

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026



Run Jackson, Run!

For six weeks, Jackson trained every morning for the Marine Corps Marathon, often called "The People's Marathon." which took place earlier this winter, "I wake up in the morning, get my running gear on, and run to Ballston Mall and back home," Jackson Said. He said he was able to run most of the marathon, but he also walked. Jackson also had a running partner, a staff from ServiceSource (Mariana, pictured above). With his mom on the sidelines cheering him on, he remembers crossing the finish line with a big smile on his face, "but I was so tired," he said. His advice for anyone wanting to run a marathon, "Lots of training."

This was Jackson's first marathon, and he's interested in doing another one but for now he's taken a break from his morning runs. His next adventure might be playing basketball with the Special Olympics and Steph Curry. He is also considering taking up hockey and joining the Capitals to play with Alex Ovechkin. There was also a mention of joining the Washington Commanders, but whatever Jackson does, he will do with confidence.



LISTEN AND LEARN

December's DD Committee listen & learn was all about Supported Decision Making (SDM) - a process that enables individuals, particularly those with disabilities, to make their own choices with the assistance of trusted supporters, promoting autonomy and self-determination.

To learn more about Virginia's SDM policies visit supporteddecisionmaking.org.

INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT?

Love cats? Love people? Want a job that's as rewarding as it is fun? Meow Town, our nonprofit cat lounge in McLean, Va. They provide a warm, homelike environment where adoptable cats can show their true personalities while visitors enjoy a relaxing, welcoming space.

Meow Town mission: help cats find forever homes and create meaningful employment opportunities for neurodiverse individuals.

They are seeking caring, reliable, and enthusiastic part-time associates. This role involves hands-on cat care, ensuring a clean and safe lounge environment, and creating a welcoming experience for guests.

Learn more about Meow Town or how to apply, [click here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



GAME NIGHT

Thursday, February 12, 2026

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM; Seq. 1, Lower Level.

RSVP FOR GAME NIGHT, [CLICK HERE](#).

Pizza and Snacks will be served.



Want to be interviewed for the DS Newsletter?

Have a cool experience you want to share?

Please email Delbria Walton at, dwalton@arlingtonva.us!

Keep up with what's happening in the county, check out our community calendar, [HERE](#).

For information about the DS Newsletter or events contact Delbria Walton, LMSW, Community & Workforce Development Specialist at dwalton@arlingtonva.us.