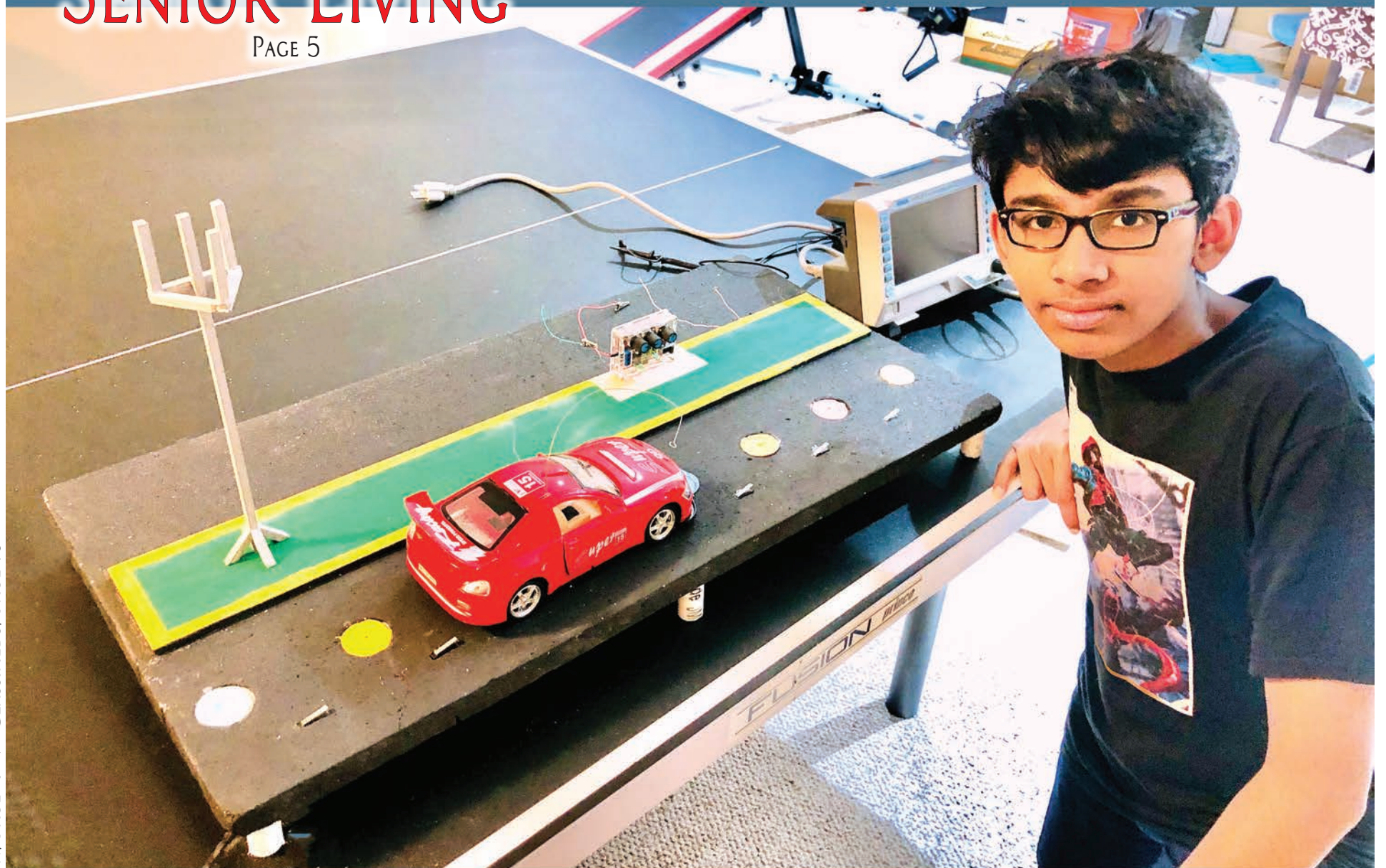


# Cooper Seventh-grader Wins Young Scientists Challenge

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## Delta Variant Has Room to Run Rampant

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## Brightview Explores Plan For Leesburg Pike Facility

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A project about sending energy through the road to electric cars led to Kriesh Tivare of McLean, seventh-grader at Cooper Middle School, becoming a State Merit Winner.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Food trucks, raffles, and games make getting the COVID vaccine fun and allows people not to travel distances or find child/elderly care.

## Delta Variant Has Room to Run Rampant

### Removing invisible vaccine barriers for communities in Fairfax County.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ump on a moon bounce, grab an empanada from a food truck and get a Covid vaccine. That's right. The Fairfax County community is scrambling on multiple fronts in a war against Covid's Delta variant as the County recorded 124 new Covid cases Sunday, Aug. 1. The County is doing whatever it takes to increase the number of vaccinated to reach the gold medal of herd immunity. Fairfax Health District reported on Aug. 1, 58 percent of all Fairfax County Health District residents were fully vaccinated; 64 percent received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Some local agencies are easing the way for people to receive on-site vaccinations at places like their apartment complexes and holding vaccine and family fun days. Some individuals are masking up indoors to protect others and themselves. New data released on July 30 in the UVA COVID-19 Model provided by the University of Virginia Biocomplexity Institute and released by the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC's data made public the same day on the spread of the Delta variant are causing concern.

According to the UVA model, the key take-aways are that the Delta variant poses a "significant public health concern" based on the current course of the pandemic. The Delta variant is dominant in Virginia, seeing case growth with 10 of 35 Health Districts experiencing surges. One reason for the surge is

that the Delta variant has room to run primarily among unvaccinated people. Vaccination rates are still below herd immunity levels, and many Virginians are returning to normal.

**ON FRIDAY**, the CDC released evidence that the Delta variant was easily contagious and those vaccinated less protected than they may think. Vaccinated people infected with the Delta variant carry similar viral loads in their noses and throats as the unvaccinated. While they can spread the disease, they are rarely hospitalized.

Delta is here, though, in Fairfax County. The UVA model reports over 70 percent of all new COVID-19 cases in the Commonwealth as the Delta variant and predicts this figure will reach 90 percent by mid-August.

The Delta variant is considerably more transmissible and causes more severe cases than prior variants. Studies suggest that it may be nearly "twice as likely to cause illness requiring hospitalization compared to earlier variants...Delta is also more likely to cause reinfections in those who have previously had COVID-19 and recovered," according to the UVA COVID-19 Model Weekly update.

Vaccines remain the best defense against the Delta variant to reduce the risk of infection and severe disease. While the Delta variant is "more capable of causing breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated individuals than prior strains... confidence in the efficacy of these vaccines remains high," according to the UVA model. People who do get infected are less likely to experience severe illness requiring hospitalization. "The vaccinated individual may feel few or no symptoms of illness, but still be infectious to others," according to the UVA model.

On July 27, the CDC issued guidance if a person is fully vaccinated, "to reduce the risk of being infected with the Delta variant

and possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission." According to the CDC, new data shows that unlike other Covid variants, people vaccinated and infected with the Delta variant can still get high viral loads and could spread the virus.

"Unlike the Alpha variant that we had back in May, where we didn't believe that

if you were vaccinated, you could transmit further, this is different now with a Delta variant," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said.

Jessica Gutierrez-Lugo is a Community Organizer with Opportunity Neighborhoods. On Saturday, July 31, Gutierrez-Lugo helped manage a Healthy Family Fun Day with a  
SEE BARRIERS, PAGE 6

#### RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE COVID-19 VACCINE DOSE\*

**757,376**

Count

76.1% of people 18 years and older

64.0% of all Fairfax Health District residents

\* People vaccinated with one dose of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single dose vaccine.

#### FULLY VACCINATED\*\*

**686,784**

Count

69.5% of people 18 years and older

58.0% of all Fairfax Health District residents

\*\* People vaccinated with two doses of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single dose vaccine.

All vaccination data are from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Virginia Immunization Information System. Numbers differ from the VDH vaccination dashboard, which reports data separately for Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

As of Aug. 1, 2021. 64 percent of All Fairfax Health Districts residents received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose and 58 percent of all Fairfax Health District residents are fully vaccinated.

### Fairfax County Holds County-wide Vaccine Equity Clinics

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ringing the COVID-19 vaccine to the people rather than relying on them to find their way to a site is one option to get people vaccinated and slow the surging Delta variant.

In May 2021, the Fairfax County Health Department began to review vaccination data across the county regularly. "Using land parcel population estimates and vaccination data, our epidemiologists have identified some neighborhoods that are under-vaccinated," said Sharon D. Arndt, Director & ALOFR COVID19 Response High Risk Task Force Leader Community Health Development Division Fairfax County Health Department.

"Working with community partners and residential management companies, we have established pop-up clinics in many of these neighborhoods to offer the vaccine and to improve vaccination rates," Arndt said.

"We have recently begun to deploy vaccine navigation teams to neighbor-

hoods to help connect residents to nearby vaccine appointments that can be found on staywellnova.com," she added.

According to Arndt, their Vaccine Equity Clinics began in early February. They held clinics in FCPS schools, community centers, board offices, libraries, retail space, homeless shelters, houses of worship, and residential management companies.

"We work with different anchor vaccinators to deliver the vaccine - such as Safeway, Neighborhood Health FQHC [Federal Qualified Health Center], Mason and Partners Clinic, Healthworks FQHC [Federal Qualified Health Center], and the Health Department's own field vaccination team," said Arndt.

Specific for the in-the residential-neighborhood vaccine events, Arndt said they held neighborhood clinics in the Mt. Vernon area at the Audubon, Creekside, and Lafayette communities; Lincolnian area at Lerner Towers; Springfield area with Springfield Neighborhood Resource Center; Herndon area at Berkdale Apartments; and Chantilly area at Meadows of Chantilly.



# OPINION

## TJ Parents Welcome Most Diverse TJ Class in History

... and  
denounce  
the anti-CRT  
division.

We are parents of students and graduates of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ), and are greatly concerned about recent events and growing misinformation surrounding the changes to the admissions process and anti-racism discussions at the prestigious school we love and respect.

We, TJ parents, have a wide variety of opinions about the particulars of the TJ admissions policy and procedures; there are likely as many opinions on the “ideal” admissions policy for TJ as there are parents, students, and alumni, but we believe in working together, coming to a compromise, and finding resolution.

Most importantly, while some members of the community have spoken loudly and negatively, we here all agree that the members of the newly announced incoming Class of 2025 fully earned their acceptances to the school, and we look forward to welcoming them all into our community. Although some of us did not agree with how

the admissions changes were handled, we are pleased that this new class is the most diverse class in TJ history, with a majority of Asian American students and a substantial increase in the number of historically underrepresented minorities.

This is about TJ maintaining academic excellence while being more open and inclusive, promoting social emotional learning, and preparing our students for 21st century skills like teamwork and critical thinking. It's also about including students from low-income families, which will represent 25 percent of the incoming class, as opposed to the usual 2 percent. We wholeheartedly believe that this increased diversity will enrich our school community even more and we welcome the Class of 2025 with open arms.

We also feel strongly that many of the actions and words of members of the “Coalition for TJ” have inflamed, distorted, and confused the issues, often alienating the community. The Coalition has for months now waged a divisive, false, and negative campaign, insisting that any changes are “anti-merit,” “racist,” and specifically designed to “purge Asians,” as one of its most outspoken members declared in a recent Washington Post Op-Ed.

The Coalition leaders' many appearances in numerous me-

dia outlets have made them the public face of TJ parents—but they absolutely do not represent our community. They have used these platforms to make constant calls for the resignation or firing of the school's principal and FCPS superintendent, and for the recall of members of the School Board. This spring, the Coalition became synonymous with the campaign against so-called “critical race theory,” and its proponents have even targeted our school's PTSA and want it to be fully engaged in the “fight against CRT.” False and cruel attacks were launched against the new PTSA president — who notably was the first Chinese-American president of the TJ PTSA — because she wanted the PTSA to focus on its usual student-centered and welcoming activities for students, parents, teachers, and staff — regardless of anyone's political views — rather than on CRT and admissions changes. Who would have imagined that that would become controversial? These toxic attacks finally led her to resign on July 28.

Why is this fight at TJ relevant to the rest of Fairfax County and perhaps the rest of our region? Because TJ is the proverbial canary in the coal mine. The demonization and manipulative weaponizing of “CRT” by Coalition leaders, conveyed in a manner which does not promote unity, and combined

with their bullying and censoring tactics, are clearly attempts to silence alternative views and crush efforts to promote diversity and belonging. This in turn threatens to tear our school community apart, which is the complete opposite mission of a school PTSA. That same toxic playbook is already happening in Loudoun County, with School Board meetings so contentious police have had to be called in. The attempted hijacking and perversion of an institution that historically has enabled volunteer parents of all political stripes to work together in support of our students and teachers — the PTSA — needs to be contested and reversed. We hope more parents in Northern Virginia will come to recognize and push back on the divisive tactics we are experiencing at TJ, because only together can we demand civility, and ensure the safe, tolerant, inclusive, and welcoming schools all our students deserve.

Bruce Anderson, Caiyi Li, Justine Byun, Natalie Lorenz Anderson, Kate Carey, Elaine Maag, Steve Chang, Chaya Thyagaraja Merrill, Dana Cibulski, Sujatha Narayan, Julie Cox, Parvathi Rachakonda, Penny Dunlop, Yvette Soliz Rivers, Susan Es, Dorian Rivers, Michelle Gilles Chris Rodriguez, Heller Sanjita Sethi, Stacey Heller Mae Ybanez-Uy, Khurram Khan and Yan Yuan

## COVID Relief

BY KENNETH R.  
“KENN” PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The General Assembly is meeting this week and possibly a few days next week to appropriate the federal COVID-Relief fund made available through the American



Plum

Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It is somewhat ironic that these funds are being appropriated at the same time there is a surge in infections mainly from the Delta variant and almost totally among eligible persons who have refused to be vaccinated.

ARPA made \$9.0 billion in federal funds available to Virginia and similar amounts to other states based on the guidelines that accompanied the monies. Although these are federal monies they must be appropriated by the General

Assembly in a budget bill passed by a majority in both houses and signed by the governor. HB7001 as the budget bill is designated is available for review at [lis.virginia.gov](https://lis.virginia.gov). You should know in advance that it is some heavy going that might be best as bedside reading.

Included in ARPA are monies for State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds (SLFR) that total \$4.3 billion for Virginia. Other federal funds that are provided for specific programs include Child Care Development, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants and federal unemployment benefits. There are no state general funds that are included in this budget bill as the General Assembly will meet again in five months at its regular session when surplus monies from state revenues will be appropriated. The budget bill is a consensus document worked on over many weeks among legislators and staff

and executive branch staff and is not likely to be amended.

Highlights of the budget bill, many of which have already been announced by the governor, include \$716 billion for broadband expansion. The pandemic demonstrated conclusively that broadband is essential to everyone in commerce and in education when children have to learn at home. Schools will receive \$250 million for ventilation improvements that became obvious during the pandemic.

Public health initiatives total \$120 million, and programs of public safety to reduce community violence will receive \$114.5 million. Mental health and substance abuse programs are proposed to receive \$238 million. The unemployment compensation program will be replenished with \$862 million eliminating the need to raise unemployment fund tax rates among employers. An additional \$73.6 is being provided to the Virginia Employment Commission to update their technology and increase their staff size as major

deficiencies were identified and citizens were poorly served during the pandemic.

Food access programs will receive \$25.6 million to ensure that Virginians do not go hungry during these challenging times. Small businesses including the tourism industry will be able to apply for relief from a fund totaling \$76.5 million. New data from the U.S. Treasury shows that Virginia leads all other states on the distribution of rent relief monies, and that program will continue.

While these new monies from the federal government will provide relief to many citizens and to many programs that respond to community needs, the ultimate in COVID relief rests with the broader community. I do not expect that the legislature will mandate vaccinations or the wearing of masks. Both, however, may be the best way to realize relief from the ravages of pandemic. Let's work in our community to ensure that all know the importance of getting vaccinated and wearing masks in crowds.

## CONNECTION

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## SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO CREDIT: E. DAVID LURIA

Encore Sentimental Journey Singers performed a concert in Fairfax, Virginia. The Sentimental Journey Singers program is a chorus for those who have been diagnosed with early or beginning moderate Alzheimer's and other memory impairments.

## Music for Singers Alzheimer's Disease

**New choral program gives those with Alzheimer's and other memory impairments the gift of music.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Peter Midgley and his wife went on their first date, they discovered their mutual love of music. In fact, they were both members of the same choir. When the couple married and had children, melody-making became a major part of the family's everyday life. Though Midgley has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, the tradition of music is still a part of his life thanks to his adult daughter Debbie Caramella and the Sentimental Journey Singers program, a chorus for those in the early or beginning moderate Alzheimer's and other memory impairments.

"We learned of SJS through the adult day center my dad was attending. It seemed like the perfect fit for us because music has been a part of our family story since before we were a family," said Caramella who, as her father's caretaker, is also part of the choir. "Besides the benefits of the physical, social, and cognitive engagement that the choir provides, we have discovered that when we sing together, Alzheimer's loses its grip, and we are just a dad and a daughter enjoying what we have all our lives."

The program is part of Encore Creativity for Older Adults, a choral program for singers 55 years of age and older. Sentimental Journey Singers will begin operating in September in Montgomery and Fairfax counties.

"Music brings pure joy no matter where we are in life, but when there is a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another memory impairment, music taps into another part of the brain and it's one of the last things to

go," said Anita Irvin, Executive Director, Insight Memory Care Center. Insight clients have joined Sentimental Journey Singers. "There are so many mental and social benefits from music and we saw such a positive experience from our participants that joined the choir. They very much looked forward to the rehearsals."

The season begins in September with rehearsals for the group's holiday concert. Singers and their caretakers will sing in three-part harmony. Group members will enjoy the social aspect of choral singing while learning healthy vocal technique skills.

"Alzheimer's is a very lonely disease. It's usually you and your caregiver, so when these singers come out every week, the social interaction means a lot to them," said Jeanne Kelly, Founder and Artistic Director of Encore Creativity. "The experience will offer teamwork, confidence, a lot of fun and incredible joy."

Tuition for 15 weeks of rehearsals is \$190 and includes sheet music, rehearsal CD, and a December concert performance for family and friends that is free and open to the general public. There are no auditions and Encore is hopeful that all care partners will also sing. There will be 15 rehearsals led by Mary Ann East, Ph.D., an Encore conductor who is also the music director at Community

of Faith Methodist Church in Herndon, Va. and the Co-Founder and Director of the Capital Harmonia Community Women's Chorus.

### For More Information

Anyone who is interested in the Sentimental Journey Singers program, or other Encore choral programs, can visit [encorecreativity.org](http://encorecreativity.org) to learn more and to register.

**Sentimental Journey Singers Strathmore**  
Mondays - 10:00-11:30 am - beginning September 13  
Strathmore Music Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD

**Sentimental Journey Singers Fairfax**  
Wednesdays - 10:00-11:30 am - beginning September 8  
Community of Faith UMC, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon, VA

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# Scooters Now Another Mode of Transportation in Fairfax County

County okays 600 of these “shared mobility devices.”

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

There are a couple of localities in Northern Virginia where scooters are running rampant, and soon Fairfax County will be included in that unofficial club. Recently 600 e-scooters are now approved to operate in Fairfax County and will soon hit local pavement. Like bicycles, e-scooters can be used on a highway, sidewalk, shared-use path, roadway, or crosswalk, but cannot operate above 10 mph, the county said.

Scooters actually fall under an ordinance regulating shared mobility devices, to include motorized scooters, that was approved in 2019 and went into effect Jan. 1, 2020. Operators are allowed an initial maximum fleet of 300 devices per operator permit that can be increased to 600 devices per operator based on usage, so the 600 in this first program are divided between two companies, Link and BIRD.

Scooters are a common site in Arlington, the City of Alexandria, and on George Mason University campus, and scooter parking in these locations has become somewhat of an issue. The rules seem to be bending in many cases in these locations. In Fairfax County, once riders reach their destination, they should leave the device parked in an area that does not impede normal car or foot traffic. If an e-scooter is parked in an inappropriate place or left on private property, it falls upon the random resident to contact the device operator listed on the e-scooter and the operator must remove it.

Some residents chimed in on social media about this when the county announced it. “Most riders just abandon scooters on sidewalks or park trails... So annoying...,” Facebook user slavagamol posted. “Do you have to take a safety and awareness test to rent these?” asked suzrejo.

“City of Fairfax has scooters left all over the sidewalks and a lack of safety toward pedestrians,” they said.

Fairfax County staff will create a process for complaints about e-scooters and SMDs related to improper use or abandonment. Staff will coordinate implementation of the complaint process with bordering jurisdictions and present a summary in the first year of SMDs in early 2021.

Fairfax County staff will also in-



A scooter spot on campus at George Mason University.

take complaints about e-scooters and SMDs related to improper use or abandonment. In order to report any issues related to scooters and other shared devices, emails can be sent to [consumer@fairfax-county.gov](mailto:consumer@fairfax-county.gov).

## Scooter Mania

Scooters started out as basically a skateboard with a handlebar, but now it's moved into the electronic, high tech mode of transportation that does take some balance, skill and a set of nerves. A helmet is recommended when riding a scooter, but it's only a recommendation. The helmets may seem like a no-brainer but “Fairfax County does not have the authority to regulate helmets although many companies do that voluntarily,” they state on the website.

Bird is an international scooter company that claims the “Bird 3” is “the world’s most eco-conscious scooter,” but on the website, it takes a lot of digging to find out the details, like how to pay for it? An app and a credit card, of course.

The Washington Area Bicyclists Association has even chimed in, supporting this mode of transportation, saying “scooters provide a low-emission, affordable and on-demand travel option and an alternative to private or shared cars.” They also state that users “must not use any cellular telephone, text messaging device, portable music player, or other device that may distract You from operating the Vehicle safely.”

According to the Bird rules, riders must be at least 18, physically fit to ride it, assume all risks for injuries, and obey all helmet laws. At



At GMU, there is a list of rules but they seemed mostly focused on where to ride and park the scooters. No scooter etiquette on this list.



GMU alumna Thomas Lippincott likes the idea of scooters on campus.

GMU, their rules are posted at several scooter parking spots around campus, but any helmet rules are not stated on the posted sign.

Payment to use a Bird scooter is through “credit card, debit card, or another agreed payment method,” which limits the use to only card holders. This could limit county scooters to the upper end of the economically advantaged too.

Over at Link, it's much of the same although Link scooters go up to 15 miles per hour, and the rule in Fairfax County is 10 miles per hour.

According to Rebecca L. Makely, Consumer Services Division Director at Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services “permittees are encouraged to provide a cash-based or non-smartphone mechanism to access Shared Mobility Devices,” although it is not clear if Link or Bird have other payment methods.

For any issues related to scooters and other shared devices email [consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov).



Masks are the norm.

## Removing Vaccination Barriers

FROM PAGE 3

moon bounce, games, food trucks, and raffles at the Berkdale Apartments in the Town of Herndon. However, the event's purpose was an enticement, an intentional outreach to the community enabling adults and children 12 years and older with parental permission to get vaccinated. No barriers, no travel, no child care needed.

“We are providing the Pfizer vaccine. This is a collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health, Fairfax County Health Department, and Health Works for Northern Virginia,” Gutierrez-Lugo said. “In this area of Herndon, the numbers for adults to be vaccinated are very low. So, we are trying a more intentional outreach in these communities.”

According to Gutierrez-Lugo, what they did before didn't work, registering people to send them to sites on a particular day and time. Many of the people in this part of town worked two jobs while balancing childcare, eldercare, food-sourcing, and life. If something happened, that became their priority, not the vaccine.

“It's just not our culture. We are in survival mode,” Gutierrez-Lugo said.

In her role with Opportunity Neighborhood, Gutierrez-Lugo recalled that she had asked people if they were vaccinated in June. For most, the answer was no, but they were thinking about it. “I asked them if the vaccine was available to them at their apartment complex would they get it, their answer changed to yes,” Gutierrez-Lugo said. “That's when we decided something had to change... This is what we have to do so that we can get out of this pandemic.”

GUTIERREZ-LUGO said that the day before, a twelve-year-old agreed to get the vaccine. On Saturday, she stood in line, without her mother, paper in

hand, excited to get immunized because she was going to middle school. However, when told she needed her mother there for permission, she felt overwhelmed and ran back to Gutierrez-Lugo, saying, “It's too much. I can't do it. Mom needs to be with Grandma.” Gutierrez-Lugo arranged for one of the Opportunity Neighborhood ambassadors to stay with the grandmother. The mother arrived, and the young girl received her vaccination.

“It's barriers like that for our people, even little barriers. It's just overwhelming, and she's twelve. Maybe for you, maybe for me, we can overcome the barriers. But not for these people who have been through trauma more than once in their lives, and they are survivors. Little things like that, it's just overwhelming,” Gutierrez-Lopez said. “We have to carry these communities until they are self-sufficient until they are empowered. Just a little push, that's all they need.”

On the day after the event, Gutierrez-Lopez said, “Only 42 people vaccinated. We ran out of vaccines, sadly. At least 20 people didn't get the vaccine; they were referred to CVS.”

Town of Herndon Vice Mayor Cesar del Aguila stopped by the Berkdale Apartments. According to del Aguila, the event's intentional outreach to a community primarily under-served and struggling appeared a success. “Vaccinations are critical, and this population is at greater risk and therefore in much need of these services. Schools open in three weeks, and we must vaccinate as many residents as possible,” del Aguila said. “We need to bridge the cultural, economic, and income divide in our town,” he said.

A little over a mile in the sought-after historic district of the Town of Herndon, vehicles lined up throughout the morning, waiting for COVID-19 testing.

BY MERCEA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION





The team works on a stream in Springfield.



Along one of the bike trails, non-native plants are the target.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

## Streams Get a Lift from a County Program 'Operation Stream Shield' is called a win-win-win.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

As storms continue to wash trash, construction debris, tree limbs and leaves into the suburban streams throughout Fairfax County, a program was developed by officials to clean up the streams while providing a pay-check to those in need.

This program, called "Operation Stream Shield," is a partnership was initiated between the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to benefit the environment and provide assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness. "It's a win-win-win," said Sharon North, spokesperson for Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

The county teams up with people from the Eleanor U. Kennedy Community Shelter, Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, and The Lamb Center homeless shelter that go out to the streams a total of eight trips a week to clean the streams. The participants are then paid for their work, and on several occasions, it has led to a regular or seasonal job for those who needed it. "We have a lot of debris pulled from the streams," said Emily Burton of the Stormwater Planning Division at the Fairfax County Department of Public Works.

Burton said the program idea was initially gotten from a similar situation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "We modeled it very closely with their program," she said. Fairfax County started their pilot program in October 2019, and kicked off the program in May 2020.

They also rely on contact with the various "Friends of ..." stream



The non-native plants get up in the trees and are not good for the native trees.

groups to work out the particulars. In the Mount Vernon area, they work with Friends of Little Hunting Creek and Friends of the Dyke Marsh, and in Springfield, they are working with the Friends of Accotink Creek group.

From the Friends of Accotink Creek, Philip Latasa has seen the benefits from working with the teams at Operation Stream Shield. "We as Friends of Accotink Creek greatly appreciate the effort Fairfax County is putting into removing unsightly and harmful trash from our streams as well as removing some of the ubiquitous noxious exotic invasive plant species that are overwhelming so many of our parks," Latasa said, via email. He noted that the work can be hard in difficult terrain and weather, but the participants are clearly motivated to get the job done. "It is a clear win for all parties that this program also gives dignity and income to shelter residents, helping many to return to self-supporting status over time," Latasa said.

The county has a "litter hotspots," map on the site as well to help teams locate places that need help. In Springfield, for ex-

ample, one hot spot for litter is in Lake Mercer along South Run, and another is on Accotink Creek just south of Fullerton Road. These spots are marked with an X on the map. Over in Mount Vernon, there are spots along Little Hunting Creek and Paul Spring Branch, west of Hollin Hills. On this map, there is also the ability to report litter spots that are encountered.

### Non-Native Plant Removal

One part of the Operation Stream Shield deals with non-native plant species that are at the streams and causing problems for the trees and native plants that grow along the banks. The county has a video on their website created by the Fairfax County Park Authority to identify the non-native species that are encountered at the streams. Although kudzu and ivy seem to be the main culprits, the video helps identify others like Japanese Barberry, Porcelain Berry, Mile a Minute and Oriental Bittersweet to name a few. In the video, they describe how to identify the plants, how to cut and pull them down, and tools needed to accomplish this.

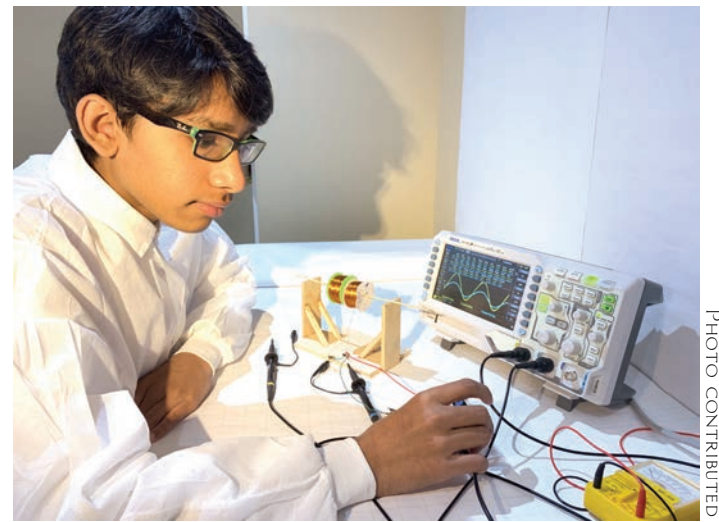


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kriesh Tivare of McLean, a seventh-grader at Cooper Middle School, measures the electrical output of his coil and generator experiments.

## Cooper Seventh-grader Wins Young Scientists Challenge

Kriesh Tivare announced to be a State Merit Winner for a wireless charging project.

BY JESSICA FENG  
THE CONNECTION

As electric cars are taking over the car industry, charging stations have become a more common sight. Seventh-grader Kriesh Tivare of McLean took it upon himself to engineer an innovative contactless charging project. Through the 3M Young Scientist Challenge, Tivare identified and created a prototype to solve a problem.

Tivare attends Cooper Middle School and was introduced to the 3M Young Scientist Challenge via his father and Science Olympiad Teacher, Lisa Walsh. He described the opportunity as providing him an activity aside from school.

"I started in early November and ended around April. It was something that I would do in my free time over the weekend, after school ended, and during holiday," Tivare said.

After first noticing the large amount of time spent recharging his family's electric car, Tivare decided to solve the problem through wirelessly transmitted charging. Utilizing coils and Faraday's Law of Induction, the car battery is filled.

"A conductor is powered with an alternating current, and then the conductor produces a changing magnetic field," Tivare said, "A nearby coil will interact with the changing magnetic field and get induced with a current. This will be used to charge the battery of the car, and it will be charged purely

wirelessly."

Being a novel idea, Tivare thoroughly experimented to find the best configuration. The main variables in his project were related to the length of the coils and the thickness.

"For the length, we use the terminology 'Turns.' For thickness, it is called gauge. I had to create lots of coils of different turns and gauges and try to find the best, most efficient coil to use on the road that would wirelessly charge the car," Tivare said.

Even after perfecting the coils, a frequency generator was needed to utilize the coils to their maximum.

A frequency generator is a component that provides a current and frequency to the coil. With the right frequency, the coils in the road will output the max amount of induction that it can send," Tivare said.

As a result of his hard work, Tivare was ecstatic when he found out he was a State Merit Winner. "It was a long road to bring the project to where it was and when I heard that it was being appreciated, my wish was fulfilled. There were thousands of kids who participated in this competition and I was happy to be one of the few who were recognized," Tivare said.

Plans for research stretch into the future, when Tivare says he plans to focus on the environmental impact.

"I also plan to continue working on a different 3M project next year, and hopefully do better!"



# Brightview Explores Plan for Leesburg Pike Facility

Senior Living reps hold two community engagement meetings with Vienna, Great Falls neighbors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Brightview Senior Living has resumed community engagement for its proposed Continuing Care Facility project at 9439 Leesburg Pike [Route 7] Vienna.

Plan Amendment 2019-II-MI for the 6.72-acre parcel has been in the works for three years but paused due to the pandemic. On July 30, 2019, Fairfax County authorized the consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment for 9439 Leesburg Pike and requested staff to “consider a continuing care facility with 172 beds and a density of up to .65 FAR [Floor Area Ratio] for the subject property,” according to Plan Amendment 2019-II-MI as reported on the County’s Planning Division website. FAR is the measurement of a building’s floor area to the size of the lot/parcel that the building is located on.

The proposed concept plan, an Illustrative Site Plan for the facility as seen on the County website, details a proposed GFA [Gross Floor Area] of 190,286 square feet, 129 parking spaces, and height of 52 feet as defined by the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed project is in the McLean Planning District, Dranesville Supervisor John Foust. Suburban neighborhoods surround two sides of the irregular-shaped site adjacent to neighboring Wolf Trap Fire Station #42, located at the intersection of Leesburg Pike (Route 7) and Beulah Road.

**THE SITE’S EXISTING ZONING** is R-1 but currently occupied by Wolf Trap Nursery. It is planned for 1-2 dwelling units per acre and would need to be rezoned to PCC (Planned Continuing Care Facility).

David Holland, Vice President of Brightview Senior Living said in an email to the Connection on July 29, 2021, “We are excited to explore this opportunity to bring our award-winning care and service to Vienna’s seniors.”

Brightview operates several fa-

cilities in Fairfax County, Brightview Great Falls-Senior Assisted Living & Memory Care, Brightview Fair Oaks-Senior Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Brightview Woodburn-Senior Assisted Living & Memory Care in Annandale.

Holland said he recently had two meetings with the neighboring homeowners’ associations, The County Place HOA hosted by Great Falls Citizens Association [July 15, 2021] and Ciara Estates Association HOA [July 25, 2021]. “The practice is customary for all proposed Brightview communities. We partner with the surrounding neighborhoods to provide them the opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns about our projects,” he said. According to Holland, people have questions about traffic volume, size of the building, hours of operation, exterior lighting, how much of the community will be visible from their houses, etcetera.

“Brightview takes measures with our building designs to ensure that we do not change the residential feel of the neighborhood. Additionally, many of the residents at our current Brightview communities once lived in the neighborhoods adjacent to our communities,” Holland said. “Hence, it is important to us to establish good relationships directly with the neighbors early on.”

Since Brightview is still in the exploratory stage and working on potential plan designs, once they redesign the original proposal, Holland said they wanted to give neighbors the benefit of seeing any revision first.

Jennifer Falcone is the Chair of GFCAs Land Use & Zoning Committee. The organization hosted the July 15 Zoom meeting with representatives from Brightview, homeowners of HOA The Country Place, and GFCa members. In her official GFCa report on the



Location of proposed Brightview Senior Living facility on Leesburg Pike, currently occupied by Wolf Trap Nursery.



Map location of the proposed Brightview Senior Living facility at 9439 Leesburg Pike.

meeting, Falcone said the meeting showed neighbors the latest plan revisions. They included the proposed purchase of vacant land surrounding the fire station, a redesign of the facility’s building, and

alignment of the parking areas.

“There are proposed deed restrictions that would create a perpetual “green space” buffer in perpetuity and no further development of the parcel,” Falcone said in the report.

According to Falcone, “most neighbors in attendance at the GFCa Zoom were vocally opposed to the plan. “A GFCa Board member stated that the Comprehensive Plan states there should be no commercial development between the Dulles Toll Road and the Loudoun County line. But among the many options in the Zoning Ordinance, it should be noted that the County qualifies this proposed use as “residential” and not “commercial,” said Falcone. Fairfax County website shows the Plan Amendment for 9439 Leesburg Pike (2019-II-M1) with a community meeting held on November 20, 2019: “Staff presented an overview of the Comprehensive Plan and details about the proposed amendment.

**THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT** for the Continuing Care Facility is to provide different levels of support for older adults as their needs change- Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care. “Zoning Ordinance allows intensities up to 0.40 FAR for properties planned at 1-2 du/ac [dwelling units/acre]. The proposed amendment would add an option for a continuing care facility at a density of up to 0.65 FAR, with conditions.”

Considerations would involve transportation - Route 7 Corridor Improvements Project, design - Memory Care located at the back of the property, and environment-noise and environmental studies.

A Trip Generation Analysis cited the Current Plan (1-2 DUs per acre) at 159 daily trips: Alternative Plan A (0.40 FAR) at 252 daily trips and Alternative Plan B (0.65 FAR at 413 daily trips.

The County cites Community Engagement Upcoming Meetings: TBA, Public Hearings Planning Commission: Deferred Indefinitely and Board of Supervisors: Deferred Indefinitely.

Resources are available at the Plan Amendment (PA) Work Program, which lays out the review schedule for current Comprehensive Plan amendments and special studies, which includes minor plan amendments that involve smaller geographies such as a small consolidation of properties or a land unit like 9439 Leesburg Pike (2019-II-M1). Questions can be emailed or directed to Stephen Waller at 703-324-2771.

## Trip Generation Analysis

PA 2019-II-M1	Quantity	Unit	Daily	Weekday AM			Weekday PM			Saturday			Sunday		
Development Type				In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
<b>Existing Development</b>															
Nursery - Garden Center (817)	6.4	KSF	436	27	24	51	26	28	54	427	427	854	340	340	680
Total			436	27	24	51	26	28	54	427	427	854	340	340	680
Net (versus Current Plan)			277	24	14	38	16	22	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Current Plan (1 - 2 DUs per acre)</b>															
Single Family Housing (210)	13	DU	159	3	10	13	10	6	16						
Total			159	3	10	13	10	6	16						
Net (versus Current Plan)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
<b>Alternative Plan A (117 KSF - 0.40 FAR CCF)</b>															
Continuing Care Retirement Community (255)	105	DU	252	11	9	20	13	13	26						
Total			252	11	9	20	13	13	26						
Net (versus Current Plan)			93	8	-1	7	3	7	10						
<b>Alternative Plan B (191 KSF - 0.65 FAR CCF)</b>															
Continuing Care Retirement Community (255)	172	DU	413	17	15	32	22	22	44						
Total			413	17	15	32	22	22	44						
Net (versus Current Plan)			254	14	5	19	12	16	28						

A Trip Generation Analysis compares the Current Plan (R-1) 1-2 dwelling units per acre at 159 daily trips, versus two Alternative Plans, Plan A (.40 FAR CCF) at 252 daily trips and Plan B (.65 FAR CCF) at 413 daily trips. The Existing Development, a Nursery, generates 277 daily weekday trips.



## VIENNA POLICE

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from July 23 – July 29, 2021.

### INCIDENTS

Juvenile Case -- Park Street, SE  
Between May 1 at 12 p.m. and June 12 at 12 p.m.

A resident reported obscene communication that their child received through a social media application.

Fraud -- 400 Block Tapawingo Road, SW

June 28 12 p.m.

A resident reported that someone fraudulently used his personal information to set up bank accounts.

Vandalism -- Branch Road Tot Lot  
108 Branch Road, SE

Between July 1 at 12 a.m. and July 28 at 3:12 p.m.

A Town employee reported that someone used spray paint to vandalize the playground and fence.

Suspicious Event -- 500 Block Roberts Drive, NW

Between July 7 at 12 p.m. and July 26 at 6:37 p.m.

A resident reported that they have not been receiving their mail or USPS deliveries. The resident was advised to notify the Postal Inspector.

Fraud -- 700 Block Hunter Court, SW  
Between July 20 at 8:00 a.m. and July 24 at 7:23 p.m.

A resident was speaking to a man he believed was from one of his financial institutions when the man instructed the resident to purchase several gift cards and provide him with the cards' information. The resident provided the man with a large sum of gift cards before he realized it was a scam.

Assault -- 1001 Park Street, SE  
July 25, 2:59 a.m.

Four men were traveling in a vehicle on Park Street. Two of the men were having an argument that escalated to a physical fight. The driver pulled into the Cunningham Park School parking lot and he and the other passenger attempted to break up the fight. Rescue personnel responded to assess one of the men, but no further treatment was necessary. Neither man wanted to pursue charges against the other.

Petit Larceny -- 100 Block Maple Avenue, West

July 25 between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

An employee at Taco Bamba parked his vehicle in the parking lot at the rear of the shopping center. When he returned to the vehicle he found that someone placed a jack under the rear fender and stole a tire and the rear brake caliper from the brake assembly.

Police Service -- Vienna Police Station  
319 Center Street, South

July 25, 2:37 p.m.

A citizen brought two firearms to the station for destruction.

Petit Larceny -- 400 Block Walker Street, SW

Between July 25 at 3 p.m. and July 27 at 7:57 a.m.

A resident reported that someone rummaged through their vehicle and stole US currency.

Lost Property -- Amma Vegetarian Kitchen

344 Maple Avenue, East

July 25 between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

A citizen reported that they lost their cell phone, bank cards, and driver's license in the parking lot.

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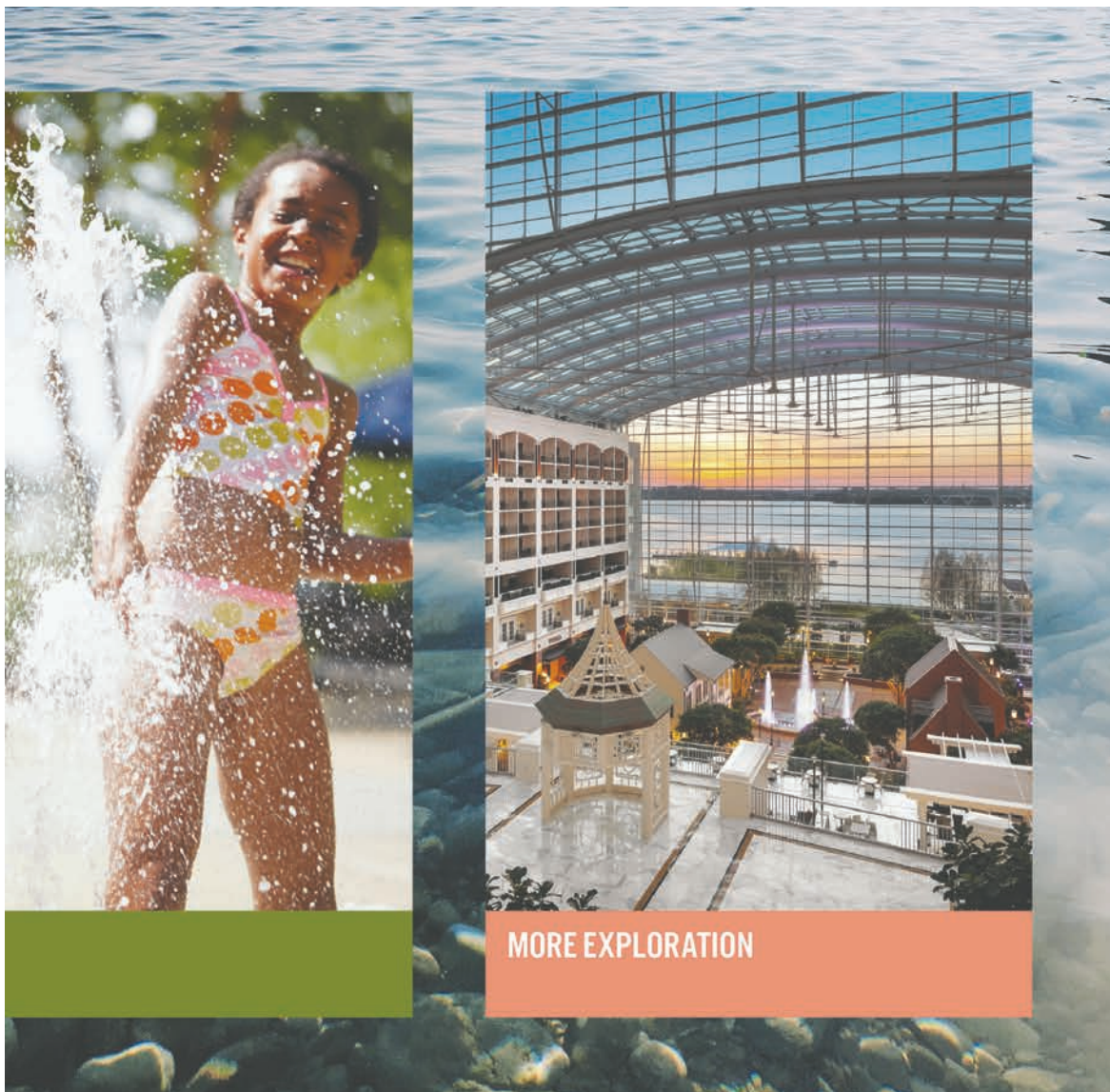
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**THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS**



# CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 4

Yogapalooza. 10:30 a.m. At Wolf Trap's Children's Theatre-in-the Woods, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Catch a concert in Popular kids' yogi Bari Koral presents Yogapalooza at one of her first in-person, full-band concerts in more than a year. Backed by her band, Bari will take kids and families on the rockin' music and movement adventure she's known for. The Wolf Trap audience will learn popular yoga poses with a dancing bear, pop like popcorn, "sleep" like a pony in the barn, fly like a rocket ship, run with a gingerbread man, relax under the stars, and much more. Yogapalooza is an interactive concert packed with award-winning music, good vibes, and great times. All ages and levels of yoga experience are welcome, including beginners!

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 4

The Alte Kameraden German Band. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Rutherford Park, 4710 Guinea Road, Fairfax. Since its founding in 1977, the "Old Comrades" have introduced American audiences to the lush, spirited festmusik played by Bavarian bands. The ensemble is an authentic Blaskapelle wind band that performs the music played by alpine village bands.

## RCC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

❖ Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet  
Thu., August 5 • 7:00 p.m.

Summerbration Fab Fridays: Alfredo Mojica & Friends  
Fri., August 6 • 7:00 p.m.

Family Fun Entertainment Series: Groovy Nate  
Sat., August 7 • 10:00 a.m.

Family Picnic Day: Temporary Road Pavilion  
Sat., August 7 • 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Art in the Park: The Four Seasons by Vivaldi  
Sun., August 8 • 7:00 p.m.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 6

Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

### Schedule

Aug 6 -- Social Call;  
Aug 13 -- It's All Good;  
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;  
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;  
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;  
Sept 10 -- keeton + 8 Track Jones;  
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;  
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

## WOLF TRAP PERFORMANCES

At Wolf Trap Farm Park, McLean.

August 4 – Straight No Chaser

August 5 – Lindsey Stirling with special guest Kiesza

August 6 – Renée Fleming with National Symphony Orchestra, Patrick Summers (conductor)

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Friends of the Centreville Library invite you to

its first post pandemic book sale. Find gently used adult fiction, children's books, CDs, DVDs, and more.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Mexilachian Dance Music. 7:30 p.m. At Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Lua Project brings its unique mix of Mexilachian dance music to Ossian Hall Park. Lua is a cultural pollinator, bridging together musical styles from different continents and different centuries that draw on the musical traditions of their own families' past. The mu-



**Renee Fleming and the National Symphony Orchestra will appear at Wolf Trap on Aug. 6.**

sic is inspired by Mexican Son, Appalachian song forms, Jewish and Eastern European tonalities, baroque melodic ideas, and Scotch-Irish narrative storytelling approaches.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Music of Ray Owens. 10 a.m. At Burke Lake Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The music of Ray Owen's Animal Odyssey is a tuneful animal kingdom adventure. The show is a journey through a land of rousing songs, down a river of rollicking stories, through a rolling valley of wide-eyed surprises to a sea of kids' comedy. Featured highlights include a great farm animal impersonation competition – a zany Chicken Karaoke contest for kids.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Favorite Opera Arias and Duets. 7 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Music by by Mozart, Rossini, Bellini, Berlioz, Verdi, Delibes, PUCCINI, Charpenter from "Hearts of Four." Cost is \$35 online; \$45 at the door. Tickets are available at restoncommunitycenter.com. No cash or checks.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Memorial Ride for Raymond Gerard Buza. 10 a.m. Meets at Virginia Run Elementary School, 15450 Martins Hundred Dr., Centreville. The Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) is hosting a memorial ride in honor of Raymond Gerard Buza, who was killed while riding his bike by a driver at Hidden Canyon Rd. and Blue Ridge View Dr. on May 21, 2021 in the Centreville section of Fairfax County. Contact Bruce Wright, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling at bikecommuter@gmail.com, or 703-328-9619.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 8

Saving the Kids. 2-3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Hosted by the Cold War Museum in Vint Hill, VA. You've got a cargo plane full of Vietnamese orphans escaping from Saigon. At 23,000 feet you lose half the hydraulic systems and most of the

flight controls. Game over? Not with Pilot Bud Traynor and his crew in charge. Cost is \$20. Visit the website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saving-the-kids-the-operation-baby-lift-plane-crash-in-the-vietnam-war-tickets-156189869103>

## SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Bricks by the Lake Event. 3-5 p.m. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting the first annual Bricks by the Lake event. The community is invited to Lake Anne Plaza to create Lego creations based on the themes of live, work, play and memories. Attendees enjoying the day can view the Lego builds being created on the plaza as well as a Master Build creation inside Reston Community Center's Jo Ann Rose Gallery. Awards will be given for each age bracket. For more information, visit: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks-by-the-lake>.

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## Sill Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though not nearly so much as last week. Improving for sure, but "slowly and painfully," as the Emergency Room doctor predicted. "Weeks, not months," she replied in response to our "How long?" question. Now back to Gate A17 in Houston:

"Would you mind if I said a healing prayer for you?" I looked over at Dina, and we both said "No, not at all." The lady, Solange was her name, motioned for a male companion standing a few feet away to come over to where she and I were sitting. She explained to him the reason and within a few seconds, they both began praying for me. Though their words were not identical, they both invoked "God, Jesus Christ, the father, his children, died on the cross" and so forth for about 15 seconds in a sincere attempt to heal my burns. After her companion walked away, I looked back over to her and said: "Actually, my feet are not the worst problem I have. I have cancer." Which prompted her, this time alone, to invoke similarly powerful references on my behalf. When she completed her healing, we both thanked her. She asked if we lived in Houston and told us of her church where healing, as I witnessed today, is a regular element and she assured me that some of her fellow parishioners have been healed. Who am I to question the power of God? Nobody, that's who. Praise the Lord and pass the percolator.

Now I'm sort of looking forward to my next recurring quarterly scan scheduled for mid-September to see what happens. My last few scans have been characterized as "stable." Shrinkage would be a change and a welcome one at that. However, after being given a terminal, stage IV non small cell lung cancer diagnosis in Feb. 2009 with a "13 month to two year" prognosis, 12 and one half years later, I have learned to embrace "stable." It may not cure, but neither will it kill. Nor is it ideal, but it's a living for which I'm extremely grateful.

Anyway, back to real-time. It's now a bit more than two weeks since "the burning." I am sort of ambulatory but only by using a "walker," and infrequently as possible. The more I stay off my feet, the less damage I will do to the skin as it heals from the inside out; the main reason the recovery is so slow and arduous. But I am able to "walker" now to my in-home office from my den where I've been laid up, literally, approximately 30 feet, where I can access my desktop computer and type this column, email and on-line bank, et cetera; a distance which would have been too painful to 'walker' even a few days ago. So yes, progress indeed.

In an odd confluence of circumstances, ever since I burned my two soles, I haven't really thought much about my underlying, overriding condition: cancer. "The burning" seems to have taken over my subconscious. Rather than compound the daily grind of living with cancer, the burns and subsequent at-home care have done just the opposite: they replaced whatever medical preoccupation I had/have about my cancer with the difficulties and challenges caused by these second degree burns. In a weird way, it's been an easier last few weeks, emotionally, as so much of my focus and treatment has been on this new/temporary problem instead of the existing permanent one: stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer. I wouldn't say it's been a relief and certainly not a reprieve, but it's definitely been a break in the action, if you know what I mean? Nevertheless, I'll be happy when I'm back to abnormal and can walk again without any assistance. And the next time I'm at the beach, I'll be the one wearing sneakers and socks all day. You can be sure I won't walk barefoot ever again.

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