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT

Fairfax will use the award to address flooding and watershed drainage issues in the Tucker Avenue Neighborhood. This area lacks adequate stormwater infrastructure, and increasing development has exacerbated issues with flooding on roads and residential lots. The neighborhood-wide project will implement a conveyance system, addressing storm related hazards and improving stream quality and protection.

## 4 TRIPPS RUN AT BARRETT ROAD FLOOD MITIGATION

Neighborhoods surrounding Tripps Run, a creek bordering Barrett Road in Fairfax County, are included in one of the 21 repetitive loss areas that have experienced repeated flooding. The County will use this award to further refine and calibrate hydrologic and hydraulic models of the area.



VIRGINIA CONSERVATION NETWORK  
701 E FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE #800 | RICHMOND, VA 23219  
804-644-0283 | VCN@VCNVA.ORG | WWW.VCNVA.ORG

# Congratulations Rev. Kevin Laskowski



Congratulations to Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Priest-In-Charge at St John's Episcopal Church in Centreville, for winning last week's episode of Jeopardy!

---

## **Congratulations Ariya Lee and Nethra Purushothaman**



Congratulations to [Ariya Lee and Nethra Purushothaman](#), two high school students at Chantilly High School, for winning an Honorable Mention for NPR's 2024 Student Podcast Challenge. Students submitted podcasts from around the country to compete for a chance to have their work featured on NPR. You can listen to their podcast, [Our Theory of Change](#) and [listen to other Honorable Mention winners via NPR](#).

---

## Local News

### GMU - West Campus Town Hall



# West Campus Town Hall Meeting



You're invited to a community conversation regarding George Mason University's West Campus development. Share your thoughts and ideas regarding:

- Concepts for the development,
- Campus and community needs,
- And opportunities for collaboration.

All are welcome!



Wednesday, Dec. 11



7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



City Hall, Council Chambers  
10455 Armstrong Street  
Fairfax, VA 22030

George Mason University will host an in-person town hall to present an update on West Campus Development for community feedback, comments, and questions.

During the town hall, you will have the opportunity to hear directly from representatives on project objectives, potential components of the development, and how prior feedback has helped shape current priorities.

If you cannot attend in person, you [can view the presentation and video](#) of the meeting at a later date.

## Community Resources



# COVID-19 TESTING



## Flu + COVID-19 Resources

It is flu and COVID-19 season again. Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine. People who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine have lower risk of severe illness. The Fairfax County Health Department offers [recourses for finding COVID-19 vaccine locations and information](#).

Need to find resources on COVID-19 testing? The Fairfax County Health Department has [additional information on testing and best practices](#). You can also visit the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) tool to [search for a testing site in Virginia near you](#).

---



---

## [Subscribe to my Newsletter!](#)

[Stay informed about what is happening in Richmond and around the 36th District.](#)



---

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

Email: [senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov)  
Phone: (804) 698-7536

Richmond Office  
201 North 9th Street Room, 621  
Richmond, VA 23219

Richmond Direct Mail  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

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

*Paid and Authorized by Friends of Stella G Pekarsky  
Copyright © 2024, Stella Pekarsky, All rights reserved.*

*Friends of Stella G Pekarsky*  
*PO BOX 231191 CENTREVILLE, VA 20120*

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please  
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).