

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

This Play Is About Race

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From left are Tokunbo Adedeinde (Kevin, married to Lena in act two), Khanner Hancock, Olivia Hinebaugh and Rob Gorman, in City of Fairfax Theatre Co. production of "Clybourne Park."

No Indictment

PAGE 3

So Much Need at Budget Hearings

PAGE 8

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

APRIL 20-26, 2023

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Police Department on the scene where the body was found in Kingstowne.



Several of the police cars went deeper into the woods.

Body Found in Wooded Area of Kingstowne

Police were on site for the second Friday night in a row.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In the early evening hours of Friday, April 14, police were called to a wooded area in Kingstowne where a body of an adult male was found.

For a few hours that evening, officers were on scene in the 5600 block of King Centre Drive where they had one lane blocked off to area traffic. Preliminarily, no foul play is suspected, the police said.

This was the second Friday night in a row where the police were called to the approximately the same area in Kingstowne. On April 7, a 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

APRIL 26-28

Town-wide Spring Clean-Up. In the Town of Herndon. The annual spring clean-up, an opportunity for residents to place large or bulky items curbside for pickup, takes place April 26-28. Pickup is on your trash day only. Items may include:

- ❖ Appliances (remove doors)
- ❖ Furniture
- ❖ Vehicle parts and plumbing fixtures (all under 50 lbs.)
- ❖ Tires (maximum 2 per household)
- ❖ Limited amount of building materials (approximately one cubic yard, lengths not to exceed 4 feet)

Items that will NOT be picked up include loose yard waste, paint, auto parts weighing more than 50 lbs., large quantities of building materials, brick & block, electronics (including televisions, stereos, computers & peripheral) and household hazardous waste. Any of these items set out in the right-of-way are subject to a violation fee, per Town of Herndon code.

Items should be placed curbside by 6am on your trash day only, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to pick-up. Please place items in an organized manner with like items set out close together and away from containers used for regular trash collection.

Please note that not all items are collected by the same truck; for instance, metal is collected using a smaller truck as it does not go to the same disposal facility. If you believe an item was missed, please email Public Works at public.works@herndon-va.gov. Include in the email your address, contact information and a description of the items not collected.

Residents may contact the Department of Public Works at (703) 435-6856 or email [public.works@hern-](mailto:public.works@hern-va.gov)

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 1—5, 2023, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

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Grand Jury Fails to Indict for Johnson's Death

Former FCPD Sgt. Wesley Shifflett won't face criminal charges, at least now.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A grand jury decided on Monday, April 17, not to indict a former Fairfax County Police Department officer. He fatally shot Timothy McCree Johnson, a 37-year-old unarmed Black man from Washington D.C., during an alleged shoplifting incident at Nordstrom Tysons Corner Center in McLean on the evening of Feb. 22. The merchandise: two pairs of sunglasses.

In a released statement Monday afternoon, April 17, Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano said, "Earlier this morning, I sat with Timothy Johnson's family and told them I expected an indictment to come today in the killing of their son, so I can only imagine their pain and shock when they received the news that the officer — who shot and killed their unarmed son — was not indicted." Descano did not proceed with his previously announced 12 p.m. press conference to provide an update on the in-

vestigation into Johnson's death, during which he would read a statement and take questions. It was delayed until shortly before 2 p.m., then cancelled.

According to VA Courts.gov, the grand jury's function is to determine whether there is probable cause to require the accused to stand trial. It is not to determine guilt or innocence. Proceedings are kept in strict confidence.

"Since, by law, no prosecutors were permitted to be present in the room when the investigating officers made their presentations to the grand jury, I can't say for sure what information was conveyed to the grand jurors. In light of this outcome, I am evaluating all options on the path forward and continue to grieve Timothy's loss," Descano said.

During a press conference on March 23, FCPD Police Chief Kevin Davis said no firearm or other weapon was recovered from the scene. Davis said the officer had been served notice that day, "administratively separating" him from the Fairfax County Po-



SCREENSHOT VIA INSTAGRAM

Fairfax County and City of Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano

lice Department. Davis clarified that is the equivalent of firing, and he did so because of the officer's "failure to live up to the expectations of our agency, in particular use of force policies." The fired officer was later identified as Sgt. Wesley Shifflett.

Shifflett, a white officer in the FCPD Tysons Urban Team, fatally shot Johnson during a nighttime foot pursuit in a wooded area near the mall, according to Shifflett's body-worn camera video released by FCPD. The chase ends with Shifflett saying, "Stop

reaching. Stop Reaching. Don't move." It is followed by three pops heard "consistent with gunfire."

Johnson was shot in the chest. Johnson says: "I'm not reaching for nothing. I have nothing. ... I'm shot, man. Hurry." Johnson was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

THE ATTORNEY for the Johnson Family spoke harshly about the failure to indict.

"It is unprecedented that when a Commonwealth's Attorney requests an indictment and the Grand Jury doesn't return a True Bill. Two detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department gave testimony for the Commonwealth to return these indictments," said Carl Crews, the Johnson Family attorney. "They tanked the case and turned the Grand Jury away from returning an indictment. This is nothing more than a 'Blue Wall of Silence.' The Blue protecting the blue. No one should be above the law, even former police officers."

Chief Davis did not immediately respond to a request for comment before the Connection's deadline. Neither did Jeffrey McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; nor Caleb Kerscher, attorney for Wesley Shifflett.

Officials Focus on Dangerous Hill on Lee Chapel Road

Plan and funding needed to fix this site of several fatal crashes.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Changes to Lee Chapel Road are coming closer to fruition as officials from various agencies are planning a second meeting to fix the spot where two students were killed last winter.

In January, a car with three South County High School students aboard crested one of the steep hills, lost control and crashed into the woods, killing two girls and putting one in the hospital with serious injuries. This was not the first fatality at this location that's happened through the years. There are several memorials of other fatal crashes, highlighting the danger of this road configuration.

Officials taking part in this road safety effort include representatives from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Del. Kathy Tran (D-42), Virginia Senator George Barker (D), Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

At the first meeting, the road improvement came down to three options and those were discussed more in depth, arriving at these options:

- ❖ Option One would be the removal of the primary hill, adding two 11-foot lanes and a 6-foot shoulder on each side of the roadway, but this would not require a full closure of the road by VDOT and save about \$2 million. This could be done without full



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Warning signs indicate the limited visibility in this spot.

closure, but construction would take longer and a maintenance of traffic plan would need to be implemented.

- ❖ Option Two is the removal of both hills, adding two 11-foot lanes and a 6-foot shoulder on each side of the roadway, but this would require a full closure of the road by VDOT impacting residents and commuters in that part of the county and beyond.

- ❖ Option Three is to relocate the roadway

as the first phase of the four-lane widening as shown on the comprehensive plan. This would construct a new two-lane roadway to the east of the existing roadway adjacent to the hills only. The existing roadway could remain in use during most of the construction; however it has a significant impact on park property. According to Tran, the county is in talks with the park authority about any improvements on their land.



This memorial is for another fatality here on Lee Chapel Road.

The group has shown interest in Option Two and will meet again in coming weeks for further discussion. Funding is still undecided and the group continues to pursue various sources that include local, state and federal money. For all of these options, there will be public meetings to keep everyone informed of what is happening and when the construction would begin.

There are some short-term options currently in place or coming soon, and that includes signage and brush clearing. When the area is next paved, they will add rumble strips. The time frame for paving that part of the road is next fall.

Inside Look at FCPD Civil Disturbance Unit

Purpose is to ‘protect peaceful, First Amendment protests and quell violent uprisings;’ unit responded to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Not everyone knows the Fairfax County Police Department has a Civil Disturbance Unit, but it performs vital functions here and throughout the region. And one of its members, PFC Kevin Gehr, recently spoke about it at a meeting of the Sully District Police Station’s Citizens Advisory Committee.

“We’ve been here five years now, and we respond to First Amendment events,” he said. “With 131 members, we’re the largest, non-standing unit within the county – meaning we all have other police jobs as our main job. Our purpose is to protect peaceful, First Amendment protests and quell violent uprisings. We responded to the Capitol on Jan. 6.”

Gehr said the members have a “high level of training” and are “trained more than street officers are to deal with these types of situations. Our training levels are Basic, Grenadier, Medic and Level 1. Grenadiers will use chemical munitions and pepper balls. Level 1 officers are in full riot gear; we use armadillo shields that won’t break if an ax is thrown at them. When you have 10,000 people and only 50 of you, officers need to be trained to deal with them.

“A couple medics – usually from our Helicopter Division – are embedded with us. They help us out because, in a [Civil Disturbance Unit] deployment, we’re often far from a hospital and they can offer prolonged treatment and provide advanced life support. They can also do ultrasounds and concussion screening, and they can administer DuoDote – a prescription medicine used to treat chemical attacks. In addition, we’re now the first police department in the country carrying whole blood in the cruiser. It comes from Inova, and we can administer it to victims on the street.”

He said some 38 Civil Disturbance Unit officers are Level 1 and the rest are Basic level. The CDU conducts several rounds of training per year. And, said Gehr, “Every new member coming out of the Police Academy will be CDU-trained, at least at Basic level. It’s not an option, anymore.”

The CDU also instructs surrounding jurisdictions – including Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, Fairfax and Alexandria cities, and the U.S. Capital and CIA police – in both basic and advanced tactics. “It’s a National Capital Area requirement for a 40-hour class,” said Gehr. “And all the other jurisdictions come and take our class in Fairfax County.”

Since May 2022, Fairfax County’s Civil Disturbance Unit has been deployed more than 80 times. “Crowd sizes for these protests have ranged from 5-100 people,” said Gehr. “They all ended peacefully and without incident. We don’t want to make arrests; we want to encourage people to protest peacefully.”



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

PFC Kevin Gehr

FCPD CIVIL DISTURBANCE UNIT

At a Glance

- ❖ 131 Officers
- ❖ High level of training
- ❖ Responded to the Capitol on Jan. 6
- ❖ Deployed more than 80 times since May 2022
- ❖ Last fall, 90 percent of the deployments were for protests outside homes of the three Supreme Court justices who live in Fairfax County.

He noted that, last fall, 90 percent of the deployments were for protests outside the homes of the three Supreme Court justices who live in this county. “We went there every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, after the Roe vs. Wade decision came out,” he explained.

However, the violent Jan. 6 insurrection was another matter, entirely. “Our folks were in gas masks for five hours that day, as well as helmets, masks, body armor and shields,” said Gehr. “The Fairfax County CDU pushed people back after the curfew, but the Capitol Police and Metro Police Dept. did most of the heavy lifting. Then came the state and local police, including FCPD.”

Normally, he said, 30-50 CDU members are deployed at a time for a large-scale event in, for example, Washington, D.C., or Baltimore, Md. But to a Supreme Court justice’s house, just 10-12 officers are needed. The Civil Disturbance Unit’s many deployments have also included responding to protests outside the NRA building, as well as to the District for presidential inaugurations and State of the Union addresses.

After hearing Gehr’s presentation, residents attending were able to ask questions. One wanted to know how the CDU learns about an incident in advance. “We have full-time detectives and analysts working on intelligence, and this information is relayed to the CDU commander,” replied Capt. Rachel Levy, commander of the Sully District Station.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

Civil Disturbance Unit officers doing live training to subdue a “violent protester.”

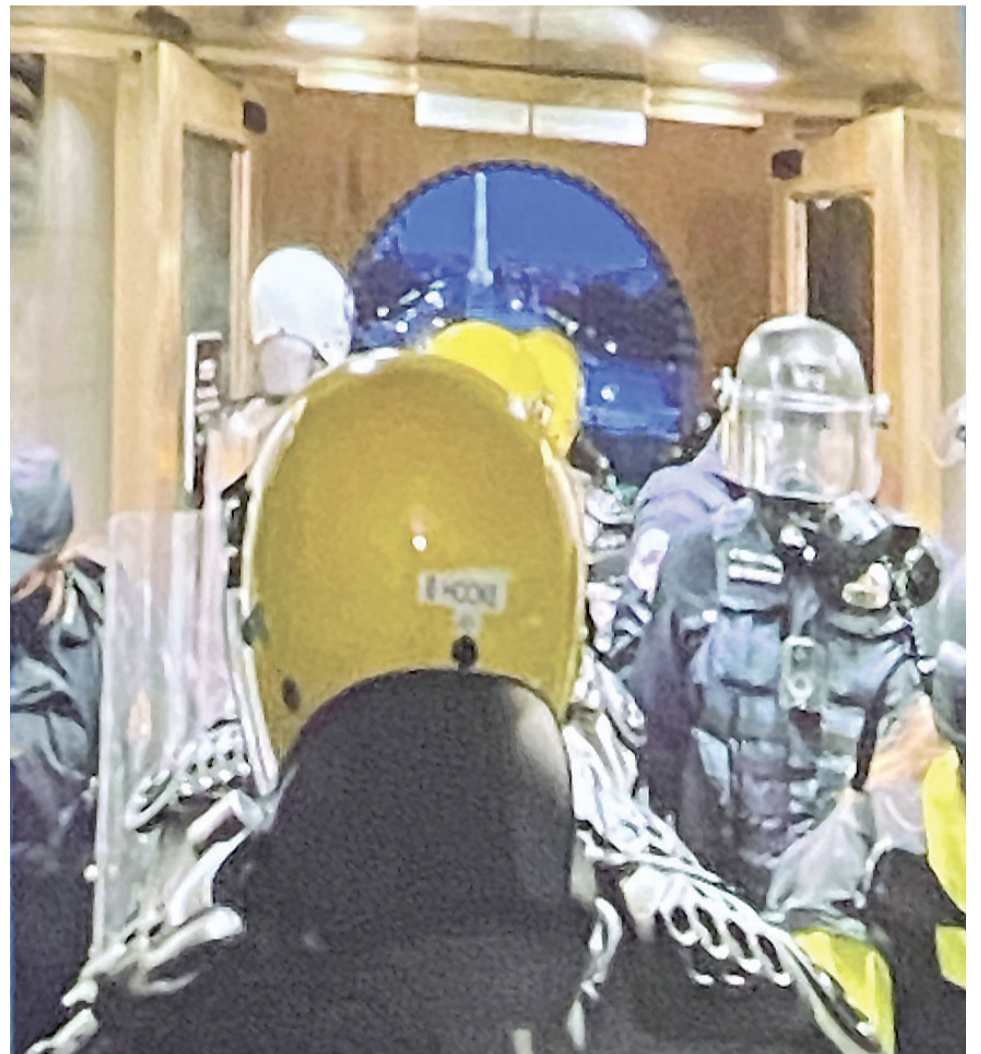


PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPD

FCPD’s Civil Disturbance Unit officers (in face shields) inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Another man asked, if a civil disturbance broke out in Centreville, who’d respond and who’d be in charge of quelling it. “Should there be an unlawful assembly in the county, we’d be called to go there with our gear,”

said Gehr.

“The local police officers would respond, as would the CDU,” added Levy. “When the CDU experts came in, we’d still be there, but they’d be the ones leading the charge.”

Donate Supplies to The Lamb Center

The Lamb Center, a nonprofit, daytime drop-in center for the homeless, needs the following supplies, this month: Bottled water; cereal; hot-sauce packets; disposable razors; travel sizes of deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste and soap; as well as Aldi gift cards (for milk, fruit, etc.).

All supplies may be brought to The Lamb Center at 3160 Campbell Drive in Fairfax City. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Saturday, from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. People may also help The Lamb Center by making monetary donations at https://www.thelambcenter.org/ways-to-give/give-online/?blm_aid=1512449.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

don.va.gov for more information, or visit the town's website at herndon.va.gov/MyTrashDays.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Last Minute College Financing Strategies. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free virtual session sponsored by Reston Community Center. Learn how you can find and win scholarships even if you're just starting the process or are already in college. Register at www.scholarshipworkshop.com/reston2

FCDC ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION PROCESS AND CANDIDATES FOR NON-PARTISAN ENDORSEMENT CAUCUS

For the first time, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee will be conducting an open endorsement caucus to select Democratic endorsees for the non-partisan races on the ballot this year. To vote in this caucus, voters are required to register with FCDC starting April 10th, 2023 at 10 a.m. Registration will continue until the deadline on May 5th. FCDC encourages Democratic voters throughout the county to sign up to join this process by going to: fairfaxdemocrats.org/caucus.

The following races will be voted on in the endorsement caucus:

School Board

At-Large: Ilryong Moon, Lawrence Webb, Kyle McDaniel, Hamid Munir, Ryan McElveen
Hunter Mill District: Paul Thomas, Melanie Meren

Mt. Vernon District: Mateo Dunne, Harold Sims

Soil and Water: Chris Koerner, Mary Paulet, Rhonda Bitterli, Dana Barakat

The following candidates are not contested, and are officially now our endorsed candidates for this year:

School Board:

Braddock District: Rachna Sizemore Heizer
Dranesville District: Robyn Lady

Franconia District: Marcia St. John-Cunning
Mason District: Ricardy Anderson

Providence District: Karl Frisch

Springfield District: Sandy Anderson

Sully District: Seema Dixit

Voting for the endorsement caucus will begin with online voting on May 13th through May 20th. There will be an option for in-person voting on May 20th that will be announced to registered voters. FCDC encourages all Democratic voters in Fairfax County to join us in choosing our endorsed candidates for this November.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



Mid-Atlantic Antiques Festival

April 29 & 30, 2023
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2022 PRESIDENTS AWARD

2022 BEST OF PRINCE WILLIAM

Much Remains To Be Done

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



In my farewell speech to the House of Delegates last week I reflected on the changes that had occurred in Virginia during the 44 years I was honored to be a member. In addition I thought it important to share my thoughts about much that remains to be achieved. Following are excerpts from my speech stating my priorities as to what still needs to be done.

When we as Democrats reformed Virginia's voting laws, making them some of the best in the country, Republicans under those new laws won the governorship and a majority in the House of Delegates. Why now do you seek to turn back the clock and make it harder to vote? Do you fear that you need to limit the electorate when you cannot win on the merits of your positions?

You railed for decades against *Roe v Wade* that was settled law on the difficult issue of abortion. You appear to be like the dog that chased cars until he caught one and then did not know what to do with it. Ducking, bobbing,

and moving past the issue will not save you. Women's reproductive rights need to be fully restored. Let me remind you that Virginia elected the first Black governor in the country not simply because he was the most capable of the candidates but because he was prochoice and the man he defeated was not.

How much longer can you as Republicans stay with the pro-gun advocates when the death toll from gun violence continues to escalate? More children die from gun violence than any other reason. I must tell you that it is a little pathetic to witness when well-researched commonsense bills to end gun violence are presented and there is no discussion but rather kowtowing to what the NRA and the Virginia Citizens Defense League lobbyists have to say. What do you say to your children and grandchildren to explain your vote against common sense gun safety laws? Do not try to put it off on the Second Amendment as if the Founding Fathers intended to protect this kind of gun violence in the Constitution.

These are especially challenging times in our schools. The number of children who need

mental health assistance and the need to reduce anxiety among our youth is only getting worse. At the same time we are talking about taking more than a billion dollars in available revenue and dividing it up among the people who need it least. I think that kind of action is unconscionable!

We have ministers, rabbis, and religious leaders come in to give a prayer each day at the start of the session. Uniformly without reference to any particular religious doctrine they offer us direction on caring for the most vulnerable and needy in our society. Do we act any differently because of what they have to say? We have separation of church and state, but we should never separate legislating from morality and ethics.

The good old days were never as good as we sometimes make them out to have been. I am honored to have been part of making the days in Virginia ever better for all. I know that you as members of the oldest legislative body in the Western Hemisphere will work to overcome prejudices, conspiracy theories, misinformation and lies to make Virginia a leader among the states.

To listen to my entire speech, go to <https://www.facebook.com/kenneth.plum/videos/670005431487255>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaking Out Against zMod's Data Centers By Right

To the Editor:

The Virginia Supreme Court ruled on March 23 that the new Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance (zMOD) was illegal. But rather than allow the public time to digest and comment on the 691-page document, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on it, May 3 at 7:30 p.m., and the Board of Supervisors, May 9 at 4:30 p.m. This rush for reapproval leaves residents little time to prepare their responses and objections, or even to realize that zMOD will allow construction of data centers, by right, close to residential neighborhoods.

Of the nearly 400 emails received during the pandemic regarding zMOD, many complained of the dizzying number of changes to consider, the minimal time for discussions and that it was being rushed through during a pandemic. But the do-over is being rushed, too.

Questionable zMOD issues include: Allowing 12 square feet of signage in residential front yards advertising Home-Based Businesses (HBBs – effectively changing a residential district to a commercial district); eliminating the public hearing process that allows neighbors to weigh in on the building of Accessory Living Units, Accessory Structures, HBBs; and more.

However, the most problematic is zMOD's by-right construction of data centers, which the public has never been separately made aware of. Prior to zMOD, data centers were only allowed in the "planned" (P) districts, which are large tracts of land developed for a specialized purpose. It is a gross misinterpretation by the Supervisors to state that data centers were allowed anywhere a telecommunication facility was referenced.

zMOD permits data centers in the C-3, C-4, I-2 through I-6, PRC, PDC, and PTC Districts (more than Loudoun). Check how close these districts are to your home via <https://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e64b68aa834d46b0ad0e6cd4d831f843>.

I-3 and I-5 districts are adjacent to, or within several hundred yards of parkland and residential neighborhoods. For example, an enormous 100-foot tall, 402,000-square-foot data center (ref: RZ 2022-SU-00019, SE 2022-SU-00038) is being considered adjacent to the Cub Run Stream Valley Park and neighboring Pleasant Valley community.

In zMOD, the I-3 district's purpose is "to provide areas for scientific research, development and training, offices, manufacture and

assembly of products, and related supply activities. This district is designed to accommodate a broad spectrum of clean industries operating under high performance standards." A clean industry uses eco-friendly practices to minimize negative environmental impacts while conserving energy and natural resources.

Data centers have an enormous energy usage: the DEQ even considered a variance to allow data-center generators to exceed EPA air-pollution levels in Loudoun County because they cannot get enough supply from the electrical

grid. Data centers also consume an enormous amount of water. Excessive water and electrical usage and the ability to pollute the air, do not constitute a "clean industry" and therefore should not be permitted by-right in I-3.

zMOD states uses allowed in the I-5 district "must minimize noise, smoke, glare, and other environmental pollutants on the uses within the district and on neighboring areas." Data centers are noisy, contradicting I-5's purpose "to minimize the impact of noise."

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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THEATRE



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are Tokunbo Adedeinde (Kevin, married to Lena in act two), Khanner Hancock, Olivia Hinebaugh and Rob Gorman.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER REGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Back row, from left, cast members Eric Kennedy, Kevin Dykstra, Tokunbo Adedeinde and Rob Gorman; and (front row, from left) Olivia Hinebaugh, Khanner Hancock, Ann Brodnax and Shanna Sorrells.

Thought-Provoking Play Reveals Biases

City of Fairfax Theatre Co. presents 'Clybourne Park.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Taking place on two afternoons, 50 years apart, "Clybourne Park" examines what happens when home becomes a battleground in the politics of race. Inspired by the award-winning play, "A Raisin in the Sun," this dark comedy won both a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize. And it's being presented by City of Fairfax Theatre Co., April 28-May 7, at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive in Fairfax. (See "To Go" box for specifics).

In September 1959, Russ and Bev are moving out of the Chicago suburbs. They've inadvertently sold their house in Clybourne Park to the neighborhood's first Black family and ignited a community showdown. Fast forward to September 2009, and this same neighborhood is ripe for gentrification. The house is again changing hands – but this time to a young, white couple with plans for demolition and a knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

The cast of eight has been rehearsing since January, and nearly every actor plays two parts. Calling the cast "absolutely amazing," Director Chaz Pando said things are going great. "It's my first CFTC production, and they've been very welcoming – it already feels like a family. I directed 'A Raisin in the Sun' elsewhere, seven years ago, so this is full circle for me."

"This is the house the family from that play goes to, and it's exciting to continue their story," he said. "Acts one and two are like two different shows within one play, and each actor brings life and depth to their character. Audiences will feel a lot of emotions about the relationships and views portrayed – how we've evolved as a society, different beliefs, power structures and women having a voice. It pulls different reactions

from everyone. What makes one person laugh makes another cringe. It pushes all the buttons, and they'll identify with the characters onstage."

Khanner Hancock plays Lena in 2009; she's the great-niece of her namesake Lena, matriarch of the Black family that bought the house in 1959 in "A Raisin in the Sun." That play gave the perspective of that family moving into the neighborhood; this one tells it from the white family's point of view.

Describing her character as a patient, middle-aged mother of three, Hancock said, "She's compassionate and definitely vocal about the historical value of this house – the first one to integrate the neighborhood. And although she's reserved, she's there to fight for her family's history and the history of the Black community. The new, white homeowners want to tear down the house and build one that's 15 feet, 3 inches above the others and doesn't fit in."

As a Black woman, Hancock said portraying Lena has been "eye-opening in how history repeats itself – 1959 wasn't that much different than how 2009 or 2019 were, or even today. For example, in this show, I take how I carry myself into a room of mixed races today and apply it to this role – because it's the same. I have to be poised and speak with clarity and confidence so no one can question my education."

She said the audience's reactions to this play will differ by race. "There are lots of uncomfortable statements and jokes about race, gender and religion – all the things we'd never talk about in polite company," said Hancock. "It's thought-provoking in showing our biases and is almost a call to change. How do we want the world to look in 2059? The production's a success because this theater company and director took the risk to make people – including the cast – uncomfortable. And the audience will think

about it after they leave."

Rob Gorman portrays Karl Lindner in 1959 in act one. "Karl represents the Clybourne Park Community Assn. and doesn't want the Black family to move in," said Gorman. "He was the only white character in 'A Raisin in the Sun' and tried to bribe the Black family into not buying the house, but they refused. In this show, I'm the same person; but this time – which happens the same day 'Raisin' took place – as my Plan B, I try to persuade the white home sellers not to sell to this family. But that doesn't work, either."

Gorman said Karl considers himself the voice of his all-white community. "He's the most racist person in act one because he's trying to 'protect' the neighborhood by preventing its integration," said Gorman. "He predicts that, as more Black families move in, the white families will move out. He thinks he's doing the right thing and that the incoming Black family will also be unhappy because they won't be accepted in Clybourne Park."

Calling Karl "serious, awkward, fussy and quietly annoying," Gorman said, "Even the white people don't like him. He's rigid and old-fashioned. It's a challenge playing him because it gets me out of my comfort zone. I know I'll get a negative reaction from the audience, and it'll be fun to hear their live remarks. But in act two, I'm a completely different character. I play Steve in 2009, when he and his wife, Lindsey, become the first whites to move into the now all-Black Clybourne Park."

He said people will like the show because "It's very funny – the dialogue is actually hilarious, which is surprising, considering the subject matter. Everyone takes themselves so seriously, but everything they say is so funny, and it's written so brilliantly. It also has the echoes of history and the similarities and differences between integration in the

To Go

This play is part of Fairfax City's Spotlight on the Arts festival. Show times are Friday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 29, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. – with an audience talkback after the 2 p.m. show; Sunday, April 30, at 2 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, May 4-5, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 6, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 7, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25, adults; \$20, students, via <https://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/productions/clybourne-park>.

*ASL interpreters will be at the April 29 matinee and the May 5 show.

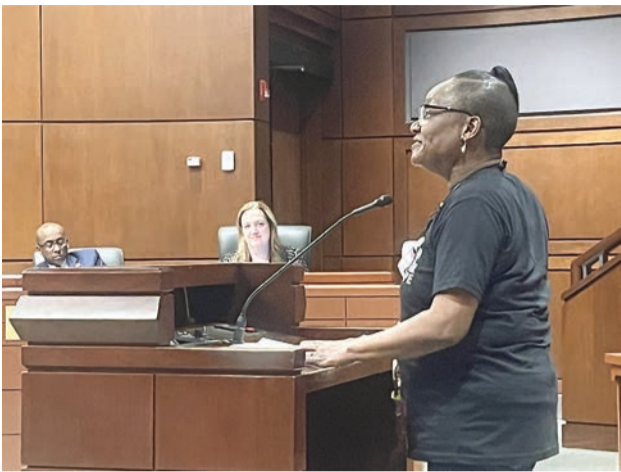
Note: This play includes sensitive topics such as racial discrimination, PTSD and suicide. It also contains adult humor and strong language, which may be inappropriate for children.

'50s and gentrification today."

Portraying Lindsey is Olivia Hinebaugh. She and Steve are in their 30s and she's pregnant with their first child. "She's well-meaning, always tries to say the right thing and wants Blacks and whites to get along," said Hinebaugh. "She thinks moving to the neighborhood will be a non-issue; but often, inadvertently, she says the wrong thing and can actually be offensive. She tries to be P.C. and wants everyone else to be, too."

It's a fun part, said Hinebaugh, because "There are complicated dynamics between Olivia and her husband. Lots of times, she can barely stand him. She's trying to befriend a Black family, but comes off as condescending, so this role lets me stretch my comedic muscles, while portraying someone believable as a person."

She, too, said the characters say such funny things that she can't wait to see the audience's reaction. "And it's likely going to be different, every show," said Hinebaugh. "I hope people come more than once because, every time, they'll see new things they didn't catch the first time. Also, the actors onstage have difficult conversations. And by coming to the show, people will feel invited to have these conversations in their own lives – and realize it can be messy, but worth it."



Alicia Archer



Kelcy M. Allwein



Cyndi Jones testifies before the Board of Supervisors.

Three-Days of Budget Public Hearings

**Out in force,
crying out for help
from Fairfax County.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The economic impact of the pandemic is not over. The level of need, following cuts in federal relief and food assistance, continues to be as high or higher now than during the pandemic, according to testimony by Leah Tenoria, director of Hispanic Ministry and Community Outreach at Good Shepherd Catholic Church

“I have recorded a higher number of calls for assistance each month — double the number from last year at this time — and our funds are out by the 2nd or 3rd day of the month,” Tenoria testified. She oversees the Emergency Assistance Program at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors public hearings were held April 11, 12, and 13 to get public input on the County Executive’s Proposed FY 2024 Advertised Budget Plan, the Advertised Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2028 with Future Fiscal Years to 2033, and the Current Appropriation Level in the FY 2023 Revised Budget Plan.

“These individuals have already called the county help hotline at CSP (Community Services Program) and are told that



County School Board Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer



Rose Risely, member Long Term Care Coordinating Council

they are out of funds or that they no longer have COVID funds to help them,” Tenoria said. “We should continue to provide funding to support Emergency Assistance Programs and other support systems that will lift up families and ensure basic needs are met.”



Lydia Lawrence, chair of the Fairfax Parks Coalition



Mary Paden, chair of the South County Task Force

One hundred forty-seven people testified during the public hearings. From County School Board Chair Rachna Sizemore Heizer, the first speaker on April 11, to Tenoria on April 12, to Rose James, the final speaker on April 13, they expressed a need and asked for funding or changes to the pro-



Arthur Purves, president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance



Therese Chaplin

posed budget. Sizemore Heizer said that the School Board appreciated the advertised budget funding for all of Schools’ recurring costs that the district requested. She said the division faced a teacher shortage and needed to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

About 80 residents of mobile home parks along Route 1 turned out to the budget hearings.

Budget Public Hearings

FROM PAGE 8

provide “market competitive compensation.”

Lydia Lawrence, chair of the Fairfax Parks Coalition, requested “targeted equity programs” as parks do not look the same, access is not the same, and the “quality of them differs” in different parts of the county. Lawrence requested funds for mobile nature center buses to go into neighborhoods that do not have access to parks, and funding of \$229,279 would be for those staff positions. Lawrence said that FCPA desperately needs to hire staff members who have the bilingual capacity and requested \$50,000 in translation and interpretation services. She told of an advocate at Burke Lake Park who noticed that most signs were in English. “The sign that was in English and Spanish was a sign for trash. What does that say to our residents?” Lawrence asked.

Arthur Purves, president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance, said that since FY 2000, the supervisors raised residential real estate taxes three times faster than household income. “If the real estate taxes had increased at the same rate as household income,” the rate would be 57 cents instead of \$1.11,” Purves said.

Rose Risely, a member of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, asked the board to support funding to staff the Springfield Senior Care Center Without Walls program and that the new positions support the inclusion of adults with disabilities into the program. She asked the board to support the proposed funding increase for the Fastran contract and that human services contracts reflect the consumer price index of 7.3 percent, “which is referenced in county contracts as the basis for contract rate adjustments at a significantly higher than the advertised budget.”

Mary Paden, chair of the South County Task Force, which advocates for people with low income on the Route 1 Richmond Highway Corridor, testified that the task force organized a block of speakers on behalf of the Fairfax NAACP Housing Committee. Paden described how the county is losing housing “out the back door as rents are increased, and older garden apartments are scheduled for redevelopment.”

Mobile home park communities along Route 1 with

many tenants, are not all covered by the new no-net-loss policy, and are being bought by out-of-state equity firms, Paden said. “One park located in a future BRT area is ripe for sale to a developer.”

“These [mobile home] parks are long standing communities of color ... In its budget guidance, the Board promised \$60 million in the FY24 budget for both building and preserving affordable housing, but only about \$30M is included in this FY24 budget. We repeat our ask for \$60M in the FY24 housing trust fund: \$30M for new housing and \$30M for preservation. ... It is imperative to increase funding now because, after a lull, development pressures are picking up, and we need to be nimble in grabbing opportunities for preservation — or they will be lost forever,” Paden said. Paden also repeated a request for a new position in the Department of Housing and Community Development focused on mobile home communities. About 80 residents of mobile home parks along Route 1 turned out to the budget hearings. They asked the county to join with nonprofits in purchasing mobile home parks to save them from being developed.

Other Mount Vernon area issues include funds for home repairs, more rent relief and food assistance for residents still coping with health effects or job hour cuts from the pandemic; a right to counsel in eviction court; and repairs to the Kennedy shelter or alternate housing for people experiencing homelessness until a new shelter is completed in four years.

Therese Chaplin spoke as an individual but is also a member of St. Martin’s Episcopal Church and the NAACP Housing Committee. Chaplin said housing was a life-essential building block, and people of color are disproportionately affected.

She urged the board to mandate a right to counsel in eviction court and fund legal aid attorney positions to meet the need; add funds for rent and food relief; enable lower-income minority residents to own a home so that they can build intergenerational wealth.

April 28 is the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee meeting for pre-markup. On May 2, the Board of Supervisors adopts the FY 2024 Budget, and on May 25, the School Board adopts the FY 2024 Approved Budget.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX CITY GOVERNMENT

From left are Janice Miller and Katy Malesky with their awards.

‘Deserving of This Recognition’

Miller and Malesky: Fairfax City Women of Influence.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 2020, the Fairfax City Commission for Women established the Women of Influence Award to celebrate outstanding women who live in the City and have made a significant difference in the lives of its residents. And on March 28, at Fairfax City Hall, it honored longtime School Board and City Council member Janice Miller and A Place to Eat Director Katy Malesky as the 2023 Women of Influence.

“Awardees are nominated for their inspiring leadership, active and ongoing community engagement and level of positive impact within our City,” said awards-committee member Filomena Crawford. “They’re chosen from nominations submitted by the community.”

Janice Miller

During the ceremony, Commission Vice Chair Lisa Whetzel briefly listed some of Miller’s many accomplishments in her more than

50 years as a Fairfax resident. “As a School Board member for 29 years, she helped with the efforts to offer full-day kindergarten, supported the renovation of the four City schools and helped create the Fairfax Academy at Fairfax High,” said Whetzel. “She was also a representative on the Parks and Rec Advisory Board.”

In her 10 years on City Council, Miller advocated for redeveloping the Willard Health Center and the Sherwood Center into one destination for health, fitness, children’s programs and arts. She also pushed for dedicated pickleball courts at the City’s senior center and improvements to Van Dyck Park.

“One of the components of our award is instilling equity within Fairfax City, and Janice helped initiate Fairfax City for All, which spearheaded changing the City seal and some of the monuments and street names,” said Whetzel. “She also supported afford-

SEE WOMEN OF INFLUENCE,
PAGE 11

ARTS & CRAFTS

Britepaths' Fundraiser to Help Families in Need

Artful Living is set for April 27 in Fairfax.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER WEBB

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

An entertaining evening filled with art, auctions, music, food, wine and camaraderie – that's Artful Living. Set for Thursday, April 27, from 7:30-10 p.m., it's a fundraiser for Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths, which helps area families in need.

"This year's theme is 'Forward,' reflecting Britepaths' work to help our clients keep moving ahead and make ongoing progress on their journey to self-sufficiency and success," explained Britepaths' Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Our community's support will make a difference for those in immediate need, while investing in the long-term wellbeing of our neighbors."

Britepaths invites the public to enjoy this event while, at the same time, providing vital assistance to the people this organization serves. Britepaths' programs stabilize families, help them build resilience and offer supports to children whose parents are experiencing financial difficulties.

Artful Living will be held at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road in Fairfax. General admission is \$100. Limited tickets are also available for \$150 for a special, VIP reception from 6:45-7:30 p.m., but they may sell out in advance. Tickets are available at britepaths.org or at the event. For more information, contact 703-273-8829 or events@britepaths.org.

The evening's centerpiece is a juried art show featuring 40 works by 27 area artists, and attendees may vie to purchase them via a silent auction. The fun also includes live music from local band, World's End Jazz, plus appetizers, wine and beer, as well as desserts from Nothing Bundt Cakes and My Alfajor.

Other highlights are a silent auction, games and a photo booth. A live charity auction will offer a variety of items, including vacation rentals and experience packages. And a special guest speaker will share stories of the strength and success of Britepaths' clients.

A sampling of the many items up for bid in the live action includes:

- * The Sip + Sparkle experience, featuring a private-car service, VIP wine tasting for two at Paradise Springs winery, and a \$1,000 gift card for an after-hours VIP shopping experience at Diamonds Direct in Tysons Corner.

- * Lunch with Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read at local restaurant P.J. Skidoos, home of the "Mayor Read Cheeseburger."

- * A one-week stay (September-May) at a five-bedroom, beach house in Carolina Beach, N.C. Enjoy breathtaking canal and ocean views, a private pool, boat slip, dock, outdoor kitchen and TV and a shuffleboard court. This home can accommodate 12 people and is walking distance to downtown activities, restaurants and the beach. (Transportation not included).

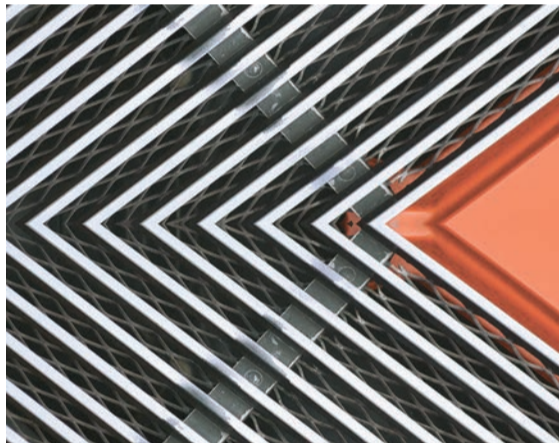
- * A week's stay at Les Moineaux, a garden efficiency housed in a historic, stone, "maison du village" in Languedoc, France. It's located amid lavender and sunflower fields, vineyards and spectacular gorges in the small village of Euzet-les-Bains. Hike through the vineyards to old walled towns with small cafes. Dine at family eateries or under the stars at gourmet restaurants. Savor local wines, cheeses and other regional



"Hunter Moon Trails," photograph by Joanna Hiatt Kim



"Serenity in the Field," watercolor by Asia Anderson



"Made for Speed," photograph by Janet Sifers



"Rhapsody in Golden Black," acrylic/oil painting by Diaa Bekheet

specialties. (Transportation not included).

"Besides helping to enrich the vibrant, Northern Virginia arts community through sales of the artists' works, this event does so much good for those we serve," said Whetzel. "Proceeds benefit Britepaths' programs to provide financial education, coaching and mentoring, job readiness supports and training, emergency food, financial aid and seasonal assistance to area families working to improve their finances and obtain better-paying jobs so their families can thrive. We hope everyone will join us for this delightful evening."

Sponsoring Artful Living are: Human Touch, LLC; MainStreet Bank; The Starfish Foundation of Fairfax; Anthem HealthKeepers Plus; Apple Federal Credit Union; Northwest Federal Credit Union; SAIC; The Warshavsky Family; and Nothing Bundt Cakes Fair Lakes and Vienna.



Experienced rug hooker, Stacy LeCure, of Bristow, traveled to Springfield to demonstrate her craft



Debra Henkel, of Springfield, designs original patterns for rug hooking, like those shown here, for HandmaidensDesigns.com



Cathy Marciano, of Alexandria, shows off one of her creations which might be used as a rug or wall hanging

Rug Hookers Preserve Colonial Art Form

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia chapter of Colonial Rug Hookers displayed some of its members' work as part of a demonstration of the craft at Pohick Library in Springfield on Sunday, April 16. The old art form, developed in the maritime provinces of Canada and in the New England states, once made use of discarded or outgrown clothes and grain or potato sacks. Then, less an art than a necessity, inexpensive, readily available materials were used to produce rugs that warmed cold cabin floors.

Today the craft has enthusiasts across the country and a representative association with several regions and chapters in the U.S. and internationally, in such countries as Australia, Germany, Japan, and The Netherlands. The local chapter based

in Chantilly typically meets one Sunday per month, except in summer, welcoming newcomers who want to learn, and experienced rug hookers who share techniques and innovations.

According to the Colonial Rug Hookers, "today's rug hookers usually cut wool fabric with a special cutting machine, using linen for backing to produce both fine-cut and primitive rugs and wall hangings. Materials as varied as yarn, wool, roving, ribbon, metallics, buttons, beads, plastic bags, and cellophane have been used with creative success." Small crochet-like hooks are used to pull materials up through backing fabric to create a small loop, usually following pre-laid out designs.

For more information on the art form, see <https://www.atharugs.com> or contact the Chantilly group at colonialruggers@gmail.com.

Miller and Malesky: Fairfax City Women of Influence

FROM PAGE 9

able-housing development, the purchase of open space and expansion of the Economic Development Office to both retain and attract City businesses.”

In presenting Miller the award, Mayor Catherine Read noted, “There are so many things she’s done that’ll never make a list. Janice has been a part of so many people’s lives – generations with fond memories of things she’s done for them, personally, as well as what she’s done for this City. So she’s every bit deserving of this recognition as a Woman of Influence.”

Thanking everyone, Miller said how honored she was to receive this award. She said that, when an opening came up on the School Board in April 1977, a friend said she should apply for appointment to it. “I had four small children then and wanted them to have the best educational opportunities,” explained Miller. “I also wanted to improve our school buildings and our community to be known as a place for really good schools. So that’s what started it.”

Still, she said, “I was only 32 then, and the other Board members were older men who wondered, ‘Why isn’t she home, taking care of her kids?’ But I thought, ‘Well, I’m here to stay.’” And indeed she did, for almost three decades, including serving as chairman.

During Miller’s time in office – either appointed or elected – she’s worked with nine mayors, four city managers, eight school superintendents and, she said, “more School Board and Council members than I can possibly count. What I didn’t realize until I was about to retire was that, when I was appointed to the School Board in 1977 – and it had begun in 1962 – I was only the fourth female [on it]. What’s even more remarkable is that, when I was elected to City Council for the first time, in 1992, I was only the sixth female to serve on it.”

Miller then listed what she learned during her many years of public service:

- ❖ “Governing is a team sport. “You can’t do anything alone.”

- ❖ It’s important to listen to everyone – your neighbors, constituents, colleagues and staff members.

- ❖ You need to do your homework, work hard and stick until the very end.

- ❖ Understand that adults disagree; and just because someone doesn’t agree with you doesn’t mean their ideas are not valuable.

- ❖ Learn to make new friends and new colleagues. Fairfax City has an election every two years, and we have turnover.

- ❖ Be kind, appreciative and say thank you.”

She then expressed appreciation for her family, former colleagues, all the City staff members “who work hard to provide the City with excellent information, and all the wonderful people who live in this community. I’m full of gratitude, appreciate all of you coming, this evening, and thank you so much.”

Katy Malesky

Simmy King, Commission for Women secretary, spoke about Malesky, a Northern Virginia native and GMU graduate who worked 20 years in professional recruiting. King said Malesky first “embraced her passion for volunteering” because of her family.

She served on the Daniels Run Elementary and Katherine Johnson Middle School PTAs and remains a Fairfax High PTSA member. A city resident since 2001, she coached FPYC soccer and, on evenings and weekends, she’s at Fairfax High, rooting for its soccer and baseball teams. But she was honored, most of all, for her work with the nonprofit, A Place to Eat, dedicated to supporting food-insecure students in Fairfax City.

“Katy is currently its director, and she’s devoted to assisting the poor and hungry families in and around her community,” said King. “Before the pandemic, she was working with all four City schools and provided food pantries for students to take home backpacks filled with food for the weekends.”

Then during the pandemic, said King,

“Katy really showed her dedication and commitment to the City students. She organized massive food donations and deliveries to them, once she realized they wouldn’t be returning to school and wouldn’t have access to food.

“Each month, Katy and A Place to Eat would donate thousands of food products and deliver them to students’ homes. She organized hundreds of volunteers and worked with social workers within the schools to ensure each child got the food they needed. Katy worked in the rain, cold and heat, throughout the year.

When students returned to school, Malesky helped create food pantries in the middle and high schools and now manages donations and pickups for them. Said King: “Katy truly is a hometown hero, and we’re excited to award her this evening as a Woman of Influence.”

“Women do many things, but what they do best is realize where the unmet needs are,” said Mayor Read. “And they don’t wait for someone to ask them – they step up and do the thing that needs to be done. And that’s what Katy has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate – and not just for her own children, but for everybody else’s kids, too.”

Then, directly addressing Malesky, Read said, “You are a hometown hero and what makes our City and community so wonderful. Thank you, Katy, for being a Woman of

Influence here.”

Next, Malesky said how grateful she is to be working with Fairfax’s school community. “Thank you to the Commission and the mayor – I am humbled beyond words,” she said. “And while the personal recognition is appreciated, to me, it’s more important that this provides me the opportunity to continue to draw attention to the food insecurity occurring in our own community.

“Volunteering has genuinely strengthened my connection to the community and [enabled] me to meet so many kindred spirits. And this will help us broaden awareness to promote financial giving to our most vulnerable – the students who really rely on additional support. A lot of us tend to take for granted that we’ll have regular meals in the evenings and on weekends.”

Malesky also praised the Fairfax community for continually looking for ways to help her organization do its job. “We’re 100-percent volunteer, so everything given to us is directly given back to your students,” she said. “I’m grateful we’re able to [do that] so no student goes hungry. You have to teach young individuals why it’s important to get involved and give back to their community. And until the food-hunger crisis is eliminated, organizations like us will have to continue to exist. From the bottom of my heart, thank you; I’ll share this award with everybody.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year.

Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit www.afsusa.org for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

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,



WOODBINE JOB FAIR

Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center

WHEN:
 Wednesday, April 26th
 at 10:30am-5:30pm
 Thursday, April 27th
 at 9:30am-4pm

WHERE:
 2726 King Street,
 Alexandria, VA 22302

OPEN POSITIONS: CNAs, RNs, LPNs & much more!

Contact Karyna Caceres at 240-778-3824

Apply Here Today





Join a company that values their employees. Proudly Serviced by Marquis Health Consulting Services.

CALENDAR

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 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

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>

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 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.

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.



Windmill Theatre Company of Australia presents "Hiccup!" on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at the McLean Community Center.

24 teams, three levels of play. Tuesday/Thursday morning double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: 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 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>

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 or 703-854-1856.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

JP Muller Art Exhibit Opening. 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, Upper Level in Bloomingdale's Wing, McLean. Featuring guest speakers ArtsFairfax CEO Linda Sullivan, Tysons Corner Director of Property Management Jesse Benites, and the Artist JP Muller. The latest exhibit is a dynamic installation titled Static Dynamism by local metal artist, sculptor and engineer JP Muller. Swiss-trained as a tool-maker, Muller's life's work is in the making of things and the intricate process of bringing intangible ideas to reality.

THURSDAY/APRIL 20

Green Expo. 7-9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Plant guidance, live animals and expert tips on sustainable practices are among the attractions at this year's Green Expo. Dozens of local exhibitors will be on hand with information on sustainable practices including energy efficiency, green landscaping and zero waste. Visit www.viennava.gov/GreenExpo.

APRIL 21 TO MAY 7

"Unnecessary Farce." At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. 8 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays -April 21, 22, 28, 29; May 5, 6; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: April 30, May 7, 2023. "Unnecessary Farce," an award-winning comedy by Paul Slade Smith, combines all the elements of classic

farce with a contemporary plot. Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go! Set in an economy motel, an embezzling small-town mayor is to meet with his female accountant. In the room next door, two inept undercover cops aim to catch the mayor on camera doing the guilty deeds. When the camera catches a bit of unrehearsed hanky-panky and a kilt-wearing, bagpipe-wielding, hit-man stumbles into the fray, comic pandemonium ensues! Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At 215 Center Street, South, Vienna. In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes. The Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility.

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Micah "Bam-Bamm" White. 7 and 9:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Micah "Bam-Bamm" White has spent over 20 years in the entertainment industry as a stand-up comedian, host, and philanthropist. He has performed in four countries, and in over 80 U.S. cities in 30 states. The go-to guy for corporate comedy and hosting, White's talents have led him to perform for 40 corporations, 30 non-profit organizations, and 20 colleges doing everything from stand-up to hosting and delivering the commencement address. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/micah-white>

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Get Inspired Fundraiser. 7 - 10 p.m. At PJ Skidoos, 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Annandale. This is the perfect date night with appetizers, drinks, a DJ, an auction, and more! Gather your friends and family, wear your dancing shoes, and prepare to be inspired. Cost is \$75. Visit the website: www.kidsgiveback.org/events

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Fairfax HisTree Day. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Historic Blenheim, 3610 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Experience local history and crafts presented by costumed reenactors and meet

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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-vernon>
 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

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.

Fairfax City staff members who protect our natural resources. Hay maze, petting zoo, historic house tours, and food trucks. Visit the website: fairfaxva.gov/histreeday

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.

from vendors, exhibitors and food vendors who are looking for opportunities to reach thousands of county residents in a single day with a booth at Earth Day Fairfax.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Documentary Screening and Discussion. Historic Pleasant Grove is screening the hour-long documentary "Finding Fellowship," about the 1968 integration of three churches: one Black, two White. The film will be followed by a panel discussion led by the filmmaker. Free community event 3-5 p.m. at 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. This year's celebration, hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority, will be a fantastic, fun family-friendly event packed with entertainment, activities, food vendors, Touch-A-Truck, prizes and more. Applications are now being accepted

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

McLean Earth Day Celebration. 9 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. For McLean residents who reside in Small Tax District-1A Dranesville only. This drive-through, outdoor, environmental action event provides a convenient way for McLean residents to better the planet. Several local community businesses and organizations will provide four key facets of environmental health in the spirit of shredding, reusing, recycling and planting.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Center for the Arts is proud to co-present a soaring classical music program by the Fairfax Symphony

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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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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Auctions held on the first and third Saturday of the month.

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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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Orchestra, featuring George Li performing Rachmaninoff's immortal Piano Concerto No. 2. Praised by The Washington Post for combining "staggering technical prowess, a sense of command, and depth of expression," Li possesses brilliant virtuosity and effortless grace far beyond his years. He won the Silver Medal at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition when he was 19 and was named the recipient of the 2016 Avery Fisher Career Grant. Li's performances of Rachmaninoff are acclaimed for their "sheer precision" and "sense of discovery, as if the music was quite new" (Bachtrack). Music Director Christopher Zimmerman and the FSO bookend the evening with a pair of Sir Edward Elgar's rousing masterpieces, graduation staple Pomp and Circumstance, March No. 1 and the passion-filled Symphony No. 1

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

The Passing Zone Saves the World. 4 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Passing Zone has been wowing audiences for decades with hilarious, award-winning performances. In their latest show The Passing Zone Saves the World!, The Passing Zone delivers a pulse-pounding and riotously funny performance, combining juggling, comedy, and daredevil stunts. The dynamic duo of Owen Morse and Jon Wee met in 1986 at a juggling convention, and have been tossing bowling pins, sharp knives, lit torches, and even roaring chainsaws ever since. The Passing Zone holds five Guinness World Records and has received 18 gold medals from the International Jugglers' Association. They have performed at the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, been two-time finalists on America's Got Talent, and they have even taken their act to the White House! Their hilariously interactive performance will have the whole family in fits of laughter and gasping for breath as they showcase their zany blend of hair-raising juggling, dangerous stunts, and a healthy dose of their signature brand of comedy. The Passing Zone saves the world from boredom and the mundane by putting themselves at risk for your amusement!

APRIL 22-23

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Spring Show. More than 30 fascinating bonsai trees, each a work of art, will be on display at the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society's (NVBS) Spring Show at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, on Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. NVBS members will be on hand to share their knowledge and demonstrate bonsai techniques. This free show takes place in the Visitor Center. In addition, there is a Bonsai Pavilion at Meadowlark where trees of members of NVBS are shown and docents address the questions of Visitors.

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Mary Lipsey will speak on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. Contact Brian Slawski at slawski_brian@yahoo.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

The 24/7 hum from roof-top HVACs is having detrimental effects on many communities. Residents near an 8-story CyrusOne data center in Chicago sued because of the incessant noise; Northern Virginia residents have been protesting the effects of data-center noise; and a Business Insider article states, “Physiological effects of industrial noise pollution are well-documented to include hearing loss, elevated stress hormones like cortisol, hypertension, and insomnia.”

Article 4, section 6A for data centers states “In all districts except I-4, I-5, and I-6, all equipment necessary for cooling, ventilating, or otherwise operating the facility must be contained within an enclosed building where the use is located. This includes emergency power generators and other emergency power supply equipment,” implying that data centers can have outdoor generators for I-5 districts – again contradicting “to minimize the impact of noise.”

Data centers are largely self-regulating:

no federal agency governs the siting and operation of these facilities. It’s up to us to understand the issues and know where NOT to allow data centers that will be detrimental to the surrounding communities.

The Virginia Supreme Court has given us an opportunity to get ZMOD right. We know more about data centers than we did three years ago, so it’s important to remove the by-right construction of data centers from zMOD and handle data centers as a separate issue.

Show the county that you care. Email your concerns to the Planning Commission Plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov by May 1, subject “zMOD - No to by-right data centers,” and to clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov requesting it be submitted to all the supervisors by May 7. Sign up to speak, or attend one of the hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Cynthia Shang
Chantilly

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

Windmill Theatre Company of Australia: “Hiccup!” 4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. It’s a perfect, balmy night in the outback. A sleep-deprived camper, a cheeky quokka and an emu with a penchant for creating wild inventions, awake to discover that a koala has come down with a stubborn and ear-shatteringly loud case of the hiccups! The three embark on an epic journey frantically eating, singing and inventing their way towards a cure before the sun comes up. “Hiccup” is a hilarious rocking musical extravaganza about working together, finding friendship and how to, once and for all, stop the hiccups.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Artful Living: Forward. 7:30-10 p.m. At the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Artful Living: Forward is a juried art show, sale and charity event to benefit the families Britepaths serves. The evening will include live music, live and silent auctions and a special guest speaker. Visit the website: <https://britepaths.org/event/artful23/>

APRIL 27-30

Annandale Book Sale. 10:30-5:30 p.m. At George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. Come early for the best selection, then come back on Sunday for half-price bargains. Visit the website: georgemason-friends.blogspot.com

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Casino Night. 5-10 p.m. At The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Hwy, Centreville. Casino Night to benefit Veterans Moving Forward. Enjoy The Winery as it transforms into a casino where guests can play hours of poker, roulette, slot machines and more, while contributing to a great cause! Tickets are \$60 per person (\$54 for our Wine Club Members), and include \$1,500* in “Bull Run Bucks” to gamble with during three hours of casino play in poker, roulette, slot machines and more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Campfire at the Mill -- Historic Games. 7-8:30 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin

Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost is \$10. Online Registration Required. Call 703-222-4664.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Pastel Painting Demo by Bryan Jernigan. 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. McLean Art Society is honored to present Bryan Jernigan giving a demonstration of pastel painting. Skilled in both soft pastels and abstractions, Bryan strives to invent color schemes, interlock organic forms, and use decisive brushwork to create the end result of “touching a place deep inside the viewer... I want there to be an interplay between what is visible on the surface and the layers underneath.” His works have earned numerous awards and are held by national and international patrons, and he routinely participates in juried and non-juried art shows and events.

APRIL 28-30

Spring Book Sale. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Dates are Friday, April 28 from 1-5 p.m.; Saturday, April 29 from 10-5 p.m.; and Sunday, April 30 from 1-4 p.m. Bag Sale on Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Fiction for all ages, variety of nonfiction, DVDs. Email FriendsofCRL@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Sensory Day. Noon to 4 p.m. Challenge your senses at the Old Firehouse! This unique and fun event supporting Autism Awareness Month will provide all who attend a sensory exploration through taste, smell, sound, sight and touch. This event is free and open to all. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Colvin Run Spring Tea, 2-3:30 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost is \$15. Online Registration Required. Call 703-222-4664.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Live Music at Lewinsville! 5 p.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church welcomes professional handbell ensemble the James River Ringers, from the Richmond Metropolitan area, for a special Holy Happy Hour. The concert will feature music for Spring and a variety of handbell music for all to enjoy. Lewinsville Church is located at the corner of Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street in McLean.

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to 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's 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 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.

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The Dog's Honest Truth



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since we'll be out of town for a few days – and can't take our new puppy Burton with us, arrangements for his away-from-home accommodations have been made. For the first time in over five months, dog and owner will be separated. I am not looking forward to it. Burton will be spending the next two days and one night staying with fellow dog owners, Jen and Murph. Rather than subject Burton to the stress of being caged at his veterinarian's kennel, he'll be overnighing instead in Huntington, Maryland in a big single-family house. He'll have run of that house and when he needs to go outside, he'll have a large fenced-in yard to explore and even better, he'll have another dog, Cooper, to occupy him. Besides, he's not quite old enough, and/or vaccinated completely yet to risk exposing him to a kennel environment where a miscellaneous disease or a virus might exist. I know Burton will be in excellent, loving hands, but that's not my problem. My problem is me and the logistics of the drop-off. Because of schedules and availability, we'll still be at home without Burton for nearly a day before we leave.

As I write this in real time, I'm still at home – without Burton, and I miss him terribly. A dog is such a full-time responsibility that not having him around is extremely noticeable. I feel like I'm not doing something I should be doing with him: walking, playing, petting, wrestling, ball-throwing, stick-fetching, feeding, treating, et cetera. Moreover, until we leave later today, for the time that I'm being dogless, I am lonely and bored, even though there are still four cats and one wife in the house. In addition, not having any dog-centric responsibilities for the next few days is triggering some other feelings that subconsciously I've buried (having been so preoccupied with Burton): my brother, Richard's surprising (but not shocking) death on Dec. 3rd.

On Dec. 3rd, Burton was four months old and not yet housebroken. As such, me and my wife, Dina have been taking him out constantly, especially since he's a puppy, throughout the day and overnight as well, trying to reinforce certain dos and don'ts. Also, it seemed like every week, one of us was taking him to the vet for one puppy shot or another: distemper, DHPP, rabies, para influenza. It's not overwhelming or anything as we're familiar with the drill (requirements). Nonetheless, it's easy to get preoccupied. Then (not suddenly), we have no dog anything for two-plus days, one day of which was half at home, now.

Left to my own devices, with no distractions (not that Burton is a distraction, but you know what I mean, right?), I began to feel my brother's death more substantially again. Not that I hadn't learned to live with it, but I had found a place for it, I thought. It wasn't top of mind. It was middle of mind. And it seemed to be in a good place. After I dropped Burton off and came home – with no dog responsibilities, Richard's death became top-of-mind, sort of unexpectedly. Here I thought I was coping and assimilating his loss into a new routine. The only routine I was assimilating was life with a puppy. With Burton away for the weekend, I've had no distraction. And it has become painfully obvious that my brother's death is still weighing on me. Once again, the loss felt palpable. Almost as if I was experiencing it for a second time. I hadn't assimilated anything after all. I was too busy with the dog to realize it. Now, I realize it. My brother is dead. And I'm extremely sad.

At least my brother got to meet Burton once (his nephew as he called him) on his birthday in late October. Richard was doing so well. I never imagined (anticipated is probably a better description) that that would be the last birthday and the second to last time I would see my brother alive. And the fact that Burton was involved with Richard, even for a little bit, gives me some comfort. It created a connection of sorts between them that helps me to smile about an otherwise horrible situation. I can recall how happy Richard was that night when we brought Burton, kennel, and all, into the house. We positioned Burton's kennel on the floor in the dining room right next to Richard so they could be physically close. Dogs have a wonderful capacity to spread joy wherever they go. And this evening was no exception. As minimal as their interaction was, nonetheless, it was a happy memory I have and will continue to have of my brother. And I need as many of them as possible. And thanks to Burton, I have an extra-special one. One for which I am forever grateful.

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

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