

# THE CONNECTION

McLean ♦ Vienna ♦ Oakton ♦ Great Falls ♦ Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

## Egg Hunts And Neighborhood Camaraderie

PAGE 12

At just two years old, James has perfected the two-handed egg gather in Springfield.

## High School Theater Abounds

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## Rebuilding ZMOD

PAGE 3

## Moe's Closes

PAGE 4

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APRIL 12-18, 2023

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# NEWS

## Rebuilding zMOD

Jenga-like collapse follows Virginia Supreme Court ruling; reconstruction starts with public hearings.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on April 11, 2023, the supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution that “authorizes the advertisement of the proposed Zoning Ordinance to repeal and replace the 1978 Zoning Ordinance and to either repeal the 2021 zMOD Ordinance or sunset this newly authorized ordinance, as recommended by staff.”

The issue is that zMOD Ordinance which had been in effect since July 1, 2021, is no longer in effect. The Zoning Ordinance in effect as of March 23, 2023, can be found at Zoning Ordinance (June 30, 2021).

On March 23, 2023, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled an opinion in *Berry v. Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County* that the Fairfax County Zoning “zMOD” Ordinance (approved April 6, 2021) was void ab initio “because it was heard and adopted at Board meetings held via electronic means due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The ruling created an immediate and startlingly collapse of the updated Ordinance. The decision of the Court also invalidated the March 23, 2021, repeal of the 1978 Zoning Ordinance and set in motion a swift series of actions by the county to address concerns.

“As we all learned during the pandemic, electronic meetings increased public engagement by allowing more people to participate from any location,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay in an earlier statement. “When zMOD was originally approved, 70 speakers participated in the Board of Supervisors public hearing, which was open to the public and broadcast live, as are all public hearings,” McKay said.

The Virginia Supreme Court ruling created uncertainty for the county and others



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION

**Article 7, Chapter 22, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia sets the legislation that enables Fairfax County to legislate zoning.**

regarding previously approved in-process applications, current and upcoming applications, and proposed zoning ordinance amendments, leaving them in limbo. Alerting those unfamiliar with the ruling, the county labeled such public hearings on such matters “TBD” online, and they are not being scheduled.

According to the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Update & DPD Operating Status alert on April 6, the Board of Supervisors plans for a Planning Commission public hearing on zMOD advertised as May 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., and the Board of Supervisors public hearing on May 9, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

In the meantime, the county will petition

the Virginia Supreme Court to rehear the case. A motion by Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) came out of the closed-door session of the April 11 Board of Supervisors meeting. Smith moved that the Board of Supervisors authorize the county attorney to file a petition for rehearing of the Supreme Court of Virginia in *Berry v. Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County* Record Number 211143. With no discussion on the motion, it carried unanimously.

Before the board approved Administrative Items 1-9, Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) said he had not been able to find zMOD “anywhere up on the website,”

“I think we ought to give our citizens and everybody a chance to look at it. I know it



SCREENSHOT

On March 23, 2021, the Board adopted a new and modernized Zoning Ordinance as a part of the Zoning Ordinance Modernization (zMOD) project which became effective on July 1, 2021. ZMOD was invalidated by the Virginia Supreme Court on March 23.

was pulled down officially, as it should be, and replaced with the zoning ordinance. But I think the sooner we can get that in front of our constituents and the business community (the better) because it’s hard to find a copy of what we’re going to be voting on the ninth,” said Herryty.

McKay said they could do that.

The Virginia Supreme Court ruling addressed the board’s adoption process of zMOD and did not address its content.

The online county staff report notes the following: “According to the Supreme Court’s opinion, the Board of Supervisors (Board) erred in relying on state legislation adopted at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, that expanded the ability of public bodies statewide (including the General Assembly) to conduct business via electronic meetings. For meetings that met its requirements, the 2020 legislation overrode conflicting open meeting provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA). The Board indisputably met all the legislation’s requirements regarding public notice, access, and legislation narrowly to exclude consideration and adoption of zMOD. If the Board’s 2021 adoption of the zMOD Ordinance was void, so was the contemporaneous repeal of the 1978 Zoning Ordinance (as amended), leaving that earlier Ordinance still in effect.”

As a result, new public hearings are required to reconsider the zMOD Ordinance as previously adopted on March 23, 2021. Since subsequent Zoning Ordinance amendments are not addressed in the opinion, staff recommended that they be included as part of the complete Zoning Ordinance being considered.

## Public Hearings Coming on County Budget

The voices of McLean Citizens Association and SEIU.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**pril 11, 12, and 13 are Fairfax County’s public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2024 Advertised Budget Plan, impacted by high Inflation, labor shortages and the real estate market.

After listening to residents, the Board of Supervisors will mark up the plan on May 2 and adopt it on May 9. Individuals wanting to provide testimony must sign up on the Speakers List by noon on the hearing day [www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

by using the sign-up form <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form> or calling the Department of Clerk Services at 703-324-3151, TTY 711. Written testimony is accepted until the public hearing closes. Email [ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov) or mail the Department of Clerk Services at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 552, Fairfax, VA 22035.

County Executive Bryan Hill presented the FY 2024 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 21. He emphasized maintaining the county’s core, employ-

ees and existing programs.

### Snapshot of the Budget Plan

**Taxes:** \$1.11 real estate tax rate is proposed. Fairfax County.gov reported a 6.97 increase in property assessments in 2023, thus most residents will see their property taxes increase. Due to record-high vehicle values last year, the board reduced personal property taxes to 85 percent for trade-in values; 90 percent is proposed.

**Schools:** A \$144.1 million increase over the FY23 Adopted Budget Plan for Fairfax

County Public Schools (FCPS) priorities in FY 2024 is proposed, including employee compensation and \$143 million for Head Start, School Health, Behavioral Health Services, crossing guards, field maintenance, and other costs.

Employee Compensation is proposed at a \$134.51 million increase in county disbursements, \$92.73 million targeted toward employee pay and benefits, and fully funding performance, merit, and longevity increases. An increase of \$7.8 million supports

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 19

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The bar was crowded on the last night.



A chalkboard was full of condolences.



Marilyn adorned the front entrance window for years.



Tammy Dunbar, left, Mina, and daughter Nadia Baker.

# Last Call is Tearful for Many at Moe's Peyton Place

Springfield institution closes to the surprise of many.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t was the final last call for Moe's Peyton Place on Monday, April 10, as the regulars piled in for one last beer, recalling all the good memories over the duration of this Springfield neighborhood institution.

Johnny Smith's mother was a waitress here at one time, he said, and when he heard it was closing he jumped in his car and made the 17-hour trip from his home in Wisconsin. "This place is the epitome of the hometown bar," he said.

"It's going to be missed," said Sandra Trayler, who has been coming since 1993.

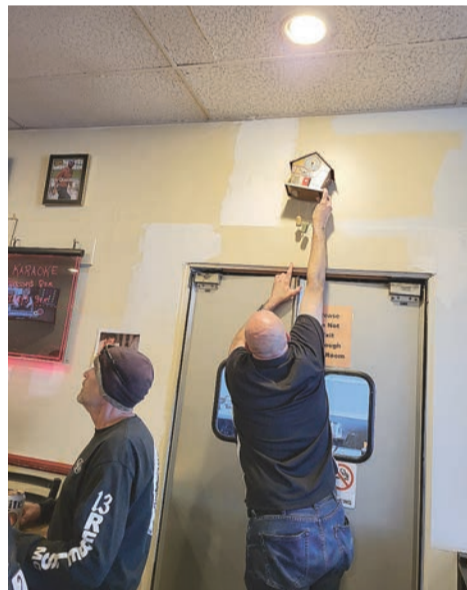
"My mom's husband Moe started it," said Nadia Baker, bartender at the final night.

Moe died of cancer in 2014 but the family kept it going, and then the Covid pandemic came and the customers were temporarily missing, and for this small business, that was the final straw.

"Covid was our biggest hit," Baker said. It was covid and a Virginia tax bill that teamed the place and they just decided it was too tough to keep the doors open.

Years ago, Moe's lost some needed traffic in Springfield when the Springfield Interchange project came through and created a few flyovers that left Moe's on a part of Backlick that did not see a lot of through traffic. Once Backlick Road was split and a new bridge went in, Moe's and the other stores on the older strip centers didn't get the customers they needed. This was what Springfield looked like in the early 1980s. "Before the Mixing Bowl," one patron said.

"It was hard for people to get to us," Tammy Dunbar said.



Taking down the official clock was a no-no.

Locals knew the Springfield Interchange as the "mixing bowl," and Moe's was once known as just Peyton Place. Moe and Mina got married in the side room, some of the current customers came there with their parents to get a burger or their famous roasted chicken.

There is controversy about their best meal though: Is it the roasted chicken or broasted chicken? They couldn't decide, but "we're the only place I know that has it," Dunbar said.

Back in September 1995, Dunbar saw the Moe's employment ad in the Springfield Connection and came in to fill out the application.

"It's heartbreaking," she said.

As the night wore on, somebody reached up and started taking down the official Moe's clock over a doorway and that got the attention of Nadia Baker behind the bar, who made him put it back up.

"We're not done yet," she shouted, and went back to mixing drinks. Some things are timeless at Moe's.



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# Shattering Glass and Police Helicopter Echo in Kingstowne

Friday night was busy with a shooting and crash.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the busy intersection of Manchester Boulevard and Kingstowne Village Parkway on Friday, April 7, cars collided at an intersection that has seen many accidents over the last few years. The traffic signal has a turn-only feature, but also a flashing yellow light and the visibility is limited so the turning cars can be in danger.

A few blocks away, police cruisers blocked the road and the police helicopter circled the area after a shooting in a commercial area of Kingstowne. According to police, the shooting took place in the area of Barclay Drive and King Centre Drive at around 5:30 p.m. when a man was shot in the upper body. He was taken to the hospital for injuries that were not considered to be life-threatening.

This does not appear to be a random act, police reported. They did say it was an isolated incident.

The police did not have much follow-up information about the shooting but there were questions on the FCPD social media feed. Ryan Sluss wanted to know if it was related to an incident close by. "Choppers above Hybla Valley, related? Suspects?" he asked. Another was on site. "I drove by there 10 minutes to 5 and saw him on the grass. There were already a whole bunch of people there," he said. "There are a lot of shootings in FXX County. What's going on?" he asked.

On Thursday, April 6 there was another shooting in Groveton where a man was wounded and the day before, another shooting in Reston where another man was wounded, police said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/  
CONNECTION



In a commercial area of Kingstowne, there was a shooting that left one man wounded.



A few blocks from the shooting, a crash left the driver shaken.

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## Hunting Eggs in Herndon

The Town of Herndon Parks & Recreation Department hosted its annual Hoppy Egg Hunting event at Bready Park, attended by more than 300 kids and their families.

The event featured three egg hunts, a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny, Arts & Crafts from sponsors Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Childtime Learning Center, and the Parks & Recreation Department. The event also included a petting zoo, story time from the Herndon Fortnightly Library, and food from event supporters the Reston/Herndon Lions Club and Weird Brothers Coffee.



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	3/30/2023
DINWIDDIE	6048	623	SUTHERLAND RD	WHIPPONOCK CREEK	3/22/2023
TAZEWELL	18616	643	BRUSHFORK RD	N&W RAILWAY	3/20/2023
SMYTH	17697	707	LAUREL SPRING RD	INTERSTATE 81	3/16/2023
SMYTH	17534	603	LAUREL VALLEY RD	LAUREL CREEK	3/16/2023
PRINCE WILLIAM	14338	643	PURCELL RD	PURCELL BRANCH	3/15/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21669	11	ROUTE 11	PETERS CREEK	3/14/2023
WASHINGTON	18967	91	CRESCENT RD	MCHENRY CREEK	3/13/2023
PRINCE GEORGE	14097	618	HITCHCOCK RD	BLACKWATER SWAMP	3/9/2023
WASHINGTON	19075	647	KINGS MILL PIKE	SINKING CREEK	3/8/2023
LEE	10825	621	COVE SPRINGS RD	POOR VALLEY CREEK	3/7/2023
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	3/7/2023
WISE	19390	613	EAST STONE GAP RD	POWELL RIVER @ BIG-S-GAP	3/7/2023
CHESTERFIELD	31794	650	TURNER RD	POCOSHOCK CREEK	3/7/2023
NELSON	12416	56	CRABTREE FALLS HWY	MILL RACE OVERFLOW	3/6/2023
NELSON	12373	6	IRISH RD	COVE CREEK	3/6/2023
CHARLOTTE	4849	47	THOMAS JEFFERSON HWY	NS RAILWAY	3/3/2023
CAMPBELL	4165	43	BEDFORD HWY	PLUMTREE BRANCH	3/2/2023
CHARLOTTE	4843	47	TOLLHOUSE HWY	ROANOKE CREEK	3/2/2023
LOUDOUN	11167	612	TAIL RACE RD	TRIB. OF LITTLE RIVER	3/1/2023

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*





From left, twin brothers Riku and Kai McDonald, have fun at a previous Earth Day, Springfest.



Corbin Howell, then 3, pets a baby lamb from Frying Pan Park during Fairfax County's 2019 Earth Day celebration, then called Springfest.

SULLY ROUNDUPS

## Route 28 Bypass Project Meeting, April 19

Prince William County's Route 28 Bypass project is aimed at reducing traffic congestion in that county – but it'll also have significant impacts on Fairfax County. That's because the new, four-lane road is planned to cross Bull Run Creek and cut through Bull Run Regional Park in Fairfax County before connecting with Ordway and Compton roads in Centreville to link up with Route 28.

The tie-in site is also in a historic-resource area, is upstream from the Occoquan Reservoir and has the potential to pose threats to the public water supply, both during and after construction.

But local residents can learn more about this project, ask questions and comment on it during a public-information meeting set for Wednesday, April 19, at Centreville Elementary, 14330 Green Trails Blvd. in Centreville. The open-house portion starts at 6:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m.

## Car Seat Inspections, April 20

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, April 20, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat themselves, so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly, in the future. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for May 4, at the same place and time.

## Community Fair, April 22, At Centreville High

Centreville High is performing the musical, "Willy Wonka," on April 22-23. And before the Saturday, April 22 matinee, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., the public is invited to enjoy a community fair in the school gym. The fun includes candy, games and other children's activities. The school is at 6001 Union Mill Road.

CITY OF FAIRFAX BRIEFS

## Learn about Fairfax City's Homelessness Task Force

Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read, along with Councilmembers So Lim and Kate Doyle Feingold, invite City residents to three Community Learning Sessions regarding the City's Homelessness Task Force:

- ❖ Tuesday, April 18, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Fairfax Circle Building, 3251 Blenheim Blvd., first-floor conference room.

- ❖ Sunday, April 23, from 4:30-6 p.m., in the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., conference rooms A and B.

- ❖ Friday, June 2, from 10-11 a.m., in the Fairfax City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., room 111 A-B (work-session room).

## Fairfax City Police Drug Take Back

People with medication to be disposed of may bring it to the lobby of the Fairfax City Police Station, 3730 Blenheim Blvd., in Fairfax, on Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Not accepted: syringes, EpiPens and needles.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Petting Zoo, Food Trucks, Children's Games

## Earth Day Fairfax is Saturday, April 22.ç

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Celebrate spring, participate in fun activities and enjoy being outdoors during Fairfax County's Earth Day extravaganza. With the theme, "Healthy People – Healthy Planet," it's set for Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, in Chantilly, off Route 28, near the Air and Space Museum annex.

This family-friendly event will offer a full day packed with games, live entertainment, touch-a-truck vehicles, a petting zoo, food trucks and a beer garden. At the same time, people will learn what Fairfax County is doing to support environmental sustainability and what they can do to help.

Several special guests will be there, including WUSA-TV chief meteorologist Topper Shutt and National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick. Admission to Earth Day Fairfax is free, but parking costs \$10/vehicle. Attendees may prepay online at <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/earth-day-festival> to reserve their space.

People of all ages will be able to meet farm animals from Frying Pan Farm Park, challenge themselves on an obstacle course, go for a hike on the new Wayside Walk trail, participate in a tree clinic, and even "ice skate" outside on a synthetic,



Earth Day 2023 logoç

ice-skating rink (skates are provided). In addition, attendees will have a chance to win prizes at participating vendors' tables. But that's not all.

Other hands-on activities include: Playing golf for prizes; playing in a gaga-ball pit; visiting a sensory-play area; making a pollinator garden; petting turtles and snakes; touring a creek at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to learn how streams are monitored and what people can do to help; taking photos with Ribbit the Frog; touring the Sully Historic House; fun fishing without water; taking a "Walk through Time" on the Cain's Branch Archaeological Trail, and learning how to draw animals from Ranger Rick.

### Main Stage Schedule

10 a.m. - Welcoming remarks by Top-

per Shutt

10:15 a.m. - Performance by Billy B

11 a.m. - The Recycling Pirates

11:45 a.m. - Weather and Climate Impact - Topper Shutt

12:15 p.m. - Earth Day proclamation - Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

1:15 p.m. - Recycling Relay and performance by Ted Garber

2 p.m. - Studio Bleu Vocal and Performing Arts Group

2:30 p.m. - Billy B

3:15 p.m. - Ted Garber

Earth Day Fairfax is also about teaching new skills and simple tricks people may do at home to make a huge impact on the world outside. Among the many things they can learn at this year's event are: Summer-camp and water-recreation options in the county, where children and adults can golf, how to grow bigger and better plants, identifying and eliminating invasive plants, how insects help the environment, the effect of erosion on archaeology, how to use a historic corn grinder, composting, and history through activities.

For more information, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/earth-day-festival>. Volunteers and exhibitors are also welcome to sign up there. Spearheaded by the Fairfax County Park Authority, this event in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, WUSA-TV 9 and the National Wildlife Federation.



## McLean Project for the Arts' Spring Benefit Set for May 18

McLean Project for the Arts' signature spring event, Spring Benefit, will take place on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at Wildersmoor House in Great Falls. Co-chaired by Marsha Muawwad and Natalie von Seelen, Spring Benefit raises critical funds supporting MPA's mission of connecting art and community.

"MPA's Spring Benefit kicks off the summer soiree season, celebrating a vital commitment to the arts and our community," said MPA co-chair Natalie von Seelen. "This year, we are particularly excited to offer guests the opportunity to support the arts in such a timelessly beautiful location."

Wildersmoor House in Great Falls offers an enchanting experience, rivaling the great homes of the English countryside. The estate features over 17 acres of lush rolling hills, as well as a picturesque lake.

Several pieces by the renowned McLean sculptor Emilie Benes Brzezinski will be featured onsite during the event. Spring Benefit 2023 will feature the music of The Bitter Dose Combo, DC's gypsy jazz and swing band, and Abbie Palmer, a multi-genre harpist. The event will also include fare from Windows Catering Company.

McLean Project for the Arts

MPA provides high-quality art exhibitions showcasing the work of established and emerging artists, educational programs, art classes, MPAartfest, summer art camps, and ArtReach, an award-winning program serving students in grades K-12, seniors, and individuals with special needs.

Sponsorship opportunities are currently available online. Ticket sales open April 17, 2023. Visit [mpaart.org](http://mpaart.org) for more information.



The event will take place in Wildersmoor House in Great Falls.

## Turkey Run Park Closed to Vehicles Through October

On Monday, April 10, the National Park Service (NPS) closed the Turkey Run Loop Road and parking lots so that construction workers can repair and repave road surfaces. The NPS expects these closures to be in place through October 2023.

Turkey Run Park and its trails will remain open, however, the only way to access them will be on foot via the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/turkeyrun.htm>

The NPS will mill and resurface Turkey Run Loop Road and the parking lots within the park. The NPS will complete full depth repairs for some road surfaces. All repaired pavement surfaces will also receive new pavement markings.

This project was funded by park entrance fees. <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/management/yourdollarsatwork.htm> Among other uses, the NPS entrance fees are used for construction projects that directly enhance visitors' enjoyment and access.

Located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park preserves a vertical slice of the Potomac Gorge ecosystem that contains a combination of flora, upland forest, streams, underground seeps and flood terraces. The park also provides opportunities for picnicking and hiking.

## Autism Awareness Month: Catching Up

Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services' Infant & Toddler Connection is responding to the increase in requests for screenings and services for families with young children with behaviors that suggest autism or other developmental delays.

Infant and Toddler Connection provides assessments and early intervention services for infants and toddlers (up to age 3) who have a developmental delay or a diagnosis that may lead to developmental delays. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/office-for-children/infant-and-toddler-connection>



A combination of factors may be the reason for the increase, says Dr. Subarna Dharia, ITC's Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician. Some families may have put off screening during the pandemic. Others may have not been aware of developmental delays due to limited social interactions during that time.

"We are inundated with so many children with behaviors consistent with autism," Dr. Dharia said. "We


are trying to delineate families that need to pursue diagnostic services [beyond ITC] from children who have had limited experiences in the pandemic. There are certainly many variables. But we have to help families move forward and we have to give support regardless."

If parents suspect developmental delays, they should discuss their concerns with their pediatrician and reach out to ITC to schedule a screening, said Susan Sigler, Neighborhood and Community Services' Division Director, Inclusive Support Services. A child can be found eligible for services based on delays or differences. A diagnosis is not required. Once eligible the team will develop an individualized family plan to provide supports and services that promote development and participation in the community.

For information on Fairfax County resources for children with autism, please visit Resources for Children with Autism and Parents <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/autism-resources-for-children-and-parents>

## Public Hearings



### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2024-2029 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2023/default.asp> before April 20, 2023.

**Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:**  
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<b>Thursday, April 20</b> Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	<b>Monday, April 24</b> Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	<b>Monday, May 1, 5 p.m.</b> *Northern Virginia District Potomac Conference Center NOVA District Office 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030
<b>Tuesday, May 2</b> Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	<b>Wednesday, May 3</b> Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<b>Monday, May 8</b> Fredericksburg District Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408
<b>Monday, May 15</b> Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	<b>Tuesday, May 16</b> Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	<b>Wednesday, May 17</b> Lynchburg District Lynchburg Grand Hotel 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504

\*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia. This meeting will also be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ranpvKJOF74?feature=share>.

You can submit comments online at <https://arcg.is/Xi1TG0>, or by email or mail by May 24, 2023.

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

*The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).*



# Election Year Shaping Up

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



The General Assembly is meeting today, April 12, for its Reconvened Session during which the Governor's amendments to or veto of bills passed during the regular session that had adjourned earlier on February 25 will be considered. There is little work to do, and the session is not likely to last more than a day.

In November all 140 seats in the General Assembly will be up for election in new districts determined by a process approved by the voters whereby new districts were drawn for the first time by nonpartisan experts under the supervision of the Supreme Court rather than being gerrymandered by the majority party to their advantage.

It appears at this time that the general election this year will bring about the most turnover of membership in the House and Senate than in any other election year. Currently, in the 100-member House, there are 35 Republican incumbents planning to run for re-election

and 31 Democratic incumbents. That leaves 34 open seats, just over a third of the House, to be filled by new members. In the 40-member Senate, 13 seats are held by Republican incumbents running for re-election and 16 Democrats running for re-election. That leaves about a quarter of the Senate or 11 seats to be filled by new members.

Currently the Democrats control only the Senate with the Republicans controlling both the House and the governorship. You can be sure that both parties will be working hard to gain a majority in both houses.

As I announced earlier, I plan to serve out my current term to the end of this year, but I am not running for re-election. Next year will be the first time in 48 years that I will not be in public office or be a candidate for public office. In total I have been a candidate in a primary or general election 29 times and won 26 of those elections. I have been a member of the House for a total of 44 years serving continuously for the past 42 years. During my tenure I served

under 8 different Speakers, 4 Democrats and 4 Republicans, and I served with 12 Governors, 7 Democrats and 5 Republicans. With those numbers I think it is obvious why I decided to retire at the end of my current term.

Election districts were renumbered as part of the redistricting process. To find the numbers of the House and Senate districts in which you reside, go to <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. For example, the House district in which I reside is numbered "7." Since I am not running for re-election, four Democrats at the time of the writing of this column are seeking the Democratic nomination to run for the House of Delegates from the 7th District. A primary will be held on Tuesday, June 20, to determine the nominee. I am not aware at this time if there will be a Republican nominee.

It will be a busy year as there are Board of Supervisors, School Board members as well as House and Senate races on the ballot. I recommend the website for the Virginia Public Access Project, (<https://www.vpap.org/>) as a way to keep up with what is going on locally as well as throughout the state.

## Dreams Do Come True for These Native Youth

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK



Making a young person's dream come true is a powerful thing. What would you say to ten young indigenous Americans with dreams of improving our world? And, what if I told you that

these ten are just the latest cohort of Dreamstarters to converge on Alexandria since 2014 to turn their dreams into reality by launching projects that change lives in tribal communities across the country?

Well, for the past eight years the Alexandria-based national charity, Running Strong for American Indian Youth ([indianyouth.org](http://indianyouth.org)), featuring their amazing and inspirational spokesman, Olympic gold medalist and member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Tribe, Billy Mills, has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs. As the charity's general counsel, I was excited and honored to attend the celebration of the week-long Dreamstarter Academy – a training program filled with educational activities, workshops, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends for these young people and their community mentors. Of course, it included time to visit

our beautiful Washington, DC region, including the not-to-miss Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. By the time the week ended these young people – citizens of the Oglala Lakota Nation, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Omaha Tribe, Standing Rock Reservation, Navajo Nation, Crow Nation, Cherokee Nation, and closer to home, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in Maryland – were fast friends and new members of what they like to call "the Dreamstarters family."

Then, at the end of this special week, there was a ceremony where each Dreamstarter presented their dream and was provided a beautiful Pendleton blanket with Billy Mills speaking to them and all of us in the audience, encouraging them to realize their dreams just as he did when he won the gold medal – the realization of a childhood dream as an orphan growing up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. They also receive \$20,000 from Running Strong through their mentoring nonprofit to fund their project.

There was also a powerful presentation by Eileen Quintana, program manager of the Nebo, Utah,



Running Strong for American Indian Youth ([indianyouth.org](http://indianyouth.org)), has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs.

Title VI Indian Education program in Spanish Fork, Utah, who has mentored five Dreamstarters over the last six years. Eileen told the audience that with the financial support from Running Strong grant funding, she has now expanded programming for her

Indian Education program to include establishing American Indian clubs for all the schools in her district, serving nearly 500 Native students. Where the graduation rate for American Indian students was 37% in 1998 that number has reached 100% five times since!

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# HIS TREE DAY



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Wearing uniforms inspired by the Union First Sharpshooter Regiment are GMU Green Machine musical-ensemble members at last year's event.

## Fairfax City to Celebrate HisTree Day

Learn about the past and how to protect the future.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

What do you get when you combine history and Earth Day? It's Fairfax City's newest event, HisTree Day. Slated for Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Blenheim Blvd., it'll feature living-history presenters and music, plus learning and exploratory activities celebrating both Fairfax history and nature.

Admission is free, and on tap is a full day of fun and educational activities focusing on local history and the environment. There'll be hands-on crafts, Civil War reenactors, live music, a petting zoo, food trucks and even a huge pile of hay bales where children can simply climb and play.

The history offerings include a blacksmith, a weaver, and a photographer who'll demonstrate their crafts. People will watch how Civil War soldiers and civilians made coffee and cornbread, as well as learn about the duties of a roving reporter and schoolmarm from the 19th century.

Civil War soldiers will talk with visitors, tell them about camp life and teach them how to follow flag signals used on the battlefield. Attendees may even join them as "new recruits" to practice drills. And in the domestic-arts tent, they can make a quilt square adorned with a tree or other nature themes.

They may also chat with a tavern keeper, as well as an early 19th-century scientist, while perusing his collection of unusual, preserved specimens on display. And every-

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one will be able to enjoy the music of the 8th George Mason University Regimental Band, which will perform popular Civil War-era songs on 19th-century brass instruments.

Area residents will also be able to learn about the history of their home or neighborhood. Library and archival experts from Fairfax County and George Mason University will be on hand to help link them to this information.

Some highlights of the nature and environmental activities will be individual tents featuring monarch butterfly conservation, bikes, an electric vehicle and transit information. Craft projects, such as bird feeder building, are also planned.

People may meet the Fairfax City staff members who protect the local natural resources. And they'll learn how modern, stormwater-management technology improves the health of the streams here and reduces flooding. Attendees may also enjoy Historic Blenheim's towering trees while taking a guided walk with the City's urban forester.

In addition, an Enviroscope is sure to be a big hit with children and adults alike, since it's an interactive model demonstrating the impact that community development and pollution have on the waterways. This hands-on activity will teach people that protecting the environment is a responsibility shared by everyone. Fairfax City is at the headwaters of Accotink Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, so it's important to know how to keep this critical waterway healthy.

Children may also interact with some farm animals in the petting zoo, and everyone can buy tasty treats, including Colonial Kettle Corn, from one of the food trucks on site that day. Free parking is available at Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, and at Daniels Run Elementary, 3705 Blenheim Blvd. Or hop on the free CUE bus shuttles at Fairfax High.



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# EGG HUNT

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Four year old Maddie, of Springfield shows the pleasure of finding an egg to add to her Easter basket.



After all the eggs are found, games played, pizza eaten, and fire pit enjoyed, it's the spirit of the diverse and united community that endures

## Area Kids Gather Plastic Egg 'Gold'

Although many hidden 'eggs' this year were plastic rather than hen laid, there was no lack of enthusiasm for searching them out in area egg hunts. While the Easter Egg Roll on the White House's South Lawn may be the best known, area towns, churches, neighborhoods, and even backyards saw children on the fly to prospect for egg 'gold'. Some filled with candy or toys; some golden, denoting the opportunity to claim a special prize; all eagerly sought and added to baskets, buckets, and bags.

— SUSAN LAUME



Kareem reaches the halfway point in the 'trace the chick' challenge as other members of the Egg Hunting Squad track his progress.



James, of Springfield, gets an assist from his dad, as he takes a moment to show off his find.



Although there were fewer chicken eggs this year, there were plastic eggs aplenty, prompting Alex, Kareem and Ali to go hunting with buckets and manage to fill them to the brim at an egg hunt in Springfield.

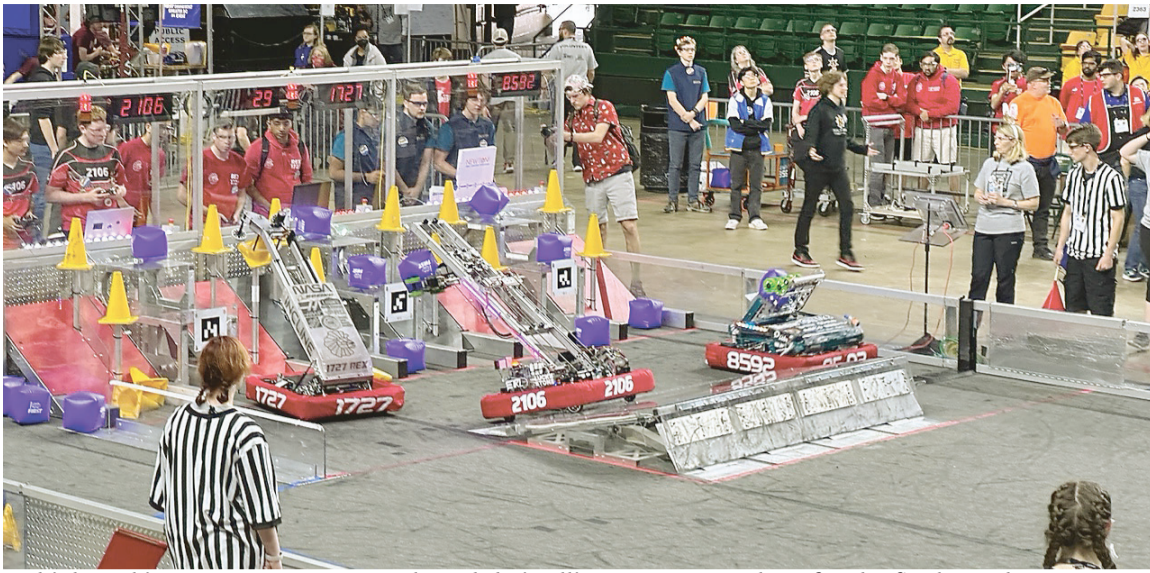


It's not only the egg hunt adventure, but the camaraderie of the gatherings than make egg hunts a favorite springtime event.



At just two years old, James has perfected the two-handed egg gather in Springfield.





As high ranking team, REX #1727 selected their alliance team members for the final matches

# FIRST Chesapeake District Names Robotic Champions

District teams to compete in international event in Texas.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Area robotics fans were treated to a spectacle of charged up technology action, as teams competed in FIRST's Chesapeake District championship April 6-8. Free admission and parking at George Mason's Eagle Bank arena made attendance easy, and fans took advantage to energize the arena with encouraging cheers to support their home team and competitors alike.

The FIRST Chesapeake District, encompassing teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, fielded 60 teams for the Fairfax event, including a dozen teams from the northern Virginia area. REX, #1727, a Lutherville-Timonium Maryland high school team, came into the district championship competition ranked number one for the season. Highest ranked among the northern Virginia teams, were Newton2, #8592, a Fairfax community team, and Vae Victis, the Meridian High School team from Falls Church. It would take 120 qualifying matches over the three days to determine the District Champions. (For more on local teams, see Connection, March 22-28, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2023/mar/22/robotics-teams-charged-compete/>)

Robotics competition is described by FIRST as "the ultimate sport for the mind." High school students build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams. Two competing alliances of three robots bring game pieces to their communities. Alliances compete for 54 cone and 44 cube pieces to bring from substations to their grid for points. In the first 15 seconds of competition the robots must perform autonomously with preprogrammed instructions. Points are scored by leaving their community, bringing game pieces to the grid and docking on their charge station. In the remaining two minutes and 15 seconds of each match, drivers take control of the robots. Drivers score points in the same manner. Alliances gain additional points by linking groups of three adjacent game pieces on the grid. Fouls can result in giving 12 points each to the competing alliance and so are avoided.

As FIRST relates, "This isn't combat robotics." No intentional tipping or entangling is permitted and there are rules about blocking opponents. Although

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judging recognizes that competition "can be full contact and include rigorous game play." At the end of the match each alliance attempts to align all its robots on the charge station in the final seconds. The alliance with the highest score at the end of the match wins and its teams advance.

Not every team would go home a winner or qualifier for the world championship. Vae Victis #1418 would be eliminated before reaching the finals. Speaking for the Falls Church team Nina Miller said, "We had a good run." Explaining the team would start planning for the next season, and maybe celebrate their successes from this season. They would leave the event with the Gracious Professionalism Award, one of 15 performance awards earned in the season.

Chantilly Academy's club, Chantilly Robotics, was eliminated before the play-offs. Ron Baer an electrical engineer who coaches the 80 member group says their team will spend the next months in team leadership selection. Their team is run along the lines of a corporation, with CEO, CFO, and captains. Senior members interview and select others for junior positions. He also indicates it's a time to consider new mechanisms, like more advanced swerve drives, to improve their performance in the next season.

Newton2, although not a winner for the day, remains in high standing and enthusiastic. The team received the "Excellence in Engineering Award", one of 15 awards they received during the season. Ethan Stuart commented that they were grateful that REX, #1727, invited them to join their blue alliance for the final match. Although they were not the winning alliance, Liam Monaghan explained both teams had already qualified for the world championship by past performance. Elimination in the final at Fairfax did not impact their attendance at the international championship being held April 20-22 in Houston, Texas. They describe their preparation for that next event as "looking at what went well and bad and fixing any issues; doing some minor tune-ups."

The final two matches would go to the red alliance of teams Triple Helix, #2363, of Newport News, Va., Robo-Lions #2199, of Finksburg, Md., and Fresta Valley Robotics #1731, of Warrenton, Va., with red alliance to blue scores of 157 to 144, and 179 to 165.

The international championship competition in Houston will pit 338 registered teams from around the globe. Teams from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Israel, Japan, Mexico, and Turkey make the event truly international. It seems that celebrating science, technology, engineering, math and preparing young people for the future is a shared interest around the world.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Brad Druminyasa setting the yoga mood with his drums.

## Tyson's Gets Another Option for Lunch Breaks

Honest Soul Yoga expands to the Boro.

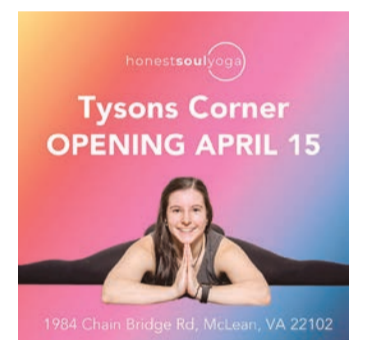
BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Tyson's is a fashion center with shopping, the Boro, and the Silver Line, and coming this weekend, Tyson's will soon have a new Honest Soul yoga studio to get in touch with the namaste too.

On Saturday, April 15, Tyson's Honest Soul will kick off with a couple of early morning classes to get the yoga juices flowing, and then a grand opening party with Brad Druminyasa providing the soundtrack with his drums and other percussion instruments. He's based out of Richmond, but is familiar with Honest Soul and has drummed at a few events they had, including the studio opening in Falls Church recently.

The Tyson's yoga studio will be in a renovated space in a building over by the Boro and will feature everything that has made Honest Soul the go-to spot for area yogis. This includes classes galore, workshops, a boutique, floor to ceiling windows, gongs, chants and crystals that create the yoga atmosphere.

"We're creating a sanctuary in the middle of busy Tyson's Corner," said Jade Norris at Honest Soul. Norris started out teaching yoga at their Falls Church location, which was their latest addition, and now she's in the marketing department. "This new studio is a fresh vibrant space for people to come and practice," she added.



Soon Yoga and Zen will be available in busy Tyson's.

The Boro is an up and coming area of Tyson's geared towards the more active visitor, with lawns, cafes, eateries and meet-ups that they call "Your Happy Place." It's a neighborly gathering place. Now there's somewhere else to go besides the two indoor shopping Meccas.

It's a space between Tyson's I and II, and that's where the yogis can stop for a class too.

In Tyson's, the International Drive area is a professional area dominated by offices in sleek new buildings but in every cubicle, there's a yoga enthusiast dying to get out. Why not a class during lunch hour? Honest Soul is aware of this need and "will have noon classes every day," Norris added.

Honest Soul Yoga was the brainstorm of Suzie Mills, a local yogi with a connection to the military and Fort Belvoir to help the spouses of soldiers transferred to Fort Belvoir. She opened a studio in the Mount Vernon District off Beulah Road and another in West Springfield next to the Whole Foods at Old Keene Mill and Rolling Roads. When the pandemic hit, the studio on Beulah closed but over the last few months in early 2023, yogis are back at it and Honest Soul has picked up the pace to help everyone find their Zen.





Jack Wolff (standing) on the train with ensemble members as the passengers. [www.chantillyhsdrama.com](http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com)



From left are Jack Wolff, Will Sanfilippo and Nishmaya Gundapuneedi. [www.chantillyhsdrama.com](http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHANNON SPICER

# Seeing the World from a Different Perspective

## Chantilly presents 'Curious Incident of Dog in Night-Time'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 60, Chantilly High presents the play, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." The curtain rises Thursday-Saturday, April 20, 21 and 22, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, adults; \$12, students, at the door or via [www.chantillyhsdrama.com](http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com).

The story is about Christopher, a teenager with autism. Sometime in the night, his neighbor's dog is killed and – while navigating his own family and uncovering its secrets – he tries to find out who's responsible for the dog's death. The audience gets to see the world through his eyes as he goes on an adventure to solve the mystery.

"This is a huge production from acting and technical standpoints, and I'm really impressed with the energy and talent the students are bringing," said Director Shannon Spicer. "It's a complicated show that tackles a lot of life's difficult journeys, so there's a big investment of time and hard work by our actors."

She said the entire story takes place in Christopher's mind, based on his life story that his teacher convinced him to turn into a play. Lights and projections convey the times and locations of events – which aren't always sequential.

"My goal is to give the audience an insight into the brilliant mind of a young person with autism," said Spicer. "It's important to accurately convey how the world is seen through Christopher's lens, and this show allows us to do that."

In an interesting twist, the play is double cast. In some shows, Jack Wolff will portray Christopher; and in the others, Nishmaya Gundapuneedi will portray the character as Christina, a female.

A junior, Gundapuneedi describes Christina as stubborn and motivated. "She has so many goals she wants to achieve, and her mind works in an interesting way with such structure to it," said Gundapuneedi. "It's like a machine – someone says something, and she has an automatic response. What's cool about her is that she eventually learns she's not hindered by her autism, but actually helped by it. It's not something to be ashamed of; it makes her different, but in a good way.

"She also realizes it's what makes her who she is and even supports her goal of wanting to be an astronaut. For example, she likes colors and being alone. And she has such an eye for detail – which can be overwhelming – but also beneficial because she sees things other people might not notice."

Gundapuneedi loves playing Christina. "It's a unique experi-

ence to learn what life is like for other people – it's eye-opening and amazing. To prepare, we even observed some students in special-ed classes here. The whole show is told from her point of view and how she sees things."

Since the world in the show is built around the audience, Gundapuneedi said attendees "will feel like they're part of the action and what's happening onstage. I think they'll be on the edge of their seats, the whole time. Projections of places, lights, colors and words will pull them into Christina's emotions."

Wolff, a senior, said his 15-year-old character, Christopher, is "on the spectrum, but is also curious, passionate and really smart. When he's interested in something, he likes to dive in and learn all about it. But he's frightened by things he doesn't know or understand. For example, he doesn't know what it'll be like if people touch him, so that gives him anxiety and he doesn't want to be touched."

The story is set in 1998 England, and Wolff said Christopher's journey takes him out of his comfort zone. As he tries to solve the dog's murder, he also has to physically leave the only home he knows and travel to another city.

"I like playing him – it's a cool experience to look at a character from a different perspective," said

Wolff. "To show his viewpoint, I have to physically and emotionally react in the moment to the other characters around me. I'm an anxious person, in general, so it's a great opportunity to put parts of my life into this character."

He said the audience will enjoy all the "interesting and exciting ensemble moments the actors create to make really nice stage pictures. It's also a stylized show, in that you're watching how Christopher perceives what's happening around him. So there are a lot of transitions between scenes, and they make the moments hit harder. People will be able to sympathize with and understand Christopher's perspective."

Portraying Christopher's father, Ed, is junior Will Sanfilippo. "He's hardworking and cares about his son, but gets frustrated when Christopher doesn't listen to him," said Sanfilippo. "And he doesn't always know how to deal with his own emotions or Christopher's."

"I love playing him because I've never before played a character with this much emotional depth," said Sanfilippo. "And it's a challenge to portray all his emotions at once, while trying to show the audience his struggles and poor choices."

He said the audience will love the show's pacing, "sometimes switching quickly back and forth

between scenes, both related and unrelated. They'll also appreciate the ensemble's movement work and the choreography in their steps. And the set is unique because it has lots of moving parts; and sometimes, the characters become set pieces – such as a couch or a bed – themselves."

During rehearsals, sophomore Sarah Dodson is the stage manager. But during the show, she'll be in the control booth giving cues to the students in charge of the show's lights, sound and projections. It's an important job because the lights and sounds are visual cues for the actors, telling them when to move. And in this play, they're also part of the story.

"A lot of the sensory overload people with autism feel can be due to too much stimuli – lights, sounds or people," explained Dodson. "So I try to portray autism as how it really is, instead of a stereotyped version. I also enjoy doing this because I've learned so much about acting from being at rehearsals."

Calling it a "great show," she described it as "an adventure for Christopher, as he goes out on his own to find the dog's killer. And it's also a true look into how some people with autism live life and how they make it work. It dispels the notion that they aren't intelligent – they just process information differently."



## Farmers Markets Opening Around the County

The Fairfax County Park Authority hosts 10 markets at locations throughout Fairfax County, where residents can find a variety of fresh and locally grown produce, delicious baked goods, prepared foods and family-friendly market activities, including live musical performances.

The 2023 season begins April 19 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

### WEDNESDAYS

#### McCutcheon/Mount Vernon

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mccutcheon-mount-vernion>

April 19 to Dec. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon

Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

#### Oak Marr

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr>

May 3 to Nov. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon

Oak Marr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road

#### Wakefield

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield>

May 3 to Oct. 25, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

### THURSDAYS

#### Annandale

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/annandale>

May 4 to Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to noon

Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

#### Herndon

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

May 4 to Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., by the Red Caboose

### FRIDAYS

#### McLean

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean>

May 5 to Nov. 17, from 8 a.m. to noon

Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

#### Kingstowne

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne>

May 5 to Oct. 27, from 3 to 7 p.m.

In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

### SATURDAYS

#### Burke

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke>

April 22 to Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon

VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

#### Reston

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/reston>

April 30 to Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon

Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

### SUNDAYS

#### Lorton

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton>

May 7 to Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

For a complete list of market times and locations, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets>. For questions, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



# Absentee Voting

## Now through Wednesday, May 17

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are encouraged to vote for members of the MCC Governing Board.

**TWO WAYS TO VOTE:** 1. in person (fill out a ballot at McLean Community Center) or 2. by mail. If you prefer to vote by mail, simply phone or send an e-mail to request ballots for members of your household. The requested ballots will be mailed to your home.

**DEADLINE:** Completed Absentee Voting ballots must be received in the ballot box at MCC by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

### TO REQUEST A BALLOT:

**CALL:** 703-790-0123, TTY: 711

**E-MAIL:** [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 // [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org)



## Community Shred Event



FREE... All are welcome!

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## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

# Oompa, Loompa, Doompety Doo ...

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Centreville High presents 'Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ccentric and reclusive Willy Wonka hides five golden tickets inside chocolate-bar wrappers, and children finding them will get to tour his magical candy factory. He's seeking a child worthy of continuing his legacy there, and Charlie Bucket – a kind boy from a poor family – is overjoyed to find a ticket and be among the five winners.

That's the premise of author Roald Dahl's classic story, later made into a hit movie. This popular musical is also Centreville High's upcoming Cappies entry and will burst upon the stage Saturday, April 22, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15, adults; and \$10, children 18 and under, at the door and via theatre-centreville.com. That Saturday, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., there'll be a community fair in the school gym with candy, games and other children's activities. That night's performance is the Cappies show.

It features a cast and crew of 25, and Centreville's new director, Patrick McGee, said it should really be something special. "There's a song in it called 'Pure Imagination,' and that's what I love about it – that the actors can bring their own imagination to their roles, along with the audience," he said.

McGee is delighted, as well, with his cast's ability to play and have fun onstage. "One of my goals this year was to spark the joy of theater back into this building, and I have," he said. "We get to play every day. These students are committed to developing their skills of acting, singing and dancing, all at once. From the moment they warm up, until the final note, they're supporting each other and lifting each other up to create the strongest performance possible."

The story takes place in the 1990s, and – besides Charlie's house – scenes will take place inside Wonka's factory, with audiences seeing the chocolate river, the nut room with the squirrels and the pink candy boat. Parents and children visiting the factory together will wear clothes in matching colors, and the iconic Oompa Loompas – who make the chocolate – will have green hair plus orange socks and suspenders.

"The audience will like the story, and people will be able to connect to the characters and experience the pure joy that theater can bring," said McGee. "It's about admitting the truth – which can be a great attribute for human beings. And our lighting designer, Elisabeth Stuebner, is using lots of cool lighting effects and colors to highlight each individual character's journey."

Portraying chocolatier Willy Wonka is senior Alexander Cox. "He's eccentric, complex and closed-off and never shows his true colors," said Cox. "You're never sure what you'll get from him. It's about the successor to his chocolate factory, but also his own candy dream. He's over-the-top and says

completely unexpected and outrageous things."

Cox said this role challenges him "in all the right ways.

And I like Wonka's moral ambiguity; he's not 100-percent good or 100-percent bad, so that adds complexity to the story." His favorite song is "I Want it Now," sung by the character Veruca Salt, because "It displays her character and it's really fun to see her greediness unfold."

As for the audience, said Cox, "They'll love the show's energy – everybody completely commits themselves to what they're doing, and their passion is infectious. And the characters really shine through in their musical numbers."

Freshman Madelyn Regan plays 9-year-old Charlie Bucket. "He's optimistic, but a bit naïve, and wants the best for his family," she explained. "He's also imaginative and loves all things Wonka. He's poor, but dreams of a better future for his family."

Enjoying her role, she said, "Charlie has such personality. He brings life to every scene he's in and makes his dismal environment full of happiness. I'm honored to have been given this role because my director saw the potential in me and helped me discover Charlie's journey throughout the course of the show."

Regan especially likes the song, "I Eat More," sung by Gabe Amiryar as Augustus Gloop and Kelly Simpkins as his mother. "It's so ridiculous, and they do a wonderful job singing it," said Regan. "It's about how Augustus has always loved to eat."

She said the audience will be thrilled "to see everything they love from the movie brought to life on the stage by our amazing cast and tech team. And there are also adorable squirrel puppets and bubbles that kids will enjoy."

Portraying Veruca Salt is senior Katie Wood. "She's a headstrong, spoiled brat who just loves the spotlight," said Wood. "She takes full advantage of her father's wallet to get whatever she desires. She believes she's better than everyone else and deserves more than they do. She's self-assured about what she wants and isn't afraid to announce it to everyone. And she's so much fun to play because she's so wild. She has one of the biggest egos and personalities of all the child characters in the show – which sets her apart."

Wood's favorite song is "The Golden Age of Chocolate," sung by Wonka and the whole ensemble. "He announces he's retiring, and the Oompa Loompas are trying to convince him to stay. I love this number's energy, and it really conveys the relationship between Wonka and the Oompa Loompas and how much they respect him."

She said people will enjoy "how whimsical and colorful the show is, and how well the actors portray their characters' stereotypes – and break them – to bring new life to these classic roles."

Junior Gabe Amiryar plays Augustus Gloop, a greedy boy with a huge appetite. "His goal in life is truly just to eat as much as he can," said Amiryar. "He's not too bright and is dumbfounded by life and will do



Augustus Gloop (Gabe Amiryar) falls from a boat into the chocolate river at Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, as Wonka (Alexander Cox) smiles at the helm.



Willy Wonka (in purple coat) with children in a candy shop.

things even when people tell him not to. But he loves his mother, and she, him."

Loving his part, Amiryar is having a good time exploring Augustus's character. "I love eating, too, and falling into the chocolate river has been super fun," he said. "Augustus is diverse because he also has a good side and is probably the nicest kid of the group, besides Charlie."

He especially likes the number, "This Room Here," sung by Wonka and the entire cast. "He's introducing the factory and all its rooms to the kids," said Amiryar. "It's such a fun song – it's upbeat and cheerful and everyone's happy." Overall, he said, "Audiences will love the actors; each one is a perfect fit for their character. And our lighting design is great – the colors and movement will wow them."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

#### WEDNESDAY/MAY 10

Historic Fairfax City Annual Meeting. Historic Fairfax City, Inc., will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m., at Historic Blenheim on Old Lee Hwy. It is open to the public.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Lynn Rainville, Ex. Dir. of Institutional History & Museums at Washington & Lee Univ., in Lexington, Va. Dr. Rainville is an Archaeologist, Anthropologist, author, speaker & public lecturer, whose decades-long studies include both The Southern and New England Regions, with a particular focus on Virginians doing extraordinary things in the past. She will speak on: "Virginia's Role in World War I," to include: The Red Cross, Nurses, Sailors, Army Combat Troops, Steelworkers, Shipbuilders, Food Suppliers, Pilots, Stenographers, Doctors and other civilian roles, as well as noting

the 100,000 Draftees, and 3,600 lives lost. Her writings and speaking engagements have been covered in dozens of National Newspapers and on Public Television, and the subject matter run the gamut from Historic Cemeteries, Enslaved Cemeteries, Segregated Schools, Poor Farms, Asylums, Women & Children, to Ordinary Virginians Doing Great Things.. Dr. Rainville was the former Dean of Sweet Briar College, and has taught at UVa., Dartmouth College, Univ. of Michigan, Mary Baldwin College, GMU (as well as for OLLI) & lectured at numerous private organizations. She received her MA and PhD from The University of Michigan. More information can be obtained by contacting Historic Blenheim, and Membership Chair, Linda Baringhaus at: [lindamb3510@yahoo.com](mailto:lindamb3510@yahoo.com). Reservations are free and advised.



# SENIOR LIVING

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are estate planner Andrea Bryk, of the Bryk Law Firm, and wealth-management advisor Christy Plunkett-Barese, of Bastion Wealth Group.



From left, Mike Daugherty of Any Lab Test Now speaks with Fairfax City Senior Center staff members Anne Chase and Kathy Carter, plus Diana Osinski, on the Senior Center's council.



Posing with Geri the Geriatric Giraffe are (from left) Marioly Vargas and Amanda Gordon of Inova Hospital's Medical House Calls program. Doctors and nurse practitioners make medical home visits to those 65 and older and unable to drive.

## Fairfax Village's Home for Life 2023 Expo

**F**airfax Village in the City's Home for Life Expo was March 31 at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax City. Both speakers and exhibitors provided seniors with information to help them age successfully.



From left, Fairfax City Fire Marshal Bill Murray talks about fire safety at home while fire Lt. David Arrington and attendees listen.



Season Zellman with Fairfax County's Neighborhood & Community Services offers long-term care information, while consultant Myles Nienstadt provides tech advice to seniors.



Discussing what their organizations do are (from left) Yashoda Premysler of ServiceSource Inc. and Jan Buchanan of LionHeart Eldercare & Consulting.



Patti Klein, executive director of Rebuilding Together, speaking about home safety.



## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

# Hilarious Story, Laugh-Out-Loud Characters

## Fairfax High presents 'Sister Act, the Musical.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

An engaging story with tons of laughs and catchy songs – that's "Sister Act, the Musical." And it's Fairfax High's upcoming Cappies show, featuring a cast and crew of 60, plus a 25-piece band.

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 20, 21, 22, at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, April 27-28, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 29, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12, adults; \$10, students via [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) or \$15 for everyone at the door.

In 1979, after singer Deloris Van Cartier auditions for her boyfriend/gang lord at his club, she sees him shoot someone. She tells the police, and they put her in witness protection at Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Philadelphia. There, she becomes the choir leader, while the gang tries to find her.

"It's a musical comedy with a lot of heart," said Director Chris Whitney. "It's also about the bonds of friendship and family among Deloris and the sisters – and there's even a little love story between the police detective and Deloris."

Proud of his actors, Whitney said, "They have a strong work ethic and have really gelled as a cast. We have lots of freshmen stepping up and doing things beyond their age, and our lead actress is a powerhouse force. The costumes are outstanding, too. As the nuns become more successful as singers, they add '70s glam accessories – such as sparkles, beads and sequins – to their traditional outfits."

Scenes take place in the church, police station, club, a bar and on the streets of Philadelphia. "The story is hilarious, and the characters are laugh-out-loud funny," said Whitney. "It's truly about someone who helps others find their voice – and in doing so, finds her own."

Portraying Deloris is senior Isabella Jackson. "She's spunky, ambitious, driven in her career and life, and doesn't fit into a mold," said Jackson. "She's strong and accomplishes her goals, no matter how. Deloris doesn't let anyone get in her way. She defies expectations, is really funny and can be a good friend."

Thrilled to have her first leading role, Jackson has enjoyed exploring her character's life and journey and "translating that to the audience. It's such a fun show, I've had a great time doing it. And in this part, I like being a leader, inspiring others and being a good role model. Every line Deloris says has so much substance; even her jokes have compassion and honesty, because that's how she connects with people."

Jackson's favorite song is the "Fabulous Baby" reprise, which she sings. "Deloris is finally seeing her dreams actualized," she said. "But she also realizes the nuns are where her heart is, and that love is more important than fame."

Jackson said the audience will appreciate this show's heart. "Every character, whether good or bad, has a moment where they're putting their hearts on their sleeves and showing that you should always be yourself," she explained. "People should also get ready to groove – the music will make them want to dance in their seats."

Senior Logan Baker plays Mother Superior. "She's a traditional nun who values uniformity and how everything in the church stays the same," he said. "She's devoted to the church and thinks she knows

what's best for it. So she has to journey from close-mindedness to finding the beauty in self-expression."

As a male with a sense of humor, Baker called portraying a straightlaced nun "the biggest stretch of my life. She never smiles because she doesn't want to show what she's thinking, so that's a challenge. But at the same time, it's the most fun I've ever had, getting to discover how this character sees the world. She's blind to change and to accepting people – which is opposite to my own personality."

Baker especially likes the "Sunday Morning Fever" number when all the nuns sing together to start act two. "It's loud, has the most heartwarming lyrics and makes you so happy to hear it," he said. "The insane amount of positivity that flows out of that song represents what the show is all about – and I even got to choreograph it." He said audiences will love all the jokes in this musical and "they'll be thinking about them as they leave."

Playing the crime boss, Curtis, is junior Donovan McMillan. "He's a gang leader who doesn't take no for an answer and instills fear in others," said McMillan. "But he also looks out for his own people, and his girlfriend Deloris, until they cross him – and then he becomes a killer. I love playing him because it's a new type of role for me. It's exhilarating getting into his headspace to see what makes him tick. And the people I get to act with also make him fun to play."

McMillan's favorite song is "When I Find My Baby," which he sings. "It's sweet and love-dovey in the beginning," he said. "But then it does a complete 360 [degrees] as Curtis says, 'She's not getting away from me, and I'm gonna make sure of it.'"

As for the audience, he said people will like all the actors' energy. "We're giving it 200 percent for everything and want this show to be something people will remember for the rest of their lives," said McMillan. "They'll also like my gangsters, and my relationship with them, because we're hilarious. And they'll definitely love the nuns because they're so innocent, but eventually let loose and have fun."

Junior Kaylee Williams portrays Sister Mary Robert. "She's shy and sweet and hasn't known much of life outside the convent, so she's very sheltered from the world," explained Williams. "So when Deloris comes, she realizes there's more she wants to explore in the world outside. They become close friends, and she eventually comes out of her shell in a big way."

Enjoying her role, Williams said, besides her character's solos, she's in all the big musical numbers, singing and dancing with the other nuns. And, added Williams, "She has lots of character development and ends in a different place from where she starts."

She particularly likes the group number, "Take Me to Heaven" reprise, because "The dance is high energy with fun movements. And I love singing Mary Robert's solo in it. The whole concept of the nuns dancing is funny, and the audience will like this show's over-the-top humor. It's something you go to, to have a good time."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

As Mother Superior, Logan Baker (standing) keeps a watchful eye on (from left) Isabella Jackson (Deloris) and Sister Mary Robert (Kaylee Williams).



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Mother Superior (Logan Baker) admonishes Deloris (Isabella Jackson) while Sister Mary Robert (Kaylee Williams) looks on.



# Public Hearings Coming on County Budget

FROM PAGE 3

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

employee retention and recruitment efforts. The plan calls for fully funding performance, merit, and longevity increases. Based on the pay plan, general county employees will receive an average 4.06 percent increase, and public safety employees will receive an average 4.39 percent increase.

For more information on the budget process, visit the Department of Management and Budget website <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/budget/>

## Reactions to the Proposed Budget

The McLean Citizens Association approved a resolution on April 6 recommending: “The Board of Supervisors ask the County Executive to identify substantial cost savings that can be implemented in FY 2024 and FY 2025, which take into account the declining ratio of FCPS students to total County residents and the growing number of FCPS administrative positions, and which also allow for the adoption of a:

- ❖ FY 2024 budget that raises police salaries by 15%, increases the Park Authority transfer to pay for forestry management, and reduces the property tax rate by 3 cents, and

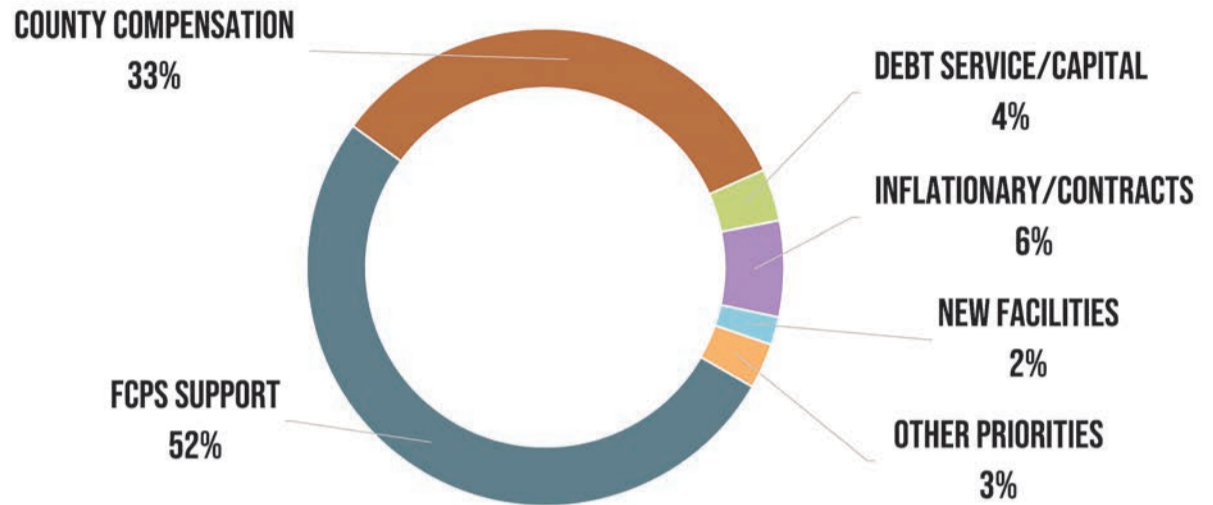
- ❖ FY 2025 budget that funds public safety and other core government services without raising the property tax rate in FY 2025.”

See the MCA meeting video and the final approved copy ( 51:52-2:02) of the McLean Citizens Association Resolution Fairfax County Advertised FY 2024 Budget Plan on its Facebook page.

## On the Other Hand ...

Ann Forno, Fairfax County employee, and SEIU Virginia 512 member, is concerned

## ALLOCATION OF NEW SPENDING IN FY 2024 PROPOSAL



Allocation of new spending in FY 2024 Proposal



Abiodun Falowo



Ann Forno



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Scott Spitzer, McLean Citizens Association

about wage compression and its impact on her financial future. “What is being done to remedy the situation is not enough,” Forno

said.. “The one-sided approach to this process leaves many of us feeling that leadership is out of touch with the needs of its workforce. A union contract will help us

gain the collaborative voice we currently lack.”

Abiodun Falowo, an 18-year Fairfax County employee and SEIU Virginia 512 member, called the recent salary compression review a “letdown and a morale killer. Many of us with the CSB got little or nothing with the adjustment. Despite my 25 years of total experience, I’m below the 50th percentile of my pay grade,” he said.

All full Board of Supervisors meetings are televised on Channel 16 and streamed live online with closed captions provided in English and Spanish. Meetings are also available to view on demand following the meeting. Learn more about the public hearing process.

## Pros and Cons of License Plate Readers

The Fairfax County Police Department joined over 2,000+ law enforcement agencies, neighborhoods, and commercial centers that are using the Flock Safety License Plate Reader system. The use of license plate readers has been prevalent in law enforcement for decades. In 2008, Fairfax County began using the technology to identify stolen vehicles, stolen license plates, wanted persons, missing persons, or vehicles involved in felony crimes. The now antiquated equipment used for this enforcement is being replaced with Flock Safety LPR.

The new license plate readers were first installed Nov. 1, 2022. Since then, Fairfax County Police say that its officers have used the license plate readers to recover 30 stolen vehicles, six firearms, assist in 50 arrests and help locate four missing people.

In the incidents involving the four missing people, officers used their training and knowledge of LPR systems to help locate the people who were entered as missing persons in the National

Crime Information Center. In three of the four cases, officers received an automatic alert when the person drove past a license plate reader. Officers responded to the area and began searching for the involved vehicle. The officers successfully located the missing persons and reunited them with their family.

In the afternoon of March 7, officers were initially searching for a critically missing adult who left the area on foot; however, use of the license plate reader camera gave officers vital information that led them to believe the missing person got on a nearby bus.

An elderly community member walked away from her residence in Reston and could not be located. Officers began searching the area. They found a witness who saw the missing person standing near a bus stop. Officers utilized the LPR system located nearby to search for buses that passed by the area at the time the missing was seen at the bus stop. A supervisor assigned to the Reston Police District recognized a bus number that led them to the bus driver who

gave information to the whereabouts of the woman. She was found just moments later.

On March 16, officers from the Fair Oaks Police District and the Major Crimes Bureau teamed up to help locate an elderly woman who drove away from her home and was missing for many hours. Detectives determined the vehicle the missing person was driving and entered the license plate into the LPR system. While still investigating the whereabouts of the woman hours into the night, an alert was received from a stationary LPR device and officers responded to the area. A patrol officer stopped the vehicle and was able to safely reunite the missing woman with her family.

The FCPD reports that it has chosen not to get alerts for violations regarding immigration status and that it does not share information to federal authorities regarding their investigations into immigration enforcement. The pictures collected by the cameras are stored on a cloud server for thirty days before they are permanently deleted and during that time they cannot be shared outside of law enforcement, FCPD says.

But civil liberties advocates say that license plate readers are an overreach of authority and threaten residents’ privacy.

Fairfax County Police have collected tens of thousands of license plates belonging to people who are not suspected of committing any crimes, but who are simply going about their day-to-day lives, says the ACLU of Virginia. This private data is stored and accessible by police, indexed by license plate number.

“Security and privacy can both be protected without giving police the unregulated power to collect private information ‘just because’ and ‘just in case,’” said Claire Gastañaga, former executive director for the ACLU of Virginia. “Where we go and when is personal. Use of ALPRs and other surveillance technology without a warrant or even the active intent to identify a particular person suspected of a crime means that police can track people who are going to protests, medical clinics and houses of worship, and this personal information sits in a database ... whether you’re suspected of a crime or not.”



# ENTERTAINMENT

## BLUEBELLS AND SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Lace up your hiking shoes, grab your camera and enjoy the ephemeral wildflowers that bloom in our parks. Ephemeral flowers are those that bloom temporarily. Their short-lived beauty allows them to grow and reproduce quickly before the canopy of the forest comes alive. Take advantage of the opportunity to get out, during this limited time, to see many of our native ephemeral blooms including bluebells, toad lilies, spring beauties, may apples and more!

### Spring Wildflowers Programs

April 13 (4 to 5 p.m.): Wonderful Wildflowers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, \$7

April 14 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Waterfalls and Wildflowers Hike, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, \$10

April 16 (10 to 11 a.m.): Wildflowers Walk and Craft, Burke Lake Park, \$8

April 30 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Managing for Native Wildflowers, Riverbend Park, \$10

May 6 (Noon to 1 p.m.): Wildflowers Walk and Craft, Burke Lake Park, \$8

May 7 (3 to 4 p.m.): Wonderful Wildflowers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, \$7

### Bluebells Wildflower Programs & Events

April 16 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.): Bluebells and Bloodroots, Riverbend Park, \$9

## NOW THRU APRIL 30

Score: Mixed Media Art. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Score explores 20 years of the work of Virginia-based mixed media artist, Joan Dreyer. While developing her MFA thesis at Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA, Joan began taking tools, techniques and imagery that have been historically considered "women's work" and transforming them into innovative, contemporary art that is responsive to the tone and tensions of our times. Created by combining fiber techniques with unexpected materials like X-rays, her work is a subtle art that asks questions about life, loss, symbolism, and the impact of war instead of providing one size fits all answers. The artist's work provides a space for the contemplation of life stages that we all encounter. The result is a body of work that allows for meaningful but also multiple interpretations by the viewer. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/score-mixed-media>

## ONGOING

Earthquake Relief Collection. Elected leaders from Northern Virginia announced the launch of a fundraising effort to collect money to purchase food packages for those impacted by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. NVRC hopes to collect \$25,000 for this effort. To donate, visit [www.helpearthquakevictims.org](http://www.helpearthquakevictims.org).

## NOW THRU MAY 31

Candytopia Opens. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Candytopia, in partnership with Tysons Corner Center announces the arrival of its sweet interactive concept to the center. It will feature 16,000 square feet with 14 different



David Dorfman Dance Performs "A Way Out of My Body" on Friday, April 14, 2023 at the Alden at McLean Community Center in McLean.



Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel will be presented on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at GMU Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

interactive environments, Instagram-worthy photo opportunities, and delectable tastes of your favorite sweet treats. There is a candy art gallery, a state-of-the-art candy confetti room, complete with confetti-farting pigs, a marshmallow pit filled with a quarter-million marshmallows, as well as DMV-inspired elements throughout the experience. The journey includes candy samples throughout the experience. Visit [www.candytopia.com](http://www.candytopia.com).

## NOW THRU APRIL 16

Texture Photography Exhibit. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Falls Church Arts Gallery, 700-B West Broad Street, Falls Church. Sixty photographic images from 37 photographers will be featured in "Texture, A Photography Show" on view at Falls Church Arts Gallery. The submissions vary widely and range from country and city scenes to bodies of water, botanicals, and geographical

formations, among others. Visit the website: [www.fallschurcharts.org](http://www.fallschurcharts.org).

## APRIL 4 TO JULY 27

Senior Slow-Pitch Softball Seasons. 9 a.m. to noon. At Braddock, Wakefield, and Nottaway Softball Fields.

Join NoVa Senior Softball, men 50+, women 40+, average age 66. Skill-level assessment. 24 teams, three levels of play. Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: [www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org)

## NOW THRU JUNE 3

"Urinetown." 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/urinetown>

## NOW THRU APRIL 21

Approaching Event Horizons. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, 4379 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. In Approaching Event Horizons: Projects on Climate Change, artists address the growing consumerist culture and raise



Come to the 2023 Horse Expo on Saturday, April 30, 2023 at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.

awareness about the consequences of the environmental crisis through sculpture, photography, and performative actions. Visit the website: <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/exhibitions/approaching-event-horizons-atlantika-pk3bx>

## THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Community Health Fair. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Virginian Senior Living Community, 9229 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. The Virginian senior living community in partnership with VHC Health and Capital City Nurses invite you to Community Health Fair: Empowering Diverse Communities Through Health and Wellness Partnership. Participants will have access to more than 40 local health providers for free health screenings, health and wellness resources, fitness demonstrations, and nutrition education. Screenings for diabetes, blood pressure and vision, plus strength testing and mental health resources are just some of the important services that will be available.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Visual Voices with Black Kirby. 4:45-6:30 p.m. Online. Visual Voices is an online artist talk offered by Mason Exhibitions and the School of Art and Design. The speakers are Black Kirby, a collaboration between John Jennings and Stacey A. Robinson. Visit <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/events/visual-voices-with-black-kirby>

## THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Baisakhi Cooking Class. 7-9 p.m. At Bollywood Bistro in Fairfax City. Bollywood Bistro continues its cooking class series with a Baisakhi Cooking Class in celebration of the Indian New Year. Chef Sunil has prepared a three-course menu to show guests how to make some of his favorite holiday dishes. Executive Chef Sunil Bastola will host this class sharing his tips for preparing traditional Tamil dishes like Punjabi kadhi Pakora (vegetarian) and Achari Mutton. Guests will enjoy libations and light bites as Chef Sunil teaches them how to prepare the dinner's featured dishes.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 14

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. For an appointment, click here or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) Eligibility Questions: Call 1-866-236-3276. Questions? Contact Melanie Hurley at [melanie.hurley@heartogold.org](mailto:melanie.hurley@heartogold.org).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 14

David Dorfman Dance Performs. 7 p.m. "A Way Out of My Body." At the Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave.,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

McLean. New York City's acclaimed David Dorfman Dance company will present its most recent full-length program, "(A)Way Out of My Body." The work explores the effects of trauma and isolation on our individual experiences and our bodies. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students and \$15 for MCC district residents. Visit [aldentheatre.org](http://aldentheatre.org) or call 703-790-0123.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Classic Car Show. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, 2222 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Enjoy a show of classic cars and learn more about what makes each so unique. Kick off the Spring Season with a juicy burger or hotdog right from the grill. Pies for dessert and beer and wine! Kids will be treated to balloon art and glitter tattoos! 1950s attire is welcome and encouraged.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

2023 Horse Expo. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Calling all horse enthusiasts to the Annual Horse Expo at Frying Pan Farm Park! This massive event is for everyone – experienced riders, beginners, and anyone who loves horses or hopes to become a rider. Frying Pan Farm Park has been hosting horse shows and serving the local horseback-riding community for more than 50 years. The Horse Expo will introduce participants to a wide variety of horse-related sports and activities, including dressage, hunter-jumping, mounted archery and Western riding. The afternoon also promises a great networking opportunity for equestrians and the businesses that serve them. Don't miss demonstrations by the Maryland National Capital Park Police, practice drills, engaging speakers, and the Morgan Horse overview of the breeds, presented by the Virginia-Carolinas Morgan Horse Club. Admission to the park is free. Call 703-437-9101.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Spring Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Shoppers can find bargains galore at one of the area's first, biggest and best community sales of the spring season. The sale offers a wide variety of gently used household goods, electronics, furniture, clothes, appliances and other items. The Kids' Row is a special area of the sale where children ages three to 15 can use their math and entrepreneurial skills while selling toys, clothes, games and other items.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Community Shred Event. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 5641 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Sponsored by Pat Fales and Pam Morgan Associates, Re/Max Allegiance.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Poetry in the Park! 3-4 p.m. It's National Poetry Month and Arab-American Heritage Month. Celebrate both at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly, with the first in a series of Poetry in the Parks events. Join ArtsFairfax and the Fairfax Poet Laureate at this event, featuring the poetry of local

Arab-American poets Zeina Azzam, Rayan Afif and Danielle Badra. Admission is free.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Art & Architecture Day. 1-4 p.m. Visit Historic Huntley for a celebration of arts and architecture in conjunction with the Northern Virginia chapter of the American Institute of Architects' Architecture Month. Observe artists painting, while being inspired by the buildings of Historic Huntley. Get a free, inside look at the 1820 Federal-style villa. Admission is free.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 15

State Ballet of Georgia, Mostly B. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Experience the sleek grace and physicality of neoclassical ballet with the State Ballet of Georgia in a program of works by George Balanchine and Ukrainian choreographer Yuri Possokhov. Led by the renowned Nina Ananiashvili, a native of Georgia and a former Bolshoi prima ballerina, Ananiashvili has revitalized the State Ballet of Georgia, attracting major choreographers from all over the world. Their debut program at the Center for the Arts features two works by famed 20th-century Georgian American choreographer George Balanchine including Serenade and Mozartiana, set to music by Tchaikovsky. The impeccably precise dancers of this company also bring Georgian folk melodies to life in Sagalobeli by Ukrainian choreographer Yuri Possokhov.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Jeffrey Siegel closes out the Keyboard Conversations season with a program that celebrates the power and inspiration of friendship. Join him for Mozart and Friends, and hear masterpieces of Mozart, magnificent music by composers who influenced him such as Joseph Haydn, and by those he influenced including Beethoven. Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel combines the virtuosity of a world-class pianist with engaging commentary to create a lively concert experience like no other, and the series celebrates its 30th anniversary season at the Center for the Arts. An interactive question and answer session will conclude this program.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Sound Bath. 4:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join the Sound Bath at Art of Movement, every 3rd Sunday. The April Sound Bath is an invitation to connect to your inner light and bring your gifts to full expression. Iris will feature her collection of Crystal Singing Bowls (frosted & clear), among harps, tuning forks and other vital Sound Healing instruments. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/sound-bath>

## SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Hidden Pond-Community Open House. 3-5 p.m. The Hidden Pond Nature Center is paving the way for future programming and staff would like to hear from residents of all ages at our first community open house! Sample our hands-on activities,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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## City of Fairfax, Virginia Public Notice

Disposal of Private Property Taken Into Possession of City of Fairfax Police Department

Pursuant to Section 50-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact Property Officer Joe Johnson of the City of Fairfax Police Department 703-385-7829 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday - Friday. Deadline for claims will be on May 1, 2023.

Auction Service: Colonial Auction Services, 13200 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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CASE #	ITEM	SERIAL #
2016-11251	California Design Bike	*****7983
2017-12910	Genesis Bike	*****4WMR
2017-14851	Magna Bike	*****7857
2017-15622	Mongoose Bike	Unknown
2017-16016	Next Boys Bike	Unknown
2017-18020	Red & White Bike	*****001J
2017-19421	Trek Bike	*****8163
2019-7947	BCA Bike	*****9511
2019-11387	Raleigh Bike	*****4475
2019-11387	Hard Rock Bike	*****4809
2019-12968	Girl Talk	*****4844
2019-16813	Gravity Bike	Unknown
2019-18038	Huffy Bike	*****2185
2019-18264	Purple Bike	*****2211
2019-18297	Fuji Bike	Unknown
2020-2011	Pink & Purple Scooter	*****5367
2020-2011	Green Scooter	*****1986
2019-19744	Mongoose Bike	*****7767
2020-4047	Trek Bike	*****668M
2020-8551	Next Girls Bike	*****0946
2020-10616	Schwinn Bike	Unknown
2020-13352	Mongoose Bike	*****1062
2020-13726	Road Master Bike	*****8289
2020-14472	Trek Bike	Unknown
2021-379	Road Master Bike	*****1928
2021-00434	Hyper Bike	*****9382
2021-00434	Hyper Bike	*****0890
2021-5551	Magna Bike	*****2020
2021-8386	Next Gauntlet Bike	Unknown
2021-8584	Ambush Bike	*****6470
2021-11746	Next Bike	*****9036
2021-14071	Diamondback Bike	Unknown
2022-9657	Spin fit Bike	Unknown
2022-10152	Blue Bike	Unknown
2022-13068	Diamond Ring	N/A
2022-13068	Men's Championship Ring	N/A
2009-8898	Silver Necklace & Pendant	N/A
2009-8898	Invicta Men's Watch	N/A
2009-8898	Diamond Earrings	N/A
2009-8898	Watch Unknown Brand	N/A
2009-8898	Men's Diamond Ring	N/A
2009-8898	Diamond Bracelet	N/A
2009-8898	Silver Ring	N/A
2009-8898	Earrings	N/A
2015-6556	Red & Gold Jewelry	N/A

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Fun at the Taste of Annandale.

## Taste of Annandale, April 29

The public is invited to the Taste of Annandale, a free family-friendly festival April 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., along Tom Davis Drive.

The Taste of Annandale features live performances, food trucks and restaurants, a 5K race, a best-dressed pet contest, a beer garden, dozens of vendors, a chili cookoff, children's entertainment and activities, and the police helicopter.

The Taste of Annandale is organized by the Annandale-Mason Roundtable, a non-profit formed by volunteers. The festival was developed with two major goals: to bring the community together to celebrate Annandale and to shine a spotlight on local businesses and organizations.

Since the first Taste of Annandale in 2015, it has grown every year. The festival's partners include the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Mason Police District, Celebrate Fairfax, and the ACCA Child Development Center.

The Title Sponsor of the Taste of Annandale is Lambros Goldsmith. Sponsorships are available, as well as space for vendors and restaurants. The deadline has been extended to April 20. Learn more and download an application on the Taste of Annandale website, <https://tasteofannandale.com/>.

If you would like to volunteer at the Taste of Annandale, sign up here: [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp\\_details/188579](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp_details/188579)

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

guided hikes, and science demonstrations. Share your feedback and have a say in the future of our programs. Let your voice be heard and have fun while doing it! Admission is free.

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Chamber Music Series – The Borisevich Duo. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Borisevich Duo, featuring pianist Margarita Loukachkina and violinist Nikita Borisevich, is an internationally acclaimed violin and piano duet, frequently performing across the United States and Europe.

#### SUNDAY/APRIL 16

First Grind Day of 2023, 12-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls Cost \$10. Register Online.

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 18

McLean Earth Day Celebration – Personal Climate Action Planning. 1-2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join Fairfax County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination and learn about personal climate action. We will discuss the cause of climate change, climate mitigation and how to adjust to and prepare for the effects of climate hazards. We will highlight actions you can take that will not only reduce your emissions and build your climate resilience but also save you money. Presenters: Kate Daley, Environmental Analyst, Fairfax

County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination and Sara Girello, Climate Mitigation Specialist, Fairfax County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination.

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 18

Colvin Run Book Club, April 1865: The Month That Saved America, 7- 8:30 p.m., at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost \$8. Online Registration Required.

#### APRIL 20 TO MAY 7

Mojada by Luis Alfaro. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Mojada, written by Luis Alfaro who takes the chilling ancient Greek tale of Medea and re-imagines it in a Los Angeles Mexican-American immigrant community. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

#### SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Concert for the Earth. 5:30 p.m. At Rock Spring United Church of Christ. Join Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) on Earth Day for an evening of music and climate activism! Enjoy a concert with acts performed by Melting Virgo, Musical Scalpel, and Josh Long. Come celebrate the Earth with fellow activists and feel ignited to work towards climate solutions this spring. Please support FACS and the musicians with a recommended donation of \$20.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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## Untethered



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in 68-plus years/my entire life, I am not considering the consequences – too much anyway, of my miscellaneous actions/behaviors, encompassing all facets of my life. With my brother's recent death in addition to our parent's respective deaths in 2006 (father) and 2008 (mother), yours truly is it. 'It' being the last man standing of the Newton Centre Louries.

With neither my brother nor I fathered any children/heirs to carry on our family traditions, "The buck," as it did with President Harry S. Truman, "stops here." Because, quite frankly, it has nowhere else to go. Moreover, whatever bucks remain after Dina, and I die will go who knows where? If to err is human, and we have no significant heirs, then there will be no heir apparent to the Lourie legacy.

As such, I have fewer people to answer to/concern myself with or worry about in any shape or form now, other than my wife, Dina. I'm not exactly adrift. But I am something, what that is exactly, I can't say. Whatever it will be, it will be very unnatural. 'Unnatural' as in behaviors/responsibilities I've had to do (happily and willingly) my entire life, I no longer must do as there's no one left to answer to. Still, I have never chafed at the responsibilities/obligations to my parents and brother. Nevertheless, as I live/survive forward, I do not have any of the checks and balances that previously characterized my life. Unfortunately, as this column's title says, I am now free of many of the ties which on and off have knotted me up, while likely keeping me between the lines, and mostly out of trouble.

I am now left to fend for myself (Dina notwithstanding). My entire life I've never had to fend for myself. It seems silly that after all these decades of organizing my life/adhering to certain guidelines, something should change. Boy, did it. With my last blood family member predeceasing me, I am free to fail. In spectacular fashion if I so desire or succeed in ways never imagined/considered given the non-literal, non-verbal constraints I was bound to, especially since I was "The baby of the family," (as was my mother). Just as last week's column described my new scan interval taking me into "new territory," so too does living my life without my brother stagger me forward into uncharted waters. I will live on for sure, but for a while, the loss will be difficult, especially with baseball season upon us. If my brother and I shared anything, it was the love of the Boston Red Sox (and The Three Stooges, but that's for another column). And did I ever feel it on Sunday, April 2nd. On that day, the Orioles played the Red Sox in Boston. It was scheduled for 1:35 pm. That would have been the exact time that my brother and I would have gotten together to watch the ballgame. And aside from watching the game, it would have given me the opportunity to make sure Richard had the details about how to sign up for the MLB package on Cable so he could see as many Red Sox games as possible. (There are certain tasks that fell to me, as the younger brother. Advising Richard when and how he could watch Red Sox games on television was one of the most important.) Sitting at home alone on that first Sunday of the season watching the Red Sox game, all I could think about was my brother and all the conversations we'd be having about the Red Sox – and of course, life. Never again would we be together, except in my dreams (I can hope, can't?)

Aside from my brother being older and wiser – and a more experienced salesperson than I was, he was a great brother ("my best man" in fact) – and friend, and my biggest booster as well. I remember when I was hospitalized for a week in August 2015, my brother was at the hospital every day, all day, encouraging me on the one hand, and interfacing with the doctors and staff on the other to make sure I was getting the best, most hands-on care. And when I had an opportunity to return the favor this past July through mid-Sept., when he was hospitalized; to visit and support my brother, bring him food, run any outside errands he needed, whatever, I was available every day, all day, whatever he or his wife, Vanessa needed me to do. With his passing, I feel as if I'm only living part time, if you know what I mean? And unfortunately, I don't suppose it's going to get any better for a while.

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





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**PLEASE DO NOT BRING:** Paint, chemicals, gas/oils, propane, dirt, rocks, concrete, tires

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