Inventory Issues Stymie Market
With Few Homes Available, Some Prospective Buyers Give Up

A combination of factors, including a dearth of available inventory, sent the D.C. region’s home sales plummeting in December, according to new data.

But prices continue to rise, suggesting that if the inventory crunch can be sorted out with the start of the new year, sales will rebound.

A total of 6,091 properties went to closing across the Washington metro area last month, down 8.4 percent from a year ago, according to data reported Jan. 11 by MarketStats by ShowingTime, based on listing data from Bright MLS.

That’s the bad news, sales-wise, but when compared to the pre-COVID December 2019, sales this past month actually were up 15.1 percent.

“A lack of inventory and affordability pressures have been the primary drivers of a slowdown in sales activity,” noted the MarketStats analysis of the data, based on insights by Lisa Sturtevant of the Virginia Association of Realtors, real-estate economist Elliot Eisenberg and Kevin Gillen of Drexel University, who comprise the Bright MLS Economic Advisory Council.

Figures represent transactions in the District of Columbia; Fairfax and Arlington counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery, Prince George’s and Frederick in Maryland.

Year-over-year sales were down in every jurisdiction except Arlington County and the city of Fairfax, although sales were up in every jurisdiction when compared to December 2019.

Comparing 2021 to 2020, the largest December dropoffs in sales were in outer areas.

Continued on Page 6
Legislator Wants Free Pass (For an Hour, at Least) for Parking Without Permission

SCOTT McCAFFREY
Staff Writer

A measure patroned by a local legislator in the 2022 General Assembly session would make it open season on squatting in many private parking lots – at least for the first hour.

The bill – HB 867 – from Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-Arlington-Fairfax) would prohibit property owners from towing vehicles from their property until at least an hour has elapsed, if the property owner does not charge for parking on the lot.

There are a number of exemptions to the rule, but to add insult to injury (as some property owners might see it), the measure would allow someone towed within the first hour to recover damages of up to twice the towing and storage fees incurred, although the bill is nebulous on how that would occur.

The measure, whose chance of passing the Republican-controlled House of Delegates would seem to be close to zero, requires local governments that have a towing ordinance to incorporate the measure into their language.

Bill Would Make It Easier to Hire Foreign Teachers:

A measure being patroned by a local legislator would make it easier for Virginia school districts to hire educators from outside the U.S.

State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington-Fairfax-Loudoun) has introduced a measure that would require the Virginia Board of Education to issue provisional teaching licenses to any individual who holds a valid license or certification to teach outside the U.S. but does not at the time meet the requirements for a renewable Virginia teaching license.

The provisional licenses would be valid for a period of up to three years.

The bill – SB 68 – was sent to the Committee on Education and Health for consideration.

Recently, the Arlington school system discussed hiring teachers from outside the U.S. for its dual-immersion (English-Spanish) elementary schools.

Measure Would Give Jurors a Little More for Their Service:

Jurors in Virginia trials would get a slight bump up in pay under a measure introduced in the 2022 General Assembly session.

Del. Angelia Williams Graves (D-Norfolk) has proposed increasing the jury-duty allowance from its current $30 per day to $40 effective July 1, with increases to $45 and then $50 phased in over the next two years.

The pay rate for jurors is enshrined in the Code of Virginia and has no changed in more than two decades; localities do not have the ability to pay more or less. Jurors are paid out of state funds if sitting on felony trials and out of local revenues if passing judgment in civil trials; if the case is a misdemeanor, who is obligated to pay depends on a number of factors.

The Website JuryDuty101 shows that daily rates for jury service range from nothing at all (Illinois and South Carolina) to $50 (Georgia, Arkansas, South Dakota).

Virginia is on the high end of the scale, with a number of populous but parsimonious states providing less than $10 per day (Texas at $6 and New Jersey at $5, for instance, with Missouri and Mississippi also paying less than $10).

States also have various regulations about reimbursement of mileage – some do, some don’t – and whether employers are legally obligated to provide paid time off for jury duty. Only a very few states require that.

The federal court system generally pays $50 a day to its jurors.

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Puppy-Raisers Play Part to Support Those with Low Vision

BRIAN TROMPETER  
Staff Writer

Having been raised by Deborah and Paul Wydra of Oakton for nearly two years, a black Labrador named Carmen soon will begin guide-dog training at Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Of the six dogs the family has raised through the program, Carmen has been the best, Deborah Wydra said. “She’s a particularly excellent puppy and really ‘gets’ all the training,” Wydra said. “She’s very smart, very quick and we’re really hoping she makes it.”

The couple began working with Guiding Eyes in 2015. Deborah Wydra had raised puppies to be guide dogs when she was a high-school student in California. When her children became old enough to understand the training and process of letting the dogs go, “we decided it would be a good activity for the family,” she said.

Founded in 1954 by Donald Kauth, non-profit Guiding Eyes for the Blind places more than 150 guide dogs each year, and provides those services free of charge for people with vision loss. Financed almost entirely through donations, the organization breeds more than 500 puppies each year. The vast preponderance – 92 percent – are Labrador retrievers and the remainder are German shepherds.

The Wydras have hosted both black and yellow Labs and eventually hope to raise a German shepherd through the program.

“We feel like we’re ready,” Deborah Wydra said. “They are a little bit harder to work with. My husband and I are thinking we might be up to the challenge.”

To take part in Guiding Eyes, volunteers first must fill out an application, undertake a month-long series of weekend classes and then practice with a dog for a weekend. There are no requirements as to participants’ living spaces, Wydra said.

If accepted into the program, participants must take classes and on outings with their dogs. The volunteers typically keep their dogs for a year, when they typically are 16 months old, but the pandemic resulted in longer stays. Carmen, for example, just turned 2.

Guiding Eyes did not send out any guide dogs for training during much of the pandemic, but now has returned to a robust breeding program, Wydra said.

Guiding Eyes has a staff geneticist to help with the breeding process, Wydra said. If puppies do not make the cut to be guide dogs, the group adopts them out or lets them be picked up by other dog schools, she said.

Participating families have a choice of which dog breeds they wish to accept. Program officials also take

Continued on Page 6
Civic Association Offers Suggestions on Future Use Of Green Valley Pharmacy

SCOTT McCAFFREY Staff Writer

The Green Valley Civic Association has laid out the conditions under which it would support turning the historic but shuttered Green Valley Pharmacy property into a restaurant.

In a Jan. 12 letter to county-government officials, association president Portia Clark and first vice president Robin Strombler laid out a host of concerns about the proposal – including several changes that already have been made.

The county government’s Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) now plans to consider the development proposal at its Jan. 19 meeting, one step on the road to a final decision on the matter by County Board members.

As to specifics of the proposal, the civic association raised a number of concerns and made a number of proposals:

• The organization wants the name “Green Valley Pharmacy” put back on the building with its original plaque honoring the historic provenance of the property.
• The organization opposes removal of the only tree on the parcel, a mature American elm in good condition.
• “It is not lost on us that the applicant wishes to cut down the tree to make way for a trash dumpster,” civic-association leaders said.
• The association’s leaders want a chimney stack at the back of the building retained rather than removed, as it is part of the building’s historic provenance, they say.
• The association asks the county government to coordinate with the property owner (and those living in nearby townhouses) to provide parking and/or green space on a nearby parcel owned by the government.
• The association wants further clarification on the relationship between the Green Valley Pharmacy building and an adjacent office building, which also is being leased by the same entity, and how parking will be allocated.
• The association believes that a proposal to add an outdoor-dining component to the restaurant would add some life (and, through plantings, beauty) to the parcel, but questions whether there would be enough parking for it.

The building, constructed in 1942 and originally serving as a grocery store, was operated by Leonard “Doc” Muse as the Green Valley Pharmacy from the early 1950s until his death in 2017. Subsequent efforts to keep it running were unsuccessful, and a developer now seeks to turn it into a restaurant under lease from Muse’s daughter.

The building, constructed in 1942 and originally serving as a grocery store, was operated by Leonard “Doc” Muse as the Green Valley Pharmacy from the early 1950s until his death in 2017. Subsequent efforts to keep it running were unsuccessful, and a developer now seeks to turn it into a restaurant under lease from Muse’s daughter.

The Arlington County government declared the parcel a local historic district in 2013, giving HALRB members a say whenever exterior alterations are proposed.
Golfers using Fairfax County Park Authority facilities will see some changes in costs for the coming year, if proposals working their way through the process are enacted.

Instead of charging different fees for in-season (April-October) and off-season (November-March), officials would like to allow fees to be adjusted throughout the year based on customer demand, weather and course conditions.

FCPA officials also want to increase membership fees at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton to bring them more in line with those charged by competitors. Full annual memberships for individuals would rise from $5,000 to $6,000, those for spouses and other immediate family members would go from $2,500 to $4,000, and the rate for individual weekday memberships would increase from $3,000 to $4,500.

Officials have proposed eliminating the $4 chipping-area fee at Laurel Hill Golf Course and removing group-use scheduling fees of $10 per golfer, plus greens fee, at all agency golf courses except Laurel Hill.

The Park Authority is seeking to formalize discounted driving-range passes, which until now have been special promotions. The fees would be $90 for 20 buckets of golf balls and $160 for 40 buckets. The agency also would like to eliminate the $4 fee for using the golf-practice area at Oak Marr Golf Center and reduce from $19 to $18 the 18-hole and other immediate family members would go from $2,500 to $4,000, and the rate for individual weekday memberships would increase from $3,000 to $4,500.

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Puppy
Continued from Page 3

into account the families’ personalities and work habits. Because the Wydras work and cannot stay home with puppies, they have hosted older dogs.

“We have somebody else ‘start’ the dogs until they’re about 6 months old,” she said. Carmen was only 12 weeks old when the couple received her in March 2020.

Deborah Wydra teaches English at Chantilly High School and occasionally brought Carmen to her classes. Wydra was able to do so because Virginia considers dogs in training to be service dogs when they reach 6 months of age. Chantilly High’s leaders also were supportive of the visits, she said.

Wydra frequently took Carmen jogging with her and said the dog would make an excellent running buddy. To help their dogs succeed, the Wydras

• • •

Golf
Continued from Page 5

power-cart rental rate at Burke Lake Golf Center.

The changes will not simply impact regular golf, but mini-golf, as well.

Fees at Jefferson District Park’s miniature golf facility would rise significantly for regular golf, but mini-golf, as well.

Fees at Jefferson District Park’s mini-ature-golf facility would rise significantly for regular golf, but mini-golf, as well.

Continued from Page 1

– notably Frederick and Loudoun counties – which had seen the biggest boosts in the real-estate comeback of late 2020, when many buyers were looking for ways to get more bang (interior and exterior) for their real-estate buck.

The median sales price of all properties that sold across the metro area in December was $520,000, up 7.8 percent from a year before. Prices were up in every part of the region except the city of Alexandria, with the strongest growth (perhaps due to depressed inventory) in Frederick and Loudoun counties.

Among various types of properties:

• The median sales price of single-family homes was $649,900, up from $608,000 a year before.
• The median sales price of townhouses was $508,800, up from $456,800.
• The median sales price of condominiums and cooperatives was $339,900, up from $335,000.

The typical property garnered 100 percent of listing price, on par with December of the preceding three years.

The dearth of inventory is shown in the months’ worth of supply in December, reported at an astonishingly low 0.62 months. That is just half compared to a year ago and only about one-fifth the amount (three months) that would be considered a market balanced between buyers and sellers.

The 19 days for homes to go from listing to ratified sales contract in December regionwide, up from eight days a year before but an improvement from the 20 days required in October 2019.

“With inventories at historically low levels, some buyers have undoubtedly put their home-buying plans on hold,” analysts noted. “Additionally, affordability is a barrier for many buyers.”

Figures represent most, but not all, homes on the market. All December 2021 figures are preliminary and are subject to revision. For more information, see the Website at www.brightmls.com/marketing-
signs.

Home Sales Up 13.5% for Year

Home sales up 13.5% for year in Metro Area: Home sales across the Washington region totaled 80,852 for 2021, according to new data, a 13.5-percent increase from a year before.

Every jurisdiction in the region reported higher year-over-year sales, with the increases ranging from 6 percent in Falls Church to 27.1 percent in Arlington, according to data reported Jan. 12 MarketStats by ShowingTime, based on listing data from Bright MLS.

Fairfax County was the sales leader, with its 19,407 transactions for the year up 15.9 percent. Rounding out the top five were Montgomery County (15,672, up 16.1 percent); Prince George’s County (12,562, up 11.4 percent); the District of Columbia (10,829, up 12.2 percent); and Loudoun County (8,539, up 10 percent).

Median sales prices for the full year also were higher, rising 8.2 percent regionally to $530,000. All jurisdictions posted increases – many in double digits – with the exception of Alexandria, which was down 0.8 percent.

“Price growth remains robust, though the pace of price increases has declined somewhat,” noted the MarketStats analysis of the data.

Home Sales

The Park Authority Board will hold off hours would rise to $200 per hour because of higher demand. The private-

Golf

The agency would like to begin charging $100 two-hour rental fee for the birthday-party pavilion at Jefferson Dis
tinction that practice, but the couple were set to watch Carmen’s test via private Web link on Jan. 11.

“I’ll probably have my students watch with me, because they all know her,” she said in the run-up to the event.

Having witnessed the test several times before, the couple know what skills Guiding Eyes expects the dogs to master and they help their dogs practice them, Wydra said.

One test element many dogs would fail: being left alone in a room with a sandwich on a table and not eating the tempting treat.

Guiding Eyes will inform the Wydras of Carmen’s results and her options for moving forward. If she goes into guide-
dog training, the couple will receive constant updates. People who own dogs raised by the Wydras sometimes stay in touch. Deborah Wydra enjoys volunteer work and said Guiding Eyes lets her give back to the community.

“Dogs really are a wonderful bridge between people who are differently abled and the rest of the community,” Wydra said. “I think that’s the most beautiful thing, the working partnership . . . It can be very isolating to be different in society. People just naturally gravitate to dogs, and it creates such a nice opener.”

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For more information, visit www.
guidingeyes.org.

Golf

Continued from Page 5

power-cart rental rate at Burke Lake Golf Center.

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Winter is here, and for millions of people who reside in areas of the country that see the mercury drop considerably between December and March, that means prioritizing staying warm. Inefficient or aging housing materials may compromise your ability to do just that.

Drafts from doors, poorly protected attics and basements and aging windows may force heating systems to work extra hard to maintain interior temperatures.

Replacing old windows can make a home quieter by blocking out exterior noises. Consumer Reports also notes that new windows are often easier to clean and maintain than older varieties.

Many homeowners are interested in replacing their windows, but may not know where to start. These guidelines can help the process along.

Top tips:
1. Get several estimates. Ask for recommendations from neighbors or other people in your area on which companies they used to install their replacement windows. When you interview the prospects, ask several questions about how they go about installing the windows. Questions can include:
   • How long will the project take?
   • Will I need to remain home during the process?
   • Do you discard of old debris?
   • What is the protocol for installation during inclement weather?
2. Research permits. Most home renovation projects need to be approved by the local municipality. Go to the permit office and find out the requirements. Some window contractors will include securing permits in the cost of the project. After the project is completed, an inspector will come by and ensure the work was done according to code.
3. Change up the appearance. Look at the type of hardware you have around the home and other fixtures. Choose windows that have locks or latches that can match those features for continuity of style. Think about choosing a different style or frame color of the window, or a different type of window to improve efficiency and function.
4. Research top window manufacturers. It’s tempting to purchase windows based on price alone, but replacement windows are often a decision that only has to be made once or twice for the life of the home. Invest in durable windows that will have staying power. Consumer Reports offers unbiased reviews on various window brands and can help homeowners make sound decisions.
5. Prepare for installation. Clear pathways, remove window treatments and disconnect window alarm systems. Plan for one to two days of installation, advises Andersen Windows and Doors. Keep pets and children away from work areas.

Replacement windows can be a smart investment. New windows can improve the look of a home, reduce heating costs and can keep interior spaces comfortable.
Beautiful landscaping can add instant curb appeal to a property. But beauty isn’t the only thing that makes idyllic landscaping attractive to homeowners. Some landscaping features, such as shade trees, save homeowners money while adding aesthetic appeal.

The U.S. Department of Energy notes that shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce solar heat gain in a home. Shading also cuts air conditioning costs, which tend to be expensive in areas with warm, humid climates. In fact, the DOE notes that well-planned landscapes can reduce unshaded homes’ air conditioning costs by anywhere from 15 to 50 percent.

When planting shade trees, one of the first decisions homeowners will need to make is which type of tree, deciduous or evergreen, they want to plant. Deciduous trees are those that seasonally shed their leaves, while evergreens are trees that keep their leaves throughout the year. Deciduous trees can help keep homes cool in the summer by blocking sun, and those same trees can be beneficial in winter after they shed their leaves by letting the sun in and keeping homes warm. But evergreens also can be beneficial in winter by blocking wind, potentially preventing cold air from making its way into a home through cracks in walls or around windows.

When planting shade trees, techniques vary depending on which type of tree homeowners ultimately choose to plant.

**Planting deciduous trees**

The DOE says that deciduous trees that are between six and eight feet tall when planted will begin shading the windows of a home within a year of being planted. Depending on the species of the plant and the home, those same deciduous trees may begin shading the roof within five to 10 years of being planted. When planting deciduous trees, homeowners should keep these tips in mind.

- Plant trees to the south of the home. When planted to the south of the home, deciduous trees can screen between 70 and 90 percent of the summer sun while still allowing residents to feel summer breezes.
- Consider sun angles. Homeowners who want to shade their homes from low afternoon sun angles should plant trees with crowns that are lower to the ground on the west side of their homes.
- Cool air before it reaches your home. Shrubs and ground cover plants can be planted to cool air before it reaches a home.

**Evergreen trees**

Planting evergreens to block wind is known as “windbreaking,” which lowers the wind chill near a home. Wind also can be used to cool a home in summer. But these benefits can only be realized when evergreens are strategically planted.

- Location, location, location: The DOE advises planting evergreen trees to the north and northwest of the home to stop wind. In addition, to get the most bang for your windbreaking buck, the distance between the home and windbreak should be two to five times the height of the mature tree.
- Plant trees on either side of the house. Planting trees on either side of the house will direct cooling winds toward the home in the summer.
- Shade trees can help homeowners reduce their energy bills, making them valuable and attractive additions to any landscape. (SH202660)
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Ways to Teach Empathy to Young Children

One Proposal: Encourage Youth to Put Themselves in the Shoes of Others

(StatePoint) One of the most important skills kids can learn is empathy – the ability to understand how others are feeling.

A valuable social skill that’s often the mark of a good leader, empathy aids in communication and helps people build connections with others.

Here are some ways you can teach your child empathy:

Read Together
Read to your child when they are young, and encourage them to keep up with the habit when they are older by stocking your shelves with books and by making regular visits to the library.

Requiring a leap of imagination as readers put themselves in the shoes of characters, it’s no surprise that a love of fiction can actually help build empathy, according to research.

After you read together, talk to your child about the stories and ask them what they think each character was thinking or feeling, and why. You can also do this after watching movies and shows together too.

Introduce Interactive Toys
Interactive toys can foster your child’s nurturing skills. More information can be found at vtechkids.com.

Play Pretend
Whether playing house or playing superheroes, role-play is not only a chance to build worlds and be creative, but also to consider the feelings of someone else and act them out.

You can encourage your child to play pretend by suggesting the activity and letting them invent the game.

Keep kids inspired with a fun costume trunk full of hats, wigs and other accessories.

Empathy may be a social skill, but it’s as valuable as the ABCs. The good news is that interactive toys, games and literature can all help to cultivate your child’s empathy.

Creative Opportunited to Introduce Physics Topics

(StatePoint) When many of us think of physics, we think of high-level science courses taught in high school and college.

The truth is that not only can you teach your child the basic principles of this branch of science at a young age, but doing so can help them understand the world around them, while laying the groundwork for a continued interest in STEAM learning.

At Home
There are many ways to demonstrate basic principles of physics using household objects. However, toys designed for this purpose can be good launching pad for your quest for knowledge.

On the Go
Physics truly is all around us, which means there are always opportunities to introduce concepts while on-the-go. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

• At a sporting event: Talk about how the ball flies through the air because of the force the athlete applied to it. Discuss how gravity is at the same time, pulling the ball down toward Earth, and how friction from the air around the ball applies a force that slows it down.

• In the car: The car is the perfect place to demonstrate the Doppler Effect and learn about sound.

The next time you drive past music, a car alarm or other source of noise, ask your child to observe the way that it sounds as you get closer to it and then how it sounds as you move away from it again.

Explain that the noise itself hasn’t changed, but your perception of it has because sound waves are moving differently from the point of view of the observer – you.

• On a walk: Brr...it’s cold outside! The next time you’re on a walk, talk about how even the seasons can be explained by physics.

The part of Earth where you live is tilted away from the sun right now, which means that sunlight is more indirect. This is also why the days are shorter this time of year!

It’s never too early to bring science to life for kids. There are not only real-world examples of physics at play to discover, but new toys can make learning about these concepts a fun, exciting adventure.
Robotic Technology Helps Treat Lung Cancer

(StatePoint) For those with lung cancer, understanding treatment options, including what type of surgery might be best for your situation, is important.

Fortunately, the past decade has brought many advances in lung surgery. For example, Robotic thoracic surgery (RAS), also called robotic-assisted thoracic surgery, is a minimally invasive surgery technique used in thoracic procedures, including some lung cancer cases. This technique can be used to remove diseased lung tissue and surrounding lymph nodes.

To learn more about how robotic technology is typically used during lung surgery, the American Lung Association spoke with Dr. Doug Adams, a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon at TriHealth in Cincinnati. He laid out the general steps he follows with his patients. However, each institution may operate differently. Talk with your surgeon about what to expect.

Before Surgery

Before the procedure, you’ll get information about how to prepare. When you arrive at the hospital, you may go into a room where your information is confirmed, you meet with the anesthesiologist, and lines are started in your body. “Lines” are tubes usually inserted into the hands that allow the surgery team to monitor vital signs and deliver pain medication.

Next, you’ll be wheeled into the operating room, sedated and placed on your side. You’ll be completely asleep during the procedure.

While sleeping, the anesthesiologist places a tube into your airway to collapse the lung not being operated on. This gives the surgeon more space to operate. The lung is reinflated before you wake up.

Getting the Robot Ready

The surgeon finds the right spots on your body for the robot ports, which are like docking stations for the robot. A small incision is made to place each port. The instruments and camera are attached to the robot and docked into the ports, offering real-time control of the robot.

Each surgery has basically the same steps, but every body is different. Once the connection is established, the surgeon reviews your anatomy and adjusts the surgical plan accordingly.

Removing Lung Tissue

Your surgeon sits at the console next to you and controls the robotic instruments. First, the small three-dimensional, high-definition camera is placed through one of the ports to provide an inside view of the chest cavity. Then, robotic instruments are placed through the other ports between the ribs.

The surgeon removes lung tissue through one incision. The magnified view and wristed instruments allow for precise, controlled movements without having to make larger incisions to open the chest or spread the ribs.

Sometimes the anesthesiologist will inject a liquid called ICG into the lung, which helps the surgeon see more clearly. If you have cancer, your surgeon may also remove lymph nodes. Often lung cancer will spread to surrounding lymph nodes that imaging doesn’t catch. Removed lymph nodes are examined by the pathology department to help the cancer team determine the lung cancer stage, and next steps.

Post-Surgery

After surgery, a small chest tube is inserted and the ports removed. You’re moved to recovery where staff can monitor fluid and air leaks in your chest. When there is no more fluid or air leaks, it usually means you’ve healed enough to go home, along with post-surgical instructions.

Facing lung surgery? Talk to your doctor about your options, including robotic assisted surgery. Support for this educational initiative is provided by Intuitive.

Make Sure Your Immune System Is Buttoned Up for Winter

The COVID-19 booster is a vital step for staying safe against the virus — and everyone 12 and older is now eligible.

You can find free COVID-19 boosters — or first, second, and additional primary doses — at a community vaccination center near you.

Your Local Community Vaccination Center

Former Lord & Taylor
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McLean, VA 22102

Hours of Operation

The community vaccination center is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Appointments

Walk-ins are welcome for everyone, including children 5 and older, but appointments are strongly recommended to avoid having to wait.
It's hard to fathom now that the seventh leading scorer in NCAA Division II men's basketball this season was, for a long while, overlooked by top-level college programs during his high-school career.

Flint Hill School graduate Isaiah Moore stood 5-foot-6 during his senior season and drew plenty of attention from Division III basketball college teams. Moore and his high-school coaches, though, firmly believed the guard had a considerably higher skill set. But his height was a drawback to those programs, as Moore was seen but brushed off by those schools.

Eventually, the coaches at Division II Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., took a chance on Moore, and are delighted they did.

In four seasons, Moore has been a significant producer, tallying 840 career points through 10 games this season. Plus, he’s grown taller, now standing 5-11. Maybe the Franklin Pierce coaches anticipated that would happen, as Moore’s father was a plus 6-footer during his playing days at Division I George Mason University.

“There were scouts from everywhere, but height held him back as far as any of those top programs back then. Isaiah had all the skills then and he has even more now,” Flint Hill head boys basketball coach Rico Reed said.

Through 10 games this season, the junior guard was averaging 24 points per game and led the squad in assists with 51. He’s scored highs of 35, 31, 31 and 27-points in contests, and has made a team-best 19 three-pointers.

Moore also has 54 rebounds, eight steals and eight blocked shots. He played all 40 minutes in three of the team’s games.

Moore’s 24 points per-game total ranks seventh in the nation in Division II, with the leader netting 27.4 per outing. “He can make all the shots now and also do so much more,” Reed said. “Isaiah has worked on his game so hard. This is so fun and special for him and all of us to keep following him.”

Back on Dec. 12, Moore was selected as the Northeast-10 Conference Player of the Week. He was chosen for his 27-point, eight-rebound, seven-assist and two-blocked-shot performance in the team’s 87-86 win over Bentley University.

One of his blocks came in the closing seconds, saving a potential game-winning three-pointer. Moore has helped Franklin Pierce enjoy a 7-3 start, including five straight victories entering its next game, which was scheduled for Jan. 17.

For Flint Hill, Moore was one of the Huskies’ top scorers, making all-conference and all-state teams. He closed his high-school career by making five three-pointers and scoring a team-high 21 points in a state-tournament quarterfinal loss to St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes.

Flint Hill School graduate Isaiah Moore is one of the top scorers in the country in men’s Division II basketball.

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Former Arlington Soccer Association standout Nelson Flores Blanco recently was added to the El Salvador men’s national-team roster prior to the squad playing in three World Cup qualifying matches.

Flores, who played for Arlington Soccer Association travel teams for four years, was named a defender for the 26-player team. La Selecta will play the United States on Jan. 27, Honduras Jan. 30 and Canada on Feb. 2 in qualifying matches.

Flores, 22, made his international debut with El Salvador in a match against Bolivia in November. A month later, he made his first international start in a 1-1 tie against Ecuador. In high-school in Northern Virginia, Flores played for the West Potomac Wolverines.

“We are extremely proud of and happy for Nelson on his call-up to the El Salvador national team,” ASA technical director German Peri said. “This achievement is a testament to the hard work he has put in throughout his career. We are beyond excited to watch Nelson during World Cup qualifying.”

Flores, who was born in El Salvador, most recently wrapped up his third professional soccer season in the U.S. with North Carolina FC. The left back appeared in 27 games in 2021, making 25 starts and recording three assists. In December, North Carolina FC signed Flores to a new one-year contract, with an option for 2023.

Flores, who also played professionally for teams in San Diego and Oakland, signed a professional contract with North Carolina FC in 2017 after a successful three-year run with the D.C. United Academy team.

When playing for ASA, Flores was coached by Peri, Tony Damian and Grant Smith over four years as a member of the Arlington Eagles Red Team. Flores’ North Carolina FC teammate and fellow Arlington Soccer alum, Nelson Martinez, also has been named to the roster for the El Salvador national team as a defender. Martinez, who started 25 games for North Carolina FC last season, spent two years on ASA’s academy team before also moving to the D.C. United Academy squad.
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Winters in southern Indiana were not fun. The northern crowd had ice skating, ice hockey and plenty of snow for snowmen and snowball fights. But our river-basin climate rarely brought snow and never got cold enough to make strong ice. Mostly we had bleak skies and freezing rain.

In fact, the first time I remember a sizable snow was when I was in fifth grade and school was canceled for the one and only time. As an 11-year-old, the snow was up to my knees, and I was thrilled.

Believe it or not, I actually hiked to school through it and helped my teacher, who was also there, do some light housekeeping in the classroom. I washed the blackboards, clamped erasers together to rid them of chalk dust, and helped her throw out some old files.

So no, no ice/snow play, what to do? I was a big fan of making fudge on a cold winter evening (or in the afternoon if I got really desperate).

Keep in mind, this was well before the existence of microwaves, and even before the “new” recipe using marshmallow creme. I cooked it with unsweetened chocolate, plenty of sugar and butter, and stirred it over heat until my arm was ready to fall off.

My first attempts didn’t go so well. On the first try, I had the heat so high that the fudge tasted scorched, which it was. The next batch wasn’t cooked long enough, so it stayed the consistency of taffy ready to be pulled.

Remember the test to see if the sweet stuff was done? I kept a glass of cold water handy to drop in of taffy ready to be pulled.

This usually involved several false starts due to my impatience, but when the ball finally held together, it gave a delicious preview of things to come.

Another clue: the mixture wasn’t supposed to look shiny. As it approached doneness, it took on the look of dark, dried mud. As it approached doneness, it took on the look shiny. As it approached doneness, it took on the look of dark, dried mud.

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Not Ready to Purchase Electric Vehicle

(Ways to ‘Go Green’ Even If You are Not Ready to Purchase Electric Vehicle

(StatePoint) Countless headlines suggest you have to drive a battery-powered electric vehicle (EV) if you care about the planet.

Yet consumers, including many who want to be “green,” are still opting for gasoline-powered vehicles 98 percent of the time.

What’s standing in their way?

• Cost. It may cost as much as $10,000 or $15,000 more up-front for a battery-electric car compared with a similar gas-powered care.

• Charging. Installing a home charger that’s required to run a EV can cost an additional $1,000 to $3,000. Additionally, a home charger may not be possible for those who park on the street or live in an apartment building.

• Road trips. The number of public charging spots is growing, but it’s not like the nationwide network of gas stations. Even with a relatively robust 200-mile range, EV owners must plan carefully for charging breaks every few hours of driving. Bigger battery packs can give longer range, but also longer charging times.

If any of these realities are the deal-breakers preventing you from going green behind the wheel – relax! There are still at least four good alternatives to EVs that will still help the environment without breaking the bank.

Hybrids

Hybrid technology has been around since the late 1990s. Hybrids combine a smaller gas engine with battery-powered electric motors for better fuel economy. Hybrid sedans like the Toyota Camry, Honda Accord or Hyundai Sonata now average more than 50 miles per gallon. The Toyota Prius Eco gets 66 mpg in combined city-highway driving, according to fueleconomy.gov. A 50-mpg hybrid replacing a 30-mpg vehicle will save $625 a year in fuel costs, or $3,100 over five years. You’ll save even more if your trade-in gets less than 30 mpg!

Plug-In Hybrids

A plug-in hybrid is a hybrid you can plug-in to charge a separate battery and then drive for 30-50 miles on pure electric power. After that, a gasoline engine kicks in, operating like a hybrid. For commuting, a plug-in like a Toyota RAV4 Prime or Prius Prime is a great choice. The average U.S. commute is 16 miles. With just 32 miles of electric-only range, that commuter wouldn’t need gasoline to get to work.

Fuel-Cell Electric Vehicles

Fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are electric vehicles powered by a reaction from hydrogen fuel and oxygen, making water vapor the only emission. The 2021 Hyundai Nexo can travel 300 miles, compared to 200-300 for most newer EVs. FCEVs are refilled at a station, like the gas stations you’re used to. The main challenge is a lack of hydrogen infrastructure.
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