

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## HOMELIFESTYLE

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A. Churchill and co-driver Bentley sporting the sunglasses, pull into Katie's Coffee Bar in Great Falls for a morning treat. Hundreds of enthusiasts turn out Saturday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m. for Cars & Coffee.

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## FCPS Priority One: Get Eligible Students Vaccinated

### Expansion of school COVID-19 vaccination clinics underway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he level of community transmission of COVID-19 in Fairfax County is increasing again. It entered the “substantial” category, the second to the highest level on Tuesday, Aug. 2, following an upward trend reported by the CDC. The same week, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) continued vaccinating eligible students at school-based clinics under a public-private partnership.

During a media event on Wednesday, Aug. 3, while visiting one of the clinics, Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand announced that FCPS wants to be ready to roll to get eligible children vaccinated during the school day with parent permission. There are 83,000 students under the age of 12 entering school buildings for in-person learning on Aug. 23, according to Brabrand. Because of their ages, the students are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Fairfax County Public Schools, in partnership with the County’s Health Department, hosted free school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics for adolescents 12 years of age and older at three school clinic sites, Herndon Elementary on Wednesday, Aug. 4, Justice High School in Falls Church on Thursday, Aug. 5, and Liberty Middle School in Clifton on Friday, Aug. 6.

ON WEDNESDAY, Brabrand visited Herndon Elementary School to see firsthand the public health initiative underway. According to Brabrand, the division finished the last school year, getting almost 5,000 students their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. The division plans to have additional clinics up running this fall under a public-private partnership.

“[Currently], we are at 75 percent in Fairfax County Public Schools of 12 to 17-year-olds to have their first dose. Now, we want to get that number even higher, so we have school vaccination clinics this week at multiple schools, and we want to continue,” Brabrand said.

“The solution to this pandemic, to make sure all schools return in this county five days in person, is the vaccination of all of our eligible students. Right now, it’s all of our 12-years-olds and up. We are preparing and working very closely to have more school vaccination clinics this fall at, at least 40 locations,” Brabrand added.

According to Brabrand, as the eligibility age for vaccination goes lower and lower, the division will be able to vaccinate thousands more children “to have a year that is as close to normal as possible.”

“Vaccination is part of the solution,” said Brabrand.

Students accompanied by their parents

(From left) Renee Gorman, Kimberlin Jimenez, 13, Scott Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, Hansel Molina, and Jeimmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jeimmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

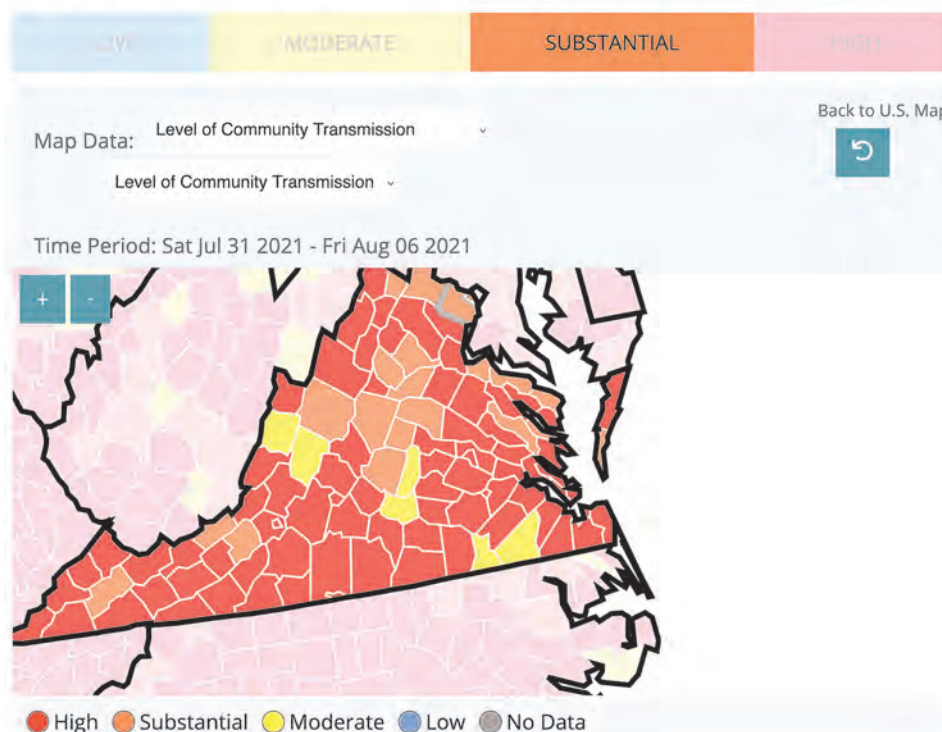
PHOTO BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, a Fairfax County student receives his COVID-19 vaccine at a school vaccination site.

#### Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia



The Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia escalates into ‘substantial.’

and guardians continued to enter the school to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccine opportunity. Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, sat in the large room with others in the process of getting their vaccination. Maycoll said he would be attending Herndon Middle School in a couple of weeks. After receiving his immunization, Maycoll said, “It didn’t hurt, just a little pinch. I relaxed my arm.”

Rising freshman at Herndon High School, Kimberley Jimenez, 13, of Herndon, was about to exit the school clinic after receiving her vaccine. “I feel safe now because I got the vaccine [but], I will leave my mask on because others may not be vaccinated, and this is my first dose.”

According to Brabrand, like many other

schools in Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools is starting the school year 2021-22 with universal masking to counteract the Delta variant and reassure staff, students, parents, and the community that the division is committed to safe learning in school buildings.

BRABRAND said FCPS wanted to be very clear about social distancing. “Ninety-nine point five percent of our students are returning in person. Social distancing is not going to be possible in all of our schools and classrooms, and we’re not going to build a false expectation to our community.” He said where schools and classrooms could have additional capacity and additional distancing; social distancing would be possible.

Instead, schools are focused on layered mitigation strategies in line with the CDC—universal masking, upgrades to ventilation systems, and continued sanitation and hygiene efforts practiced well.

In addition, there would be professional monitoring sourced outside of FCPS. “We’ll continue to have safety teams coming in, an outside company similar to the one that Loudon County used, to continue to make sure that our staff is following all the safety procedures to keep schools safe,” said Brabrand.

He added that contact tracing would continue to be done because “the more contact tracing support we have, the quicker we can turn around having kids who may be paused at home, so they can get back in the classroom.”

Brabrand said to make immunization of their children easy for parents and guardians who give their permission; it will be provided within the confines of the school day, even for the youngest children. “So, we’re super excited about that. We really want to model for the rest of the country, vaccinate. We need to move away from the battles. Everybody needs to have kids back in school. Once they’re back in school, we’ve got to make it seamless and easy to get everyone vaccinated, including our students and including our youngest students in elementary school.”

According to Brabrand, FCPS is working on a protocol where parents can give permission and not physically be present with their children when the vaccine is given in school. However, FCPS knows some parents will want to be there, and they are working out the details.

Jeimmy Molina, 13, on her way to Herndon Middle School, received her vaccination. In an interview, Jeimmy answered what she would tell those with vaccine hesitancy. “To my friends and family, I’d say that I did it, and I encourage you to do it too.”



# Spending Spree

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

In the 1985 hit movie “Brewster’s Millions,” Richard Pryor is given the task of spending \$30 million in 30 days. Hijinks ensue. In some ways, that’s also the plot of the General Assembly session this week. But the stakes are bigger, and the jokes aren’t as funny.

Lawmakers are working their way through appropriating \$4.3 billion of stimulus cash from the American Rescue Plan. Most of the money was already earmarked before lawmakers arrived in town as Gov. Ralph Northam made a series of announcements outlining his priorities. Each of those announcements indicated a tacit agreement between House Democrats and Senate Democrats and the governor’s office.

The biggest item on the list of spending items is a huge infusion of cash into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, pumping \$862 million into the fund in an effort to prevent tax increases on businesses in 2022. Because the trust fund is usually replenished by taxes levied on business, they would have been on the hook for restoring it. But the infusion of cash from Uncle Sam means taxes won’t go up for business owners.

“Shoring up the commonwealth’s unemployment insurance trust fund is a smart investment that will prevent Virginia businesses from paying higher taxes and allow our economy to continue surging,” said Northam in a written statement announcing the proposal. “Together with the General Assembly, we are taking important steps to ensure Virginia remains a place where businesses, workers, and families can all thrive.”

**THE PROPOSAL** was viewed by some critics as a gift to big business at a time when many people are struggling to make ends meet, yet another sign of how the new Democratic majority in the House and Senate are often business friendly to the detriment of working families. Some people said the dollar amount set aside to help business owners next year could have been better spent by helping people in need now.

“That’s the kind of thing that we think should be balanced against some of the immediate needs,” said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. “There are trade-offs involved and there are differences in terms of timing of when certain benefits would really affect whoever would be impacted by the proposal.”

Lawmakers are also spending \$700 million to expand access to broadband internet; \$312



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

**Senate Finance and Appropriations Chairwoman Janet Howell oversaw the massive spending bill in the Senate, where senators appropriated more than \$4 billion in federal stimulus money.**

**“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never easy.”**

**— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32),  
chairwoman of the Senate  
Finance and Appropriations Committee**

million to improve HVAC systems in public schools; \$250 million for Rebuild Virginia grants to help small businesses; \$125 million to modernize sewer systems that dump raw sewage into rivers and streams (including the one in Alexandria); \$20 million for bonuses to law enforcement officers; \$10 million for food banks; and \$10 million for substance abuse treatment services.

“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never easy,” said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who is chairwoman of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

The appropriations bill also allows lawmakers an opportunity to set some new policies as budget language, creating a new requirement for landlords to apply for rental assistance from the Virginia Rent Relief Program before evicting anyone. Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) tried to create an exemption for small-scale landlords who have a handful of properties. When asked about his budget amendment, Petersen said landlords should not be forced to apply for rental assistance.

“You seem to think that applying to the federal government is no fuss no muss, and they’ll just open up your application and write you a check that day. It doesn’t work that way,” said Petersen. “The landlord oftentimes wants the property back because you’re dealing with a situation where you have someone who’s not paying rent. That’s not a healthy situation if you’re a landlord.”

Most Democrats don’t share that view.

“This should not be used as an opportunity to get rid of anyone,” said Del. Cia Price (D-95). “Get your money, and then let’s move forward.”

**General Assembly returns to Richmond to appropriate federal stimulus cash.**

## FY22 Proposed Spending

Virginia Employment Commission

\$425,400,000

Broadband

\$437,500,000

Combined Sewer Overflows and Wastewater

\$305,750,000

K-12 Education — Ventilation Upgrades

\$257,000,000

Rebuild VA — Small Business Covid-19 Grant Fund

\$250,000,000

Public Health Initiatives

\$224,954,415

Higher Education

\$463,000,000

Utility Assistance

\$120,000,000

Mental Health

\$113,850,000

Public Safety

\$112,691,081 (Fiscal Year Proposed) \$77,000,000

Tourism

\$47,250,000

Drinking Water

\$50,000,000

Parks

\$26,000,000

Derelict Structures Fund

\$22,500,000

Substance Use Disorder

\$20,600,000

Addressing Community Violence

\$19,505,305 (Fiscal Year Proposed) \$17,000,000

Food Access

\$14,600,000

Elections

\$4,600,000

Main Street Program — Small Business Covid-19 Relief

\$4,000,000

K-12 Education

\$2,000,000

Translation Assessment

\$500,000

**REPUBLICANS** tried and failed to make several amendments to the spending plan, offering a number of potential changes as the spending bills moved through the House and Senate. One of the Republican amendments was introduced by Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), who is also on the ballot for attorney general this fall. He introduced a budget amendment that would have given the attorney general authority to prosecute straw purchases of firearms.

“If you want to lower gun violence in Virginia, where well north of 80 percent of crime is done by repeat offenders, you get the repeat offenders off the streets,” said Miyares. “You go after those who are trying to traffic and buy guns illegally and you put them behind bars and off our streets.”

That amendment, along with every other proposal from House Republicans, was defeated by the Democratic majority. Many Democrats said that it was noteworthy that Miyares voted against all the gun-violence prevention measures last year but now wants to use the special session to crack down on straw purchases. Some questioned the need for creating new authority for the attorney general and the timing of the proposal.

“If Delegate Miyares wants to use the budget and this session as an opportunity to film a campaign commercial, it’s certainly his prerogative. He wouldn’t be the first one to do it,” said Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). “As far as I know this has not been an issue that is under-prosecuted or people get away with anything here.”

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**Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mercia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Contributing Writer  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Salome Howard-Gaibler**  
Display Advertising  
703-415-5394  
[salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment  
Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





# Supervisors Proclaim Aug. 3 National Night Out

Proclamation celebrates  
neighborhood spirit and cooperation  
among residents and police.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ational Night Out is a time to celebrate, whether the clock that day says noon or 8 p.m. It is a time to have community fun, to say thank you to law enforcement officers, and get more involved in the community. That is how, according to Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (D- At large), Fairfax County remains the safest jurisdiction of its size.

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, Aug. 3, McKay welcomed all to the first National Night Out 2021 event in the county at Hunters Woods Plaza in Reston. "We're all excited to be out here and to be able to celebrate community and our partnership with law enforcement," said McKay. In his hands, McKay held a walnut finish certificate plaque with a proclamation. McKay said that the Fairfax County Police Department sponsored National Night Out 2021 to promote the importance of community-police partnerships, neighborhood safety, public awareness of crime prevention programs and that the longest sustained Neighborhood Watch Program in the nation was located in Fairfax County.

"Be it resolved that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby proclaim Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, as National Night Out," said McKay. Signed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors but adopted by the entire board.

Before presenting the plaque to Kevin Davis, Chief of Police Fairfax County Police Department, McKay said how inspiring it was after what everyone had been through, to see the county's young people at camp "laughing, enjoying each other, having a good time, the way we're supposed to be."

McKay reminded people how important it was to get vaccinated. He said, "If you do it for no one else, do it for our frontline workers, our first responders, and our small children... They are not eligible to be vaccinated yet."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

With McGruff the Crime Dog facing forward, Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, hands Kevin Davis Chief of Police Fairfax County Police Department, the Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County proclaiming Tuesday, Aug. 3, National Night Out.

McKay added he was so proud of the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Sheriff's Office, and the first responder community. "You've heard the statistics, you know, we're the safest community of our size, anywhere in the United States of America and that is in large part because of the men and women in our department, but also because of our community...National Night Out celebrates something we do really well in Fairfax County, but something that we always want to build on, which is community relationships with law enforcement and our residents," said McKay.

Chief Davis thanked Chairman McKay for his "constant support" of the police department. "One staggering statistic that I just can't get out of my head is the fact that in our 400 plus square miles here, there are over 140 National Night Out events, just today... And that says it all. It says the relationship between the community and its police departments, while not perfect, we're always looking to improve it and make it stronger."

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Great Falls Village Center is once again home to the popular Saturday morning Katie's Cars and Coffee.



# Katie's Cars and Coffee Back in Full Swing

Hundreds of enthusiasts turn out in Great Falls.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Whether it is their fascination with antique, collector, exotic, or muscle cars, owners and enthusiasts are back bright and early Saturday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m. at Katie's Cars and Coffee for their vehicle sensory overload. Located next to The Old Brogue at 760 Walker Road, off historic Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, visitors never know what may pull in and roll down the pavement at the loosely organized event.

Will there be a 1970 Ford Mustang Boss 429, a 1936 Dodge D100, or what about a Cheetah designed and engineered entirely with American components?

Milt Gilmore stopped by for the first time this year with his vehicle, a replica Cheetah. "Anybody can ride in it. Most people don't want to, especially my wife... It's never been washed. I got one of those fuzzy wand things to get the pollen off before I spray wax."

Luca Gationie-Celli thought he was hallucinating when he saw the Bill Thomas Cheetah replica. "It's one of those legendary cars. You only see a couple of pictures of them online...It's very special to be back [at Katie's] because you see unique things here, like this car."

Friend Kevin Wang of Herndon was equally blown away. Wang said he got into cars during the lockdown. "I've been waiting to come. It's really exciting that I can finally look at exotic cars. And it's wonderful to have coffee from Katie's too."

Nigel Dalagan agreed. "I figured it's a great way to check out old engineering, and I'm trying to digest everything that I see, suspension, engine build, modifications. It's 'nerdgasmic' for me."



Breakfast at Katie's Coffee makes looking at the vehicles even more fun for a family.



A. Churchill and co-driver Bentley sporting the sunglasses, pull into Katie's Coffee Bar in Great Falls for a morning treat.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION



Hundreds flock to Katie's Cars and Coffee Saturday mornings in Great Falls to view and tout vehicles, a fun hobby to enjoy while starting the weekend.



(From left) Luca Gationie-Celli, Kevin Wang of Herndon, and Nigel Dalagan take a look under the hood of a Cheetah replica by Milt Gilmore.





The group outside the schoolhouse after decorating the door and window frames.



Sophia with her mom Kelly Wolfe and her mentor Dixie Duncan.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Teacher Naomi with her new bike.



Teacher Naomi with her new bike.

**SOPHIA** spent the last year planning her trip to Tanzania, which was made even more difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every Saturday morning, she had a planning call with her project mentor Dixie Duncan, who is the founder of Wheels to Africa. Together, along with Sophia's mom Kelly Wolfe, they worked for months to gather donations. Sophia used social media to spread the word about her project. Pretty soon, the books were pouring in. They also held a bike drive at Madison in May and collected around 50 bikes.

In June, the trio traveled to Tanzania to visit a Maasai village located not far from the tourist area of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This remote region is known for its wildlife and

tribal traditions, but the Maasai people experience devastating poverty, and struggle daily with access to education, food, and clean water.

"They walk everywhere," Sophia said. "The kids walk miles upon miles every single day to get to school, and the teachers as well. A bike could cut that time in half. And make it easier to get to school. To get food. To get every single thing you need in life."

Due to shipping difficulties, the bikes Sophia collected in May did not make it to Africa in time for their trip. So they improvised; they bought used bikes in Africa with donation money, then transported the bikes to the Maasai village.

"Their jaws drop at the sight of a bike," she said. "It changes lives entirely."

Sophia says one of the most impactful moments was giving a bike to a teacher named Naomi, who travels miles everyday to teach more than 75 kids at the school. The gift brought tears to Naomi's eyes.

"She was so grateful," Duncan said. "It's people like her that inspire you to do whatever it takes."

Sophia says one of her favorite experiences of the trip was watching the kids react to the colorful new books now stocked in their classroom library. The books are in English,

which serves as a valuable learning tool for these children. Learning English is an integral part of the education in the region, because many aim to work in the tourism industry surrounding Mt. Kilimanjaro.

**ON THE TRIP**, Sophia also spoke to middle school age girls about female health issues, and taught them how to use reusable menstrual pads. She says one of the biggest take-aways from her trip is to take nothing for granted.

"Being in this community where we're so fortunate, we don't really realize how much people are in need," Sophia said. "I want to continue to spread awareness, and make this bigger and bigger, so more people know about it."

Sophia says she plans to hold another bike drive and wants to go to Africa again next summer. She says she couldn't have done the project without her supporters at FCPS and Madison. She is especially grateful to School Board Member Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District, who has donated to the cause and supported Sophia along the way.

To find out more about Wheels to Africa, visit their website. To find out more about 'Books and Bikes for Africa', visit their Instagram page.

# One Book and Bike at a Time

Madison High student donation drive making a difference for the Tanzanian community.

Inside a school in northeast Tanzania, dozens of children sat on wooden benches, with their feet on a dirt floor and four mud walls surrounding them. There wasn't a drop of color anywhere. Everything was brown. When Madison High School rising junior Sophia Brown saw this on her recent trip, she was determined to bring some color to this classroom. She helped as each student dipped their hand in paint, then carefully placed it on the door, leaving a lasting handprint in bright blue, red, orange, or green. Inside the one-room schoolhouse, a new mural of sea creatures added another splash of color. But the most exciting addition to the school sat in the corner: a brand new library with dozens of books.

It's a project years in the making. Sophia grew up around volunteer work and community service, but she's always been particularly drawn to helping kids in Africa. In second grade, she began working with the non-profit Wheels to Africa, which provides used bikes to communities in need. At just 14 years old, she collected more than 1,000 books to help create a library in the African country of Malawi. Now, Sophia is working toward the highest honor in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award, through her project "Books and Bikes For Africa."

"I was thinking about what are two of the most dire needs in society? Transportation and education," Sophia said. "Books are one of the biggest necessities of education. And without access to cars, another option is bikes. It's more affordable and can help you get places way faster."





PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY S. MANALO

A cozy throw can add an element of warmth to an interior space



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

The warm colors in this room by Anne Walker evoke visions of autumn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Candles in hurricane lanterns such as these by Farm and Feast are a simple way to transition home accessories from summer to fall.

## Design Ideas to Welcome Fall

Small changes in home accessories can transform a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to interior design, attention to even the smallest of details took on new importance over the past year. Spending more time indoors has allowed us to experience the ways in which minor embellishments can have a major impact on the mood and feel of a room. From throw pillows in a living room to doormats in a mud room, local designers unveil accessories that can help one transition from summer to autumn while maintaining serenity and style.

"Don't look at this as a major undertaking or you'll be overwhelmed," said Alexandria interior designer Allison Bohlke. "It doesn't have to be time consuming. As the weather begins to cool down, take an hour to look around your house for places where you remove things that scream summer and swap them out for cozy alternatives."

"I created a blue and white nautical theme in my family room for summer," continued Bohlke. "In a month or so, I will put away my linen throw pillows and cotton throws and bring out my cashmere throws and wool throw pillows in warm camel and rich cream for a cozy look."

One of the easiest ways to transition home decor from summer to fall is to add candlelight, advises Potomac interior designer Anne Walker of Anne Walker Interiors Design. "There's something about the warm glow of real candlelight that just can't be replaced. It's an instant mood lifter," she said. "Hurricane lanterns come in several sizes and in beautiful smoked glass or clear glass. We use six in assorted sizes on our patio all year round, and they never get old."

Kitchens and bathrooms can serve as a backdrop for cool weather inspiration. "If you've been using white hand towels and kitchen towels, try getting versions in bold colors or monogrammed hand towels using thread in warm, jewel tones," said Bohlke.

In fact, the power of color should not be underestimated. "Use color so that the spaces appeal to every-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALLIE LORD

Designer Sallie Lord says the approach of Autumn is time to reorganize an office space to prepare for a new school year.

one, said Sherry Hope-Kennedy of Studio SHK. "Keep the main area more neutral while having more fun with private areas."

Seasonal blossoms in colors that herald the start of fall can add an air of chic serenity to any interior space. "Fresh flowers will always be in style, said Walker. "Like real candlelight, fresh flowers are a low-cost way to bring real joy into your home."

A wooden drink tray not only conjures up woodsy images of autumn, but it's versatile, functional and can be used year round, particularly as school begins. "Filled with flower vases, it can be a casual-chic centerpiece on your dining table, or you can use it to carry barware or beverages to your guests," said Walker. "In your mudroom, it could hold keys, phones and other things you need to drop in a central location."

"The [metal bin] has an outdoorsy, cool vibe with industrial chic décor," continued Walker. "Use [them] to corral office supplies on your desk, to hold television remote controls in your family room, or to serve snacks when you entertain. Fill them with rolled-up towels near your mudroom or guest room. Fill them with plants to make an herb garden on your patio. The possibilities are endless."

Whether one hour or one month, spending time on a home refresh is worth the effort, says Chantilly designer Sallie Lord of GHI Team. "This is a great time for a purge to clean out the desk drawers to prepare for a new school year ahead," she said. "We love a well organized space that you can walk in and feel the design and the function."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



The Boro outdoor location for the 2021 1st Stage "Logan Festival of Solo Performance."

## Celebrating Solo Artistry

1st Stage presents outdoor "Logan Festival of Solo Performance" at Tysons The Boro.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Since 2017, 1st Stage's annual Logan Festival of Solo Performance has been a singular presence in Northern Virginia.

The Logan Festival's mission is clear. "I really wanted to share with our audience how beautiful the work being done around the country is," said 1st Stage Artistic Director Alex Levy. This year's Logan Festival, curated by Levy, will be no exception. What's more, the outdoor 2021 Festival with its Boro location in Tysons is a collaboration between 1st Stage and The Boro at Tysons.

The Logan Festival began with the support from the Riva & David Logan Festival.

From Aug. 21 to Aug. 29, 1st Stage will present "Making Opera Soup," written by and starring award-winning singer Lori Brown Mirabal. The show is directed by Vincent Scott, with Steven Gross on piano. This production will be an en-



Alex Levy, Artistic Director, 1st Stage

gaging, interactive family programming aimed at all ages. Mirabal aims to bring an entertaining spotlight to the excitement, magic and fun of

opera.

Mirabal will also have two performances of "Charmed Life" on Aug. 27 and 28 written and performed by Mirabal with direction by Vincent Scott and Steve Gross on piano. This is an autobiographical solo performance that weaves together Mirabal's own story, and pays homage to famous opera artists who have gone before, and specifically to the Black women opera singers of the past.

"Bo-Nita" takes the outdoor Boro stage from Sept. 16 to Sept. 26. "Bo-Nita" is written by Elizabeth Heffron, directed by Summer Wallace, and stars Terri Weagant. Weagant plays dozens of characters with humor, pathos, and a dash of Midwestern magical realism. "Bo-Nita" follows a mother and daughter's journey through a working-class America. They have dwindling resources and work together to stay together. All while keeping their beat alive.

From Oct. 7 to Oct. 17, 1st

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 11

## Where and When

1st Stage presents the 2021 "Logan Festival of Solo Performance." The Festival will be an outdoor event; a collaboration between 1st Stage and the new mixed-use development The Boro, 8350 Broad Street, Tysons, located just blocks from 1st Stage venue at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. The Festival runs Aug. 21 to Oct. 17, 2021. The outdoor festival at The Boro will feature lawn seating of up to 100 people per performance. Detailed information and tickets at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856. Note: 1st Stage will be following CDC, State and Fairfax County health and safety requirements.

Performances for each show of "The Logan Festival of Solo Performances":

- ❖ "Making Opera Soup": Aug 21-22, 28-29. Sat., Aug. 21, Sun., Aug 22 and Sun, Aug 29 at 11 a.m. with Sat., Aug 28 at 3 p.m.
- ❖ "Charmed Life": Sat., Aug. 27 & Sun., Aug 28 at 8 p.m.
- ❖ "Bo-Nita": Sept. 16-19, 22-26 at 8 p.m.
- ❖ "The Book of Mamaw": Oct. 7-10, 14-17. Thurs & Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m.



This road in Kingstowne has been milled and awaits asphalt.

PHOTO BY  
MIKE SALMON/  
THE CONNECTION



The crews here are scraping the old pavement up, and sending it back to the plant where it gets remixed as recycled asphalt.

## Paving and Warm Weather are in Tandem This Year

There is a map and system to where the paving goes.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

August is hot, and the drivers trying to get back to a normal routine have probably hit a pothole or two out on the roads, but VDOT is out there with the paving crews, putting down pavement on 1,145 lane miles throughout the paving season, which goes until November. There is \$133.8 million in the VDOT Northern Virginia budget to make that happen too.

In Northern Virginia, there is a wide assortment of roads to address so the VDOT uses a paving condition website with a multi-colored map that determines the level of need for each area. Blue stands for roads that are currently in excellent condition, and this

dominates the roads in Fairfax County closest to the Capital Beltway. The next most common color is red roads, which is labeled as "very poor," and this seems to dominate the roads away from the beltway, but as the season goes on, those areas will become blue.

For example, the Fairfax County Parkway and the Springfield-Franconia Parkway are mostly light green, defined as "good," while the neighborhoods in southern Springfield are red. Further north, a section between Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike is all blue, where the pavers must have hit earlier this summer, while there is lots of red in the neighborhoods north of Route 50.

VDOT negotiates with paving companies in the winter, and paving contracts start in the spring and go until late fall. The time of day for paving is dictated by traffic volumes,

and different proprietary asphalt mix designs, the procedure is basically the same for all the asphalt producers in Virginia. Bad road surfaces can also be reported to VDOT or the district supervisor and the road in question will be analyzed for repaving. Online, the site is known as the "VDOT customer service center," and everything from road repairs, signs down or something removed from the road like a dead deer are things that can be reported here. Even a compliment to VDOT can be made through this site.

The paving operation basically follows a pattern. Tear the old pavement up, load into a dump truck, grade the surface, and put the new pavement down.

The asphalt removed from roadway surfaces can be recycled. Typically, this comprises about 30 percent of the new hot mix but in some cases this can be 100 percent in a relatively new process that is called cold central plant mix recycling.

The asphalt "millings" are brought back to the asphalt plants where they are stored, processed and incorporated back into new asphalt mixes. Although each plant has different ways of processing their materials

and different proprietary asphalt mix designs, the procedure is basically the same for all the asphalt producers in Virginia.

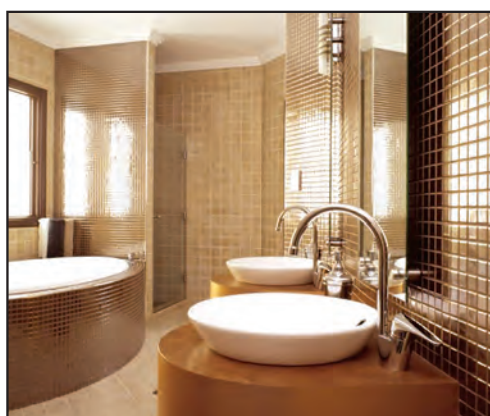
There is a reminder that "VDOT does not maintain roads in cities, towns, or in Henrico and Arlington counties, except for interstates and major primary roads. VDOT does not maintain all sidewalks, or pedestrian or bike paths. Some may be maintained by localities. Please submit a separate report for each request," it says.

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### Obituary



With profound sadness we announce the passing of **Jean Ann Trader**, a loving and devoted wife, mother, and friend to all whose lives she touched, on July 31st, 2021. She passed on to be with our Lord while surrounded by her family. She was in her 81st year. She was the beloved wife of Michael and mother of children David (Midge), Gerry, Mark (Susan), and Kim (Randy), and proud grandmother of Theresa, Debbie, Michael, Nicholas, and Anna. Predeceased by her son John, brother Jerry, and parents John and Sevina. Jean always had a smile on her face and embraced life with a strength and determination that few could match. She left as she always lived....on her terms. She rode horses, was a competitive roller skater, an avid paddler, and a meticulous church office manager. Her beautiful alto voice joined the angels for many years in the church choir and her organist skills filled her home with joyful music. Jean's mastery of flowers and plants brought beauty to the world in the yellows, purples, blues, and reds of her gardens. She loved her family and instilled in her children strong values that have served them well. She will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts. Most of all, she had a deep, unwavering, and lifelong devotion to our Lord. She faced her passing comforted in the knowledge that she is a very loved child of our Lord and that death is not the end; rather, it is only the next step. "The warm sun kissed the earth To consecrate thy birth, And from his close embrace Thy radiant face Sprang into sight, A blossoming delight. Through the long summer days Thy lover's burning rays Shone hot upon thy heart. Thy life was part Of his desire, Thou passion-flower of fire! And, turning toward his love, Lifting thy head above The earth that nurtured thee, Thy majesty And stately mien Proclaims thee sun-crowned queen. On earth, thy gorgeous bloom Bears record of thy tomb, And to transcendent light Thy soul takes flight Till thou art one, O sun-flower, with the sun!" Please join us in remembering with Jean's family and friends on August 11th at 5pm at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden St., Herndon, VA and for a funeral mass on August 12th at 11 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, VA.

er skater, an avid paddler, and a meticulous church office manager. Her beautiful alto voice joined the angels for many years in the church choir and her organist skills filled her home with joyful music. Jean's mastery of flowers and plants brought beauty to the world in the yellows, purples, blues, and reds of her gardens. She loved her family and instilled in her children strong values that have served them well. She will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts. Most of all, she had a deep, unwavering, and lifelong devotion to our Lord. She faced her passing comforted in the knowledge that she is a very loved child of our Lord and that death is not the end; rather, it is only the next step. "The warm sun kissed the earth To consecrate thy birth, And from his close embrace Thy radiant face Sprang into sight, A blossoming delight. Through the long summer days Thy lover's burning rays Shone hot upon thy heart. Thy life was part Of his desire, Thou passion-flower of fire! And, turning toward his love, Lifting thy head above The earth that nurtured thee, Thy majesty And stately mien Proclaims thee sun-crowned queen. On earth, thy gorgeous bloom Bears record of thy tomb, And to transcendent light Thy soul takes flight Till thou art one, O sun-flower, with the sun!" Please join us in remembering with Jean's family and friends on August 11th at 5pm at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden St., Herndon, VA and for a funeral mass on August 12th at 11 a.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, VA.

### Obituary

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# CALENDAR

## AUG. 12-SEPT. 5

"An Act of God." At NextStop

Theatre Company in Herndon, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The season opens with "An Act of God," a funny comedy in which God, along with his two "wingmen," answer some of the most pressing questions that have plagued mankind since Creation. By David Javerbaum and directed by Tuyet Pham. Season subscriptions are available by calling the NextStop Box Office at 703-481-5930x0 or by visiting [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).



NextStop Theatre presents "An Act of God" from Aug. 12-Sept. 5, 2021 in Herndon.

family music is all about fun, movement and laughter! Singer-songwriter Jon Lewis had a decade of playing shows in coffee houses, recording CDs and television appearances. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Hillbilly Gypsies. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. The Hillbilly Gypsies perform their own brand of old-time bluegrass and original mountain music at the Braddock Nights Concerts Series. The group has been pickin' 'n' grinnin' for 20 years, and their high-energy live performances have become a crowd favorite at major festivals, fairs and concert venues across the mid-Atlantic region and abroad. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 13

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

## 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>.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Mr. Jon & Friends. 10 a.m. at E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. A Parents' Choice Award-winning music for kids and their families. This energetic

# Logan Festival of Solo Performance

FROM PAGE 8

Stage will present the heartwarming "The Book of Mamaw" written and performed by Eugene Wolf. Susanne Boule directs. The one-actor-show is full of story-telling and music as it chronicles Wolf's life growing up with his devout Church of Christ grandmother who recognized his

love of performing when Wolf was at a very early age. Wolf has turned many of his unorthodox Appalachian childhood stories into a celebration of family and how music can be the tie that binds.

Get ready to enjoy the expanded, reimagined, delightful outdoor 1st Stage "Logan Festival of Solo Performance" at The Boro in Tysons.

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## Sole Survivor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's been nearly three weeks since "the burning," and I'm here to say - while sitting down with my left foot elevated, that I am approximately 75% the man I used to be pre-July 17 around 2 pm central standard time. I can now walk, mostly on my right foot, but always with the help and security of my new best friend: the walker. I am no longer housebound or bedridden. Though I still cannot drive for fear of ripping off the brand new skin which has appeared on the balls of my feet (especially the progress on my right/driving foot), healing from the inside out; I am free however to be a passenger, and load myself onto the backseat of our SUV and extend my legs across the entire seat to minimize any discomfort. The pain is very manageable, but on occasion I have taken a few of the percocets that had been prescribed for pain. The relief was hardly immediate and the pill size was moderate so I don't see myself getting addicted (percocet is OxyContin). In fact, the size pill I was prescribed barely dulled the pain; most of which has subsided anyway. (And when I was in severe pain in Texas, the physician's assistant prescribed tylenol with codeine. It did nothing. It wasn't even worth the co-pay. Perhaps a physician's assistant, without a doctor present, couldn't prescribe a narcotic, especially one that has addictive qualities. Presumably, it was for my own protection. At that point however, I didn't need protection. I needed pain relief.)

After seeing a physician's assistant in Galveston, an Emergency Room doctor in Gaithersburg, two Podiatrists in Kensington and my Internal Medicine doctor in Silver Spring, I have been set free-ish. None of these doctors felt the need to see me again. The healing of my feet has progressed far enough that the threat of infection has passed so I am now on my own, sort of. I (my wife, Dina, actually) am to continue dressing my wounds for one to two weeks (depending on which foot) and use our own judgment about when to discontinue the treatment. It appears as if I have survived the ordeal, mostly.

And though there were times at the beginning when the pain was excruciating, and times in the middle when the pain was bearable; at the end, in a week or two, I will be forever grateful that my condition did not deteriorate due to infection, blistering or nerve damage. As it happened, "the burning" was simply the unintended consequence of the damage 11-plus years of chemotherapy has done to my body, inside and out. Because of the neuropathy in my feet (thankfully, there isn't any neuropathy in my hands or other extremities), I can never, because physically I can't, walk barefoot. And because of that pre-existing condition, the bottoms of my feet are as soft as a baby's behind. With no calluses formed on my feet to protect me, I'm kind of a standing duck out there. I found out the soft way how hard it is for me to walk across hot pavement.

And the shoeless choice I made was a choice I, like millions of others who've gone to the beach, made quite casually. I was simply doing something - walking barefoot, that came naturally and historically, as in I've done it a hundred times, especially having walked across hot sand. Not anymore. As a long-time cancer patient, generally speaking, I'm aware of many of the dos and don'ts and what trouble to avoid, but never had I considered that my lung/thyroid cancer treatment might cause a problem potentially, on the soles of my feet if I walked barefoot at the beach. I know I'm supposed to avoid the sun (I'll be the one sitting under a beach umbrella with a hat on my head, sunglasses on my face and covered head to toe, with towels and a tearshirt), but nobody ever advised me that I shouldn't go to the beach. Before "the burning," I would have thought I was an experienced enough cancer patient that I knew what situations might be harmful to my health. Apparently not. It seems as if I haven't quite learned all my lessons, yet.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.





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