Special Exception (SE) #26-04
865 3rd Street
Home-Based Business

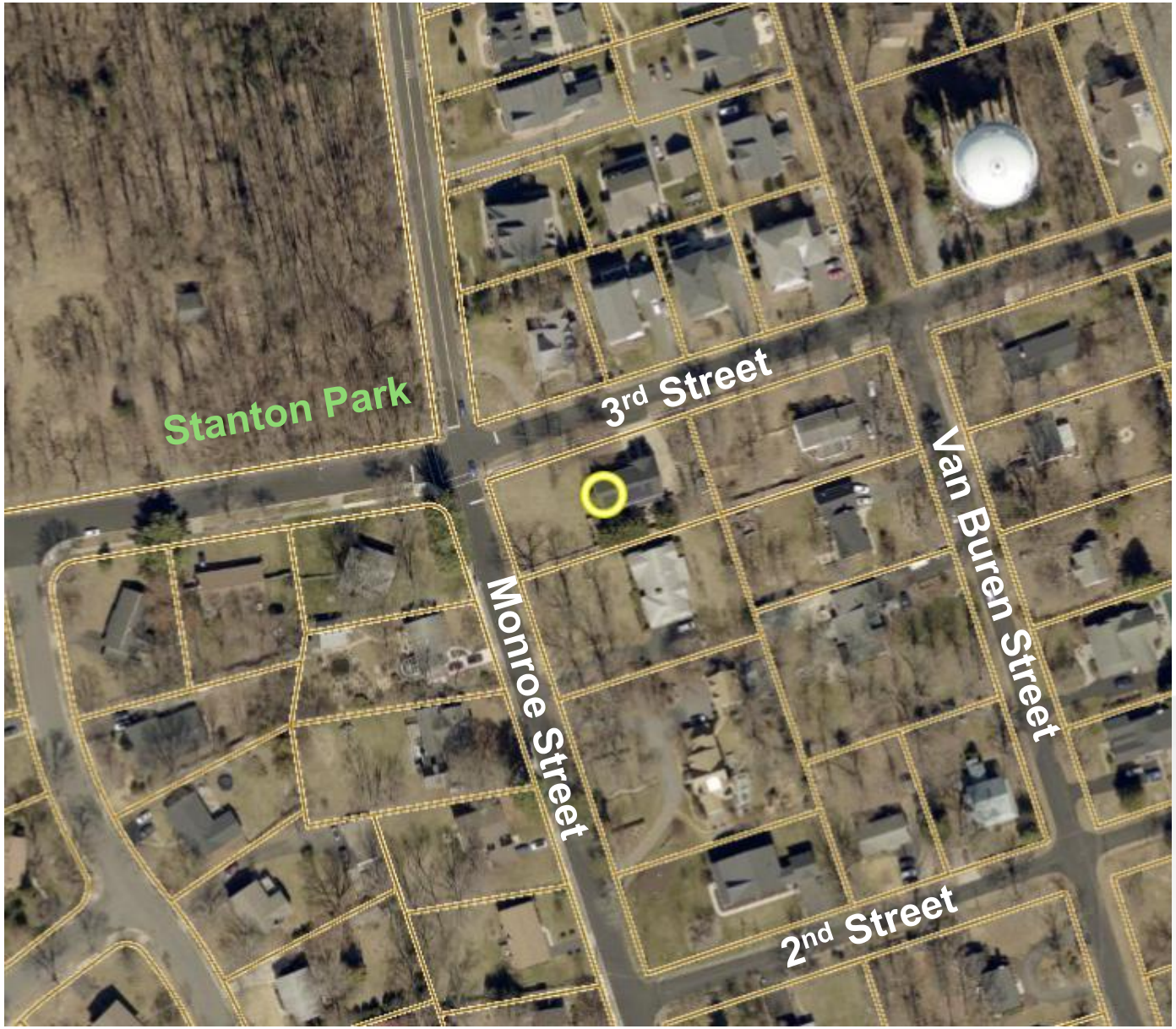
Planning Commission Working Session
June 22, 2026

Aaron Zoellick
Zoning Services Specialist

LIVE DIFFERENTLY. TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

Site Description

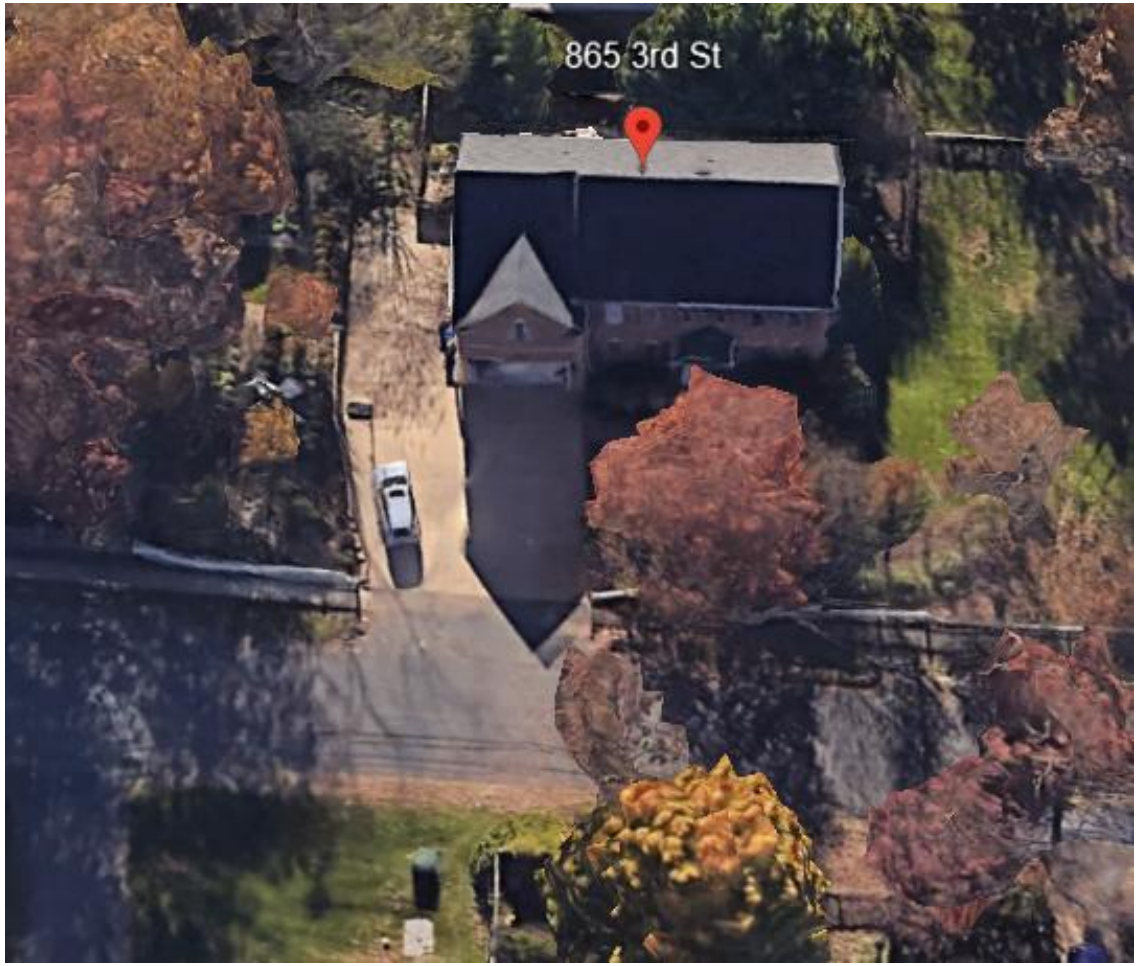
- 20,038 square feet
- R-15, Residential Single-Family
- Neighborhood Conservation



Current Operation

The applicant currently provides robotics and coding lessons to their own children and a few classmates.

The applicant formed Launch Hub LLC and is an approved educational partner with Fairfax County Public Schools.



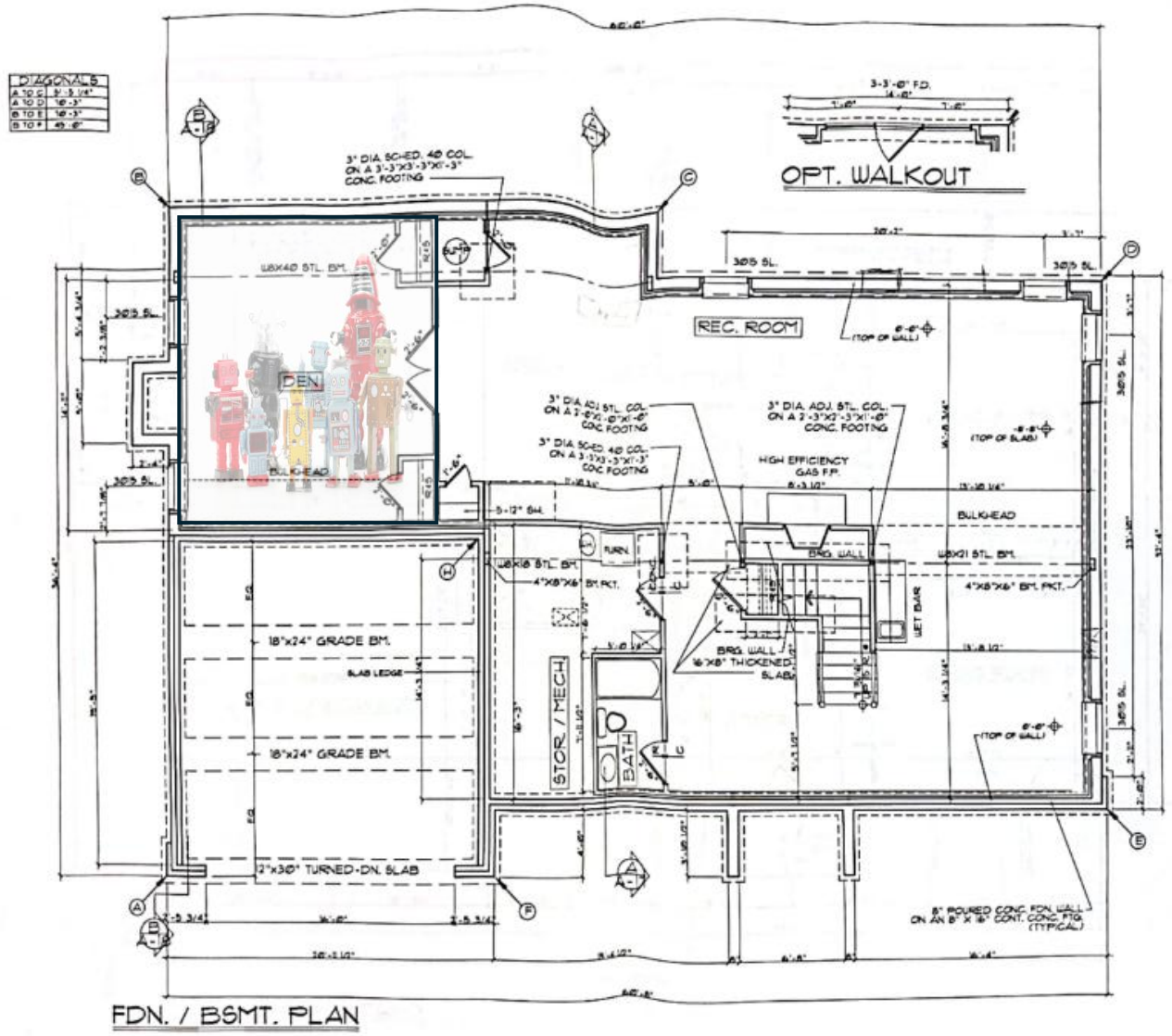
Google Earth Image

Proposed Operations

Number of Employees:
- Two (Applicant and one nonresident employee)

Proposed Hours:
- During School Year
  - One weekday 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- During Summer
  - One week of lessons from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Space Dedicated to Home-Based Business:
- The lessons will take place in the basement den, which is approximately 267 sq. ft.



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Proposed Special Exception

The zoning ordinance limits the number of nonresident employees and visitors between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in two ways:

- Up to three customers or clients are allowed at the site for no more than two consecutive hours per day. Sec. 78-80.5(a)(11)(b)
- No more than four arrivals of nonresident persons who are employees, clients, customers, or associates of the home-based business shall occur during any 24-hour period. Sec. 78-80.5(a)(11)(c)

The applicant is requesting 10 children per session, with the summer sessions lasting more than two hours.



Microsoft Stock Image

Staff Analysis

	Criteria Sec. 78-155.3(e)(1)	Assessment	Reasoning
a.	Is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan	Meets	The proposed use will be in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan policies on provision of good and services to the local community and positive economic benefits of new businesses.
b.	Is free of conflict with any provision of this chapter and related regulations or any other applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations	Meets	The proposed Special Exception uses are provisioned within the base zoning district and do not create any substantial conflicts with other regulatory requirements. The use and business operations will be conditioned to ensure the use continually meets the purpose and intent of the R-15, Residential Single-Family zoning district.
c.	Does not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.	Meets with conditions	The proposed uses are generally compatible with the site / neighborhood. The proposed conditions will limit the impact to parking and vehicle trips by restricting maximum number of clients.
d.	Consistent with the purpose and intent of the zoning district in which it is located or will improve compatibility among uses and will ensure efficient development within the town.	Meets	The proposed conditions will remain compatible with the intent of the uses of the R-15 district.
e.	Minimizes adverse visual impact of the proposed use on adjacent lands.	Meets	The proposed conditions will not generate visual changes to the site.
g.	Minimizes adverse impact on surrounding lands regarding service delivery, parking and loading, odors, noise, glare, and vibration, and should not create a nuisance.	Meets with conditions	Staff recommended conditions to limit the distribution of customers to prevent negative impacts to parking, drop-off/pickup, and noise.
h.	Avoids significant adverse impacts on the property values of surrounding lands or substantially and permanently injures the use of neighboring property for those uses that are permitted in the zoning district.	Meets	The proposed use has virtually no external impacts and provides a needed community service.
i.	Does not significantly and adversely impact the natural environment, including but not limited to, air, noise, stormwater management, wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, and the natural functioning of the environment.	Meets	The proposed conditions will not involve any expansion of floor area or conversion of pervious area to impervious area.

Proposed Conditions

#	Condition	Criteria Addressed
1.	The site shall be developed and maintained in substantial conformance with the submitted special exception application that is 33 percent or less of the gross floor area in conformance with Section 78-80.5 of the zoning ordinance.	C and G
2.	The maximum number of clients per session shall not exceed 10.	C and G
3.	Child drop-off and pick-up shall be limited to the driveway.	C and G
4.	One employee shall be present in the driveway to direct children from the vehicle to the home at drop-off and from the home to the vehicle at pick-up.	C and G
5.	Lessons shall be offered in substantial conformance with the following schedule:	C and G
	a. During the Fairfax County Public Schools year, one lesson per day, no longer than two hours, may be offered Monday through Friday between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.	
	b. During the Fairfax County Public Schools year, one lesson per day, no longer than two hours, may be offered on Saturday and Sunday between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.	
	c. During the Fairfax County Public Schools summer recess, lessons may be offered Monday through Friday either:	
	i. One per day, no longer than eight hours, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.; or	
	ii. Two per day; each lesson shall be no longer than three hours. The first lesson shall take place between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with the second lesson beginning no sooner than one hour after the first lesson concludes.	
6.	No signage shall be permitted.	G

Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends that Planning Commission recommend approval of SE #26-04 with conditions to the Town Council.
  - The application would be presented at the July 28, 2026, meeting.