

Public Safety

# Loudoun County sheriff seeks person of interest in 34-year-old slaying

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By [Dana Hedgpeth](#)

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Authorities in Loudoun County released an updated sketch of a man who they say is a person of interest in the 34-year-old cold case slaying of a Fairfax County woman.

Thursday marked the [anniversary of Veronica Hepworth's death](#). The 20-year-old's partially clothed body was found on Feb. 25, 1982, along a driveway on Route 50 east of Route 15, near Gilberts Corner, according to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, which is helping Virginia State Police in the investigation.

Officials said they did "an age progression sketch of the man who they say was Hepworth's "last-known serious boyfriend." The man's name was not released.

The sketch was done by a certified law enforcement artist who specializes in forensic work, authorities said. The man is described as being white, with dark hair. He is believed to be in his mid-50s to early 60s at this time.

Hepworth was said to have only been dating the man shown in the photos for a short time before the slaying, authorities said. Officials said the man is not necessarily a suspect, but they do want to talk with him and hope he can provide some information.

Sheriff officials said Hepworth was last seen alive around 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 25, 1982, at the Fancy Dancer Bar on Route 1 in Alexandria, where she was with a group of people to celebrate a friend's birthday. Her body was found around 7 a.m., about an hour's drive from the bar.

It is not known if Hepworth left the bar alone. She may have hitchhiked to get to her home or left with someone, authorities said.

After the news of the homicide was reported, a UPS driver told law enforcement that while he was on his way to work the morning of Feb. 25, 1982, he saw a truck around 4 or 5 a.m. in a driveway along Route 50 with its lights shining out into the roadway. The driver said he noticed a man "bent down in the truck," according to Chris McClure, who is a senior special agent with the Virginia State Police and is one of the lead investigators on the case.

Officials said a truck, matching a description from the UPS driver — a red, late 1960s or 1970s model — was found near "the farm where her body was left."

Hepworth had suffered some blunt force trauma to her body and head, and investigators later determined that she had been strangled.

“It appears there may have been some altercation,” McClure said.


Over the years, authorities said they have received some tips and leads but “nothing has panned out” to lead to an arrest, according to McClure.

McClure said some DNA from one of her pieces of clothing was submitted using new testing technologies that weren’t around at the time of the case.

Anyone with information is asked to call 703-803-2655.

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### **Dana Hedgpeth**

Dana Hedgpeth is a Washington Post reporter, working in the early morning to report on traffic, crime and other local issues. She joined The Post in 1999. Follow 

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