

# CLASSIFIEDS

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### THE ACES ON BRIDGE®

Barry Rigal

*"A man wants no protection when his conduct is strictly right."*  
— William Murray

As East, you see partner lead the spade three to your ace. Partner could have three spades, but he did not raise. Besides, even if he does, what rush is there to switch? Declarer has no quick discards coming, and if you can defeat this, you will surely get another chance to attack diamonds. Meanwhile, a spade ruff might not wait if partner has led a singleton.

You select the spade eight, high for the higher side suit. You cannot afford the 10 here without setting up South's nine.

Partner duly ruffs and shifts to a diamond, taken by dummy's ace. Now declarer crosses to his hand with the club ace to lead a trump and ... oops! Partner's heart ace flashes onto the table, felling your king. Contract made.

Partner's defense was perfectly logical. He was hoping you had the diamond king, in which case ducking the first heart would be fatal if South had the heart king. Declarer could cross back to hand with a club ruff and lead the spade jack for a diamond discard.

It was your responsibility to guide partner's defense. You should have thrown your diamond queen under dummy's ace to deny the king and bring partner into the picture. He would now be under no illusions about a diamond trick and would see no need to take the first heart.

It is a crucial precept that when leading to a trick or discarding, an honor card denies the honor above (usually showing the one below). Beware, though! The reverse tends to apply when you are following suit in second or third seat, or winning the trick in fourth seat.

**NORTH** 02-7-A

♠ K Q  
♥ J 9 4 2  
♦ A 5  
♣ K 10 9 7 5

**WEST**

♠ 3  
♥ A 5 3  
♦ J 9 8 7 3  
♣ J 6 4 2

**EAST**

♠ A 10 8 7 5 2  
♥ K  
♦ Q 10 6 2  
♣ Q 3

**SOUTH**

♠ J 9 6 4  
♥ Q 10 8 7 6  
♦ K 4  
♣ A 8

Vulnerable: East-West  
Dealer: South

The bidding:  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1♠ 1♠  
2♥ Pass 4♥ All pass

Opening Lead: Spade three

**BID WITH THE ACES** 02-7-B

South holds:

♠ A 10 8 7 5 2  
♥ K  
♦ Q 10 6 2  
♣ Q 3

South West North East  
1♠ Pass 1NT Pass  
?

ANSWER: With 6-4 hands, the default is to show your second suit unless the six-card suit is significantly stronger. Here, especially, your spades are nothing to write home about, so bid two diamonds. There is a downside when partner has one spade and three diamonds, but the upsides when partner has four or more diamonds tend to exceed the negatives.

## MAGI HELENA Your Daily Astrology

**IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** In the next two months, it's crucial that you separate yourself from the bad choices of others so that you don't become collateral damage. While you may be bravely carrying on, others could be making poor decisions which can affect you. These choices are on them, don't let their issues create any shame for you, or drag down your rise. You'll need to do plenty of mindset work to stay strong, but once you arrive at early April, there should be far fewer challenges and a lot more assistance from the Universe. Every time you endure you rise stronger – your stronger self should get to greet love, family joy, radical new opportunity, financial luck and increase, popularity or even fame, renewed discipline and protection.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** One way to assess if something new is good for you is to consider when it comes in to your life. Good Universal Day with good individual cycles? Could be great. Bad day for either? Could be risky.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The worst person to deceive is yourself. Lying to yourself will infect everything you do. Make reality your bestie, as hard as it is at first. Only armed with facts can you decide how to play the game.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Today, as a barely above-zero day, is a bit better than tomorrow through Wednesday. Next week's best days are Thursday and Friday for any significant actions or firsts if your individual cycles align on those days.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A commitment to truth over fiction upholds your credibility and means they'll return to you for answers again. Your reputation can be solid gold when you prioritize integrity consistently.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Are they real-deal and helping you uplevel, or are they just throwing

down rage-bait, fear-bait or another form of click-bait to drive engagement? Question your beliefs and assumptions and reset them when called for.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** The slick vibe could be the tell you've been watching for; dig for facts, don't go for glitter if that's all there is. Trust your nervous system for an accurate read of most people and most situations.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Test your beliefs just like you would test an opportunity: Would it/does it make you a better person? Happier? Would it/does it make you more able to be you? To fulfill your mission? Choose your beliefs with intention.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may think it's true, but others may not be receptive or there could be flaws in your logic. Don't push now. There's a vibe of mistrust for the next few days anyway. Better options land later next week.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Take every economic certainty with a grain of salt today, your inner child may want to believe but that's different than having a clear read of the situation. Express with whatever creativity you can muster.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Your self-belief looks strong, but if the inside doesn't match the glossy outside, that's where your work lies. Build it inside and it's foundational for life. Outer-glow-only caves under pressure.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Lean on a friend or let them lean on you. People make decisions based on how you present yourself and your ideas. Be sure you're offering your highest and best self.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** If in doubt between using emotions versus logic, consider the situation. Some require heart, sensitivity and courage, others need clear assessment and carefully crafted strategies.

Tribune Media Services

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## CITY OF FAIRFAX SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 20, 2026

A special meeting of the Fairfax City Council was held January 20, 2026. Mayor Beer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Councilmembers present were Cindy Anderson, Mike Daly, Dan Wozniak, Deb Mallie, and Marianne Wainwright. Mayor Beer noted that minutes are being taken by Councilmember Cindy Anderson and audio and visual recording are taken by Assistant Parks Director Chase Harrison. Approval of the consent agenda: Daly made a motion to approve. Wozniak seconded the motion. All Ayes. Consider Resolution to award the construction contract for the 2026 Fairfax Complex Pickleball & Tennis Courts to Engineer Parks Director Kell. Wicks discussed the bids received. Abode Construction, Inc. came in as the lowest bidder. Wicks indicated that the work would begin after USA Days and be completed sometime in October 2026. Anderson asked for clarification on what the city would purchase for this project as indicated in the bids. Parks Director Joe Kell indicated that if the city purchases some of the items in advance and has the company do the work, it will be a cost savings measure for the city. An audience member asked if there would be lights. Parks Director Kell indicated that there would not be lights at this time. To do so would have exceeded the \$600,000 amount borrowed to do the project. Wozniak motioned to accept Abode Construction, Inc.'s base bid and bid alternate No.'s 1 & 2 in the amount of \$361,324.90. Wainwright seconded the motion. All Ayes. Discussion and possible motion to post the City Clerk position and form a hiring committee: Mayor Beer presented a draft of job posting position language. Former City Clerk, Cynthia Stimson brought forth the current job description and indicated that a review should be done before posting. Stimson stated what she has been doing while mentoring, which she has done for 4 days. Stimson stated that the solution would be to re-appoint her until her retirement on June 30, 2026. Daly stated that he was going to say the same thing. Daly requested to put the re-appointment on the next agenda. Daly made a motion to table the posting and hiring committee. Wainwright seconded the motion. All Ayes. Discussion and possible motion regarding the continuation of mentoring: Former City Clerk, Stimson stated that she has been a mentor to several cities and has never had a contract. This is done based strictly on what each city needs, and she invoices them. She is there only as an instructor/mentor. Stimson stated that with Fairfax, she knows the system and knows the staff. She stated that re-appointment was best for Fairfax. Some discussion from the audience regarding mentoring vs re-appointment would be more expensive. Wainwright made a motion to continue to have Stimson mentor. Mallie seconded the motion. All Ayes. Mayor Beer will contact city council for a potential date special council meeting to discuss the possible re-appointment of

Stimson. Discussion of Capital Improvements Project List: Engineer Shane Wicks stated that the numbers listed have not been updated. He indicated that items may be moved between the lists if council wanted. The water blending of Well #3 may be taken off the list as things seem stable at the moment. Will keep an eye on it. Daly asked about the library building and this will be addressed by a library board member later in the meeting. Daly requested that a recreation & aquatic center be put on the 6-10 year plan. Anderson asked about the UP & Vanderbilt Street Quiet Zone improvements - Wicks explained that there are a lot of factors involved in addressing this. Will stay on the 6-10 year plan for now. Daly asked about moving the 80th Street expansion up - Wicks discussed the long-range plans for this. Mayor Beer asked when a traffic study might be done - Wicks said that it could be done anytime. Daly recommended it be done in the next construction season as the traffic from the data centers will be increasing. Wozniak asked about a roundabout and if we can get possible costs of this - Wicks indicated that it would be a bit more expensive to get it done, but the long-term costs would not be as high as a light. Wozniak requested a roundabout be moved to the 1-year CIP to see what the numbers would be. Discussion of FY27 budget: Fire Chief Sankot said that they do not need anything extra. Their budget is based on taxes and they get \$60,000 from LOST. They have a savings account for emergencies. Did make first payment on new firetruck. It was supposed to be here in March, but has been delayed until June. Hazleton is expecting the old truck in March and Chief Sankot will honor that timeline. Library Board member, Bruce Boldt, addressed the Library budget and plans for an expansion to the current building. He explained that communities and the county use the library. They do receive money for this use. Daly asked if their community room gets rented, Boldt said it does. Boldt discussed that there is a Non-Profit Library Foundation. They are looking to secure private funding. A conversation was had with the bonding attorney and Urban Renewal may be a source of funding as well. There has been approximately \$1 million in committed funds, and the board is requesting approximately \$1.6 million in city participation. Boldt indicated that donors want to know that the city is committed to this project. Funding is in donations and is not grant money at this time. Public Works/Water Department head, Brian Merta, stated that they are looking to do a lot of work in-house. They have a mower rotation that is in the parks budget and will continue that process. He is asking for a concrete saw for more in-house work on streets. Wainwright asked about renting this and Merta indicated that the process was then held up if you had to arrange to rent or find a company to do the work. Daly asked about the life-span of a jetter truck and that is unknown at this time. The data center is getting water from Fairfax. Anderson asked who has CDL's and Merta indicated that he did

as well as Brandon Lefebure. Parks Director Joe Kell was asked by Daly about the Honor Program. Kell indicated that there was not one in the parks. Mallie asked about cameras in the parks. Kell indicated that only the Complex has cameras - 5 of them, but will look into getting some less expensive ones for the other parks. Mallie asked for an inventory of what is FYSA owned and what is City owned. Kell indicated that nothing in the concession stand is city owned and he would get that to her when the weather gets better. Mayor Beer proposed setting up a fund for free Radon Testing Kits. She will research the numbers and bring that back to council. Daly asked if we were working to keep

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