

# THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



## Farmers Markets Return for Season

PAGE 8

## Lucky To Be Alive

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## Bandamonium!

PAGE 10

The Reston Farmers Market, which offers SNAP matching and 34 vendors, is held Saturdays, now through Dec. 2, 2023, at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston.

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# NEWS

## Big Buns Damn Good Burgers and Matchbox Open in McLean

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n April 26, Big Buns Damn Good Burgers and Matchbox opened at 1340 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The restaurants provided free samples of burgers, sliders, nuggets, pizza and beer against the backdrop of music by a local DJ. Food for Others received a portion of evening purchases.

Fairfax County Economic Development Authority diversity business investment director Karen Shaw congratulated Warren Thompson and Thompson Hospitality on opening Matchbox and Big Buns. She said McLean is Matchbox's 11th and Big Bun's 10th DMV location.

"We applaud Thompson Hospitality for giving back to the community and Warren Thompson for being a pillar of entrepreneurial success in Fairfax County."

The ribbon-cutting officially opens Big Buns Damn Good Burgers and Matchbox in McLean with, from left, Andrew Clark, chairman of the board, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce; Alex Berentzen, COO of Thompson Hospitality; Mumia Fatiu, VP of operations, Matchbox; Warren Thompson, president and chairman, Thompson Hospitality and his family; Benita Benita Thompson-Byas, senior vice president and vice chairman of the board, Thompson Hospitality Corporation; Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville); Karren Shaw, director of Diversity Business Investment at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority; Kebba Gaye, director of Operations for Matchbox; Odhie Fields, general manager Matchbox McLean; Marquise Jones, general manager, Big Buns McLean; Ken Shell, vice president of operations, Big Buns; and Donald Brayton, front of house manager, Matchbox.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## County Supervisors Pass FY '24 Budget

Fully funds employee pay plan, public services, and lowers the tax rate.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 on May 9 to approve a budget for fiscal year 2024 that "strikes a balance between investing in high-quality services and remaining sensitive to residents' ability to pay for them," accord-

ing to a statement from board chairman Jeff McKay (D).

"This budget recognizes the impact of inflation on our residents and on our ability to recruit and retain employees. It provides funding for core priorities in affordable housing, environmental protection, parks, libraries, protecting our most vulnerable residents, mental health treatment, and recognizes our

future is uncertain and we must prepare for tougher times ahead," McKay said.

The approved budget fully funds the market rate adjustment for all employees, increasing starting salaries and compensation for police officers, and increasing compensation for teachers and all first responders. It provides car tax relief and reduces the real estate tax rate. The budget fully funds the Fairfax County Public Schools budget request.

Supervisor Pat Herrity, who voted against the budget, named the FY 2024 budget "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" in the May 2 issue of his newsletter. The Good was funding

of the market rate adjustment for county employees; the Bad was not going far enough to address police compensation and tax reduction; and The Ugly, according to Herrity, was "the unchecked \$2.6 billion FCPS transfer."

For SEIU Virginia 512, the budget was cause for celebration, setting "the stage for the exciting work ahead."

"This victory, which would not have been possible without the advocacy of SEIU Virginia 512 members, is a win for all county employees and for all working families who rely on excellent county services to thrive," SEIU said in a release.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.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 Member-

ship Chair, Linda Baringhaus at: [lindamb3510@yahoo.com](mailto:lindamb3510@yahoo.com). Reservations are free and advised.

#### SCHOOL BOARD SEEKING MASON DISTRICT FPAC APPLICANTS

The Fairfax County School Board invites applications from community members interested in serving on the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) as a Mason District representative. FPAC advises and informs FCPS staff and the School Board in the development of comprehensive, long-term plans for facilities.

The Facilities Planning Advisory Council consists of 13 members,

one from each Fairfax County magisterial district, three at-large representatives, and one representative from the City of Fairfax, each appointed for three-year terms. The new appointee's term will end June 30, 2026.

FCPS encourages individuals with experience in construction, engineering, architecture, land use planning, development, demographics, government operations, and financing to apply. The deadline to submit an application is May 24, 2023. Applicants must reside within the boundaries of the Mason District.



# 'Teens Nearly Ended this Police Officer's Life'

Speeding car crashes into two vehicles on parkway.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A patrol officer from the Sully District Police Station is lucky to be alive. According to Fairfax County police, after stopping a vehicle for speeding, he was nearly struck when a driver coming the opposite direction – at more than 100 miles an hour – lost control of his car, slamming into both the stopped vehicle and the officer's cruiser.

The incident happened last Monday, May 1, around 11:38 a.m. The officer had just pulled over a 2012 BMW 750 Series on southbound Fairfax County Parkway prior to Braddock Road. Since it was safer for him to speak with the driver while not standing in a traffic lane, the officer walked around to the passenger side to do so.

That decision may well have saved his life. Indeed, said county Police Chief Kevin Davis, during a press conference the next day, "It's just miraculous that we're not talking under different circumstances. This horrible crash, by all accounts, should have resulted in much worse outcomes than it did – so thank God for that."

Deputy Police Chief Bob Blakley then showed a video of the violent crash that was captured on the Dashcam inside the officer's cruiser. He said the car that came from the northbound lanes was a 2018 BMW M3 driven by a 17-year-old with two teenage passengers. The video shows it coming sideways at a high rate of speed, forcing the officer to jump out of the way to avoid being hit.

"Our crash-reconstruction detectives have analyzed the data from the 'black box' in that vehicle, and it was traveling well over 120 miles per hour when it lost control," said Blakley. "These teens nearly ended this police officer's life – as well as [that of] the driver of the vehicle parked on the side of the road."

He said the officer had been doing traffic enforcement there because "that stretch of the parkway between Popes Head and Braddock roads has had an increased number of crashes," lately.

Davis then advised parents to think twice before giving their teenagers high-performance vehicles to drive. "The car involved in that collision was a whole lot of car for an inexperienced driver," he explained. "There was a slight bend in the roadway, and there was no recovery because the car was going way too fast to be able to negotiate it. It was a rocket – and then it became a missile."

Prior to impact, the officer – who police didn't identify – had stopped a speeder driving 73 mph in a 50-mph zone. While he and



In the video, from which this photo was made, the car in the center came sideways across the median, crashed into two vehicles and nearly struck the police officer.

that driver were talking, said Blakley, the other car crossed the median and crashed into both of their vehicles "at an extraordinary speed. At one point, the [offending] vehicle was nearly wrapped around the officer – it was a matter of inches."

At the time of the press conference, Blakley said there was "no indication" that alcohol was a contributing factor to the collision. But, he added, "I don't think any vehicle could handle that curve at that speed." At 120 mph, he said, "The vehicle could no longer maintain adhesion to the road."

"It's just outright reckless driving, and that's where the inexperience piece comes in – drivers making huge mistakes, taking risks, not fully aware of the consequences. [The impact] crushed the guardrail, 3 to 5 feet, so the amount of force involved in that collision undoubtedly shook the officer. But he very professionally checked on people, controlled the scene and called for backup."

Blakley then thanked the other drivers on the parkway who pulled over to offer help, as well as the people who called, the next day, to make sure the officer was all right. "I can't thank them enough for their concern," he said.

"I also thank the men and women of our Police Department who are out there trying to make our roads safer."

All three teens were wearing seatbelts, so they just sustained minor injuries. The driver of the stopped vehicle and the officer also suffered minor injuries. However, they were transported to the hospital for treatment and then released. The teenage driver was

charged with reckless driving.

This year, said Blakley, "We've seen a 62-percent increase over 2022 in the number of citations issued to teen drivers for speeding. And there's been a 181-percent increase in the citations for failure to pay full time and attention – which is often associated with a crash. In Fairfax County, year to date, we've had 8 fatal-crash victims in 7 crashes – three

of them caused by teen drivers."

"What a close call this was," added Davis. "And it highlights the necessity for folks to take a minute and talk to their teen drivers to make sure they're not driving so fast that they can't control their vehicles. Right now, the officer is just glad to be alive. Hopefully, he's relaxing at home with a lottery ticket in his pocket."

## Woman Killed by Fire Engine in Reston

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate the early morning crash involving a pedestrian and a Fairfax County Fire and Rescue engine.

At 2:18 a.m., officers and fire and rescue personnel responded to Glade Drive west of Laurel Glade Court in Reston for a woman who was on the ground in the roadway. Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the officer arrived first and was waved down by the complainant. The officer did not see the woman lying in the roadway as he passed her.

The engine followed the officer. The Cap-

tain saw the woman and immediately yelled to stop and turn. Unfortunately, the driver was not able to stop or turn in time, and struck the woman. Fire and rescue personnel immediately began to provide advanced medical care. The woman, Ashley Boardman, 23, of Middleburg, was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

Preliminarily, detectives do not believe speed is a factor in the crash and continue to investigate to determine if drugs or alcohol were factors for Boardman.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543.

## WFCM's Pantry Needs Food Donations

Since March, Chantilly-based nonprofit Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) has seen an increase in the number of local families needing food support. It's due to inflation, decreased wages and the end of federal supplemental benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotments that ended in February.

So WFCM especially needs help from the community to keep its food pantry stocked to meet the growing demand. The items it

needs most this month are flour – including Maseca flour/Masa flour, canned chicken (5 oz.), coffee, ramen noodles, Vienna sausages, pasta sauce, dry spaghetti, fruit cocktail and mandarin oranges (both without sugar), plus black, garbanzo and great northern beans. Toiletries needed are bar soap, body wash, conditioner, lotion and toothpaste.

Donations are accepted Monday-Friday, 8-10 a.m., at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite H (back door), in Chantilly, and on the second Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m.





First Place: "Love Language" – Gouache painting by Kaitlyn Kim, Centreville HS.



Second Place: "Big Shoes to Fill" – Acrylic painting by Bumkyu Kang, Oakton HS.

# 11th District Congressional Art Competition

**O**n Sunday May 7, 2023, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) hosted his annual reception for participants in the 11th District Congressional Art Competition at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, Virginia. Judged by a panel of representatives from local art organizations, this yearly competition celebrates student artists from across the 11th District. This year's competition featured 140 pieces of artwork.

"The Congressional Art Competition is always a highlight of my year," said Connolly. "I am blown away by the talent of our community's students, and I am honored to play a small role in supporting their artistic careers. Congratulations to this year's winners and to all who participated!"

The first, second, and third place winners of Congressman Connolly's 2023 Congressional Art Competitions:

**First Place:** "Love Language" – Gouache painting by Kaitlyn Kim, Centreville High School. The first place winner receives a \$500 scholarship sponsored by ArtsFairfax as well as a scholarship from the Mason Community Arts Academy to take a course over the summer. The winner's artwork will hang in the US Capitol for one year.

**Second Place:** "Big Shoes to Fill" – Acrylic painting by Bumkyu Kang, Oakton High School. The second place winner is also the recipient of the 2023 High School Rising Star award. The winner receives a \$300 scholarship sponsored by the Workhouse Arts Foundation and their artwork will hang in the Workhouse Vulcan Gallery for one year.

**Third Place:** "Food for the Soul" – Acrylic painting by [Name], [School]. SEE ART, PAGE 7

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# Busy Election Year

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"  
PLUM

Every year is an election year in Virginia, but some years are busier than others. This year is an "off year" when local and state elections are held but no federal elections are held. This election year is unique because when primary elections are counted there are many more than usual.

Elections this year are being held for all 140 members of the Virginia General Assembly — House of Delegates and State Senate. If you have registered for previous elections and have been voting regularly you are registered to vote in the elections this year at your usual polling place. Redistricting of the General Assembly districts took place this year. To find the district in which you reside and will be voting, go to <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>.

There you can check your registration status and register to vote if needed, find your polling place, and apply to vote absentee by mail. The general election will be held on Nov. 7. The Virginia Department of Elections offers an outreach guide to provide information on the integrity of our elections. Visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-ed/>. You can also view or download a handy voters guide at <https://tinyurl.com/2bv6h82v>.

Many election districts have more than one candidate running for the same office. In Fairfax County, Democrats choose their candidates by primary for which voting is already taking place and will continue until June 20. Im-



Plum

portant dates for the Democratic primary can be found at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>.

Republicans choose their candidates by convention for which dates vary by district. The nominees chosen by the parties will face off in the general election on Nov. 7.

At the local level in Fairfax County all members of the Board of Supervisors including the chairman are on the ballot. Also at the county level there are elections for constitutional officers that include the Sheriff, Commonwealth Attorney and Clerk of the Court. School Board members for election districts and at-large will be held at the same time and place as that of supervisors. There are primary elections to pick the Democratic nominees for these positions. The

Fairfax County Office of Elections has a wealth of information online, including a list of related websites (at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/links>) to find additional information.

The outcomes of the primary elections and convention meetings are very important to determine the candidates who will be on the ballot in November. Virginia made transformative progress that brought its laws and representation into the modern day in recent years. Once trending as a blue state, Virginia in many areas is still a red state controlled by Republican officeholders. There will be fierce campaigns to sway voters. Educate yourself on the issues and the candidates and cast a vote. The issues are too important to not participate in both primary and general elections.

For more information on candidates, go to [www.vpap.org](http://www.vpap.org).

# Nearly 500,000 Households in Region Are Employed Yet Cannot Afford the Basics

United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) in partnership with United for ALICE today released its new report, ALICE in the Crosscurrents (ALICE Report), which sheds light on the financial hardship of the nearly 500,000 households in the National Capital Area who are working yet cannot afford the basics in the communities where they live.

ALICE, a United Way NCA acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, represents the growing number of individuals and families working but unable to afford basic necessities, such as food, healthcare, childcare, transportation expenses and more. The ALICE Report integrates the ALICE population across the DC Metro Area with disaggregated County level data in the National Capital Area. The reality is that 664,711 households in the National Capital Area — 33% — had income below the ALICE Threshold or minimum income level necessary for survival for a household. That calculation includes the 176,744 households at or below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) and another 487,967 families defined as ALICE. Nationwide, 16.2 million households are at or below the Federal Poverty Line and another 36.3 million are

ALICE.

"What we're seeing is a mismatch between earnings and the increasing cost of basic necessities," said Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO, United Way of the National Capital Area. "ALICE families have been overlooked and undercounted by traditional poverty measures. While the FPL is updated yearly, the Census Bureau determines poverty status using thresholds dating back to 1963. The antiquated Federal Poverty Line, the fact that ALICE households may not qualify for federal benefits or safety nets, and the increased cost of living over time as inflation continues to rise, all contribute to the growing number of ALICE households."

Every two years, United Way NCA releases an ALICE report that provides data on where ALICE lives in the region, who they are, and more. Until now, in this region, these reports were only available in the states of Maryland and Virginia, but for the first time, Washington, DC is included in the 2023 report, which enables United Way NCA to provide a true picture of ALICE and critical information that can help guide efforts in uplifting all National Capital Area residents. It helps reshape how United Way NCA and its partners understand

regional financial hardships and the ongoing challenges many community members face today. Racism, discrimination, and systemic barriers limit families' access to resources and opportunities for financial stability.

ALICE is the nation's childcare workers, home health aides and cashiers heralded during the pandemic — those working low-wage jobs with little or no savings and one emergency from poverty. Daily they are faced with making difficult decisions on whether to spend their earnings on healthcare or food. ALICE may be your neighbor, your colleague, your friend or even a family member.

According to the ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship report, an ALICE Household Survival Budget for a family of four in the National Capital Area in 2021 was \$101,281, well above the poverty line at \$26,500 and well above the full-time earnings for most low-wage jobs in the region. The ALICE Household Survival Budget for ALICE shows how earnings are stretched thin and insufficient to meet the minimum monthly household expenses of those employed.

For example, in the National Capital area, a retail salesperson (one of the most common occu-

pations) earned an average hourly wage of \$14.21, short of the \$23.81 hourly wage needed to meet the ALICE Household Survival Budget for one worker employed full-time, much less for a family with children. Moreover, of the 2 million households in the area, more than 84% are located outside the District. As a result, many ALICE workers live outside the District, where housing is less expensive but adds the costs of commuting (monthly avg. \$250-\$550 depending on the household), and extra time to travel, which could contribute to an increase in childcare (already over \$2000 monthly with two children in childcare).

To illustrate, a family of four with two parents working full time in two of the most common occupations (retail salesperson and cashier) earning a combined \$58,500 annually could not afford the Household Survival Budget in 2021—in DC \$92,736, Maryland \$101,760, and Virginia \$101,913 — even with the \$20,800 in assistance through the expanded Child Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Economic Impact Payments.

"At United Way NCA our goal is to reduce disparities across all

SEE ALICE, PAGE 7



## NEWS

# 'The Last Cavalry Sword' by McLean Author

**A nonfiction book by C. Anthony Burke.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

C. Anthony Burke of McLean is an author who has long been interested in the development of the World War I Cavalry sword, known as "the Patton saber." It was designed to use as a weapon rather than as an article of dress uniform. Burke's research is published in his book, "The Last Sword," released in November 2022.

The nonfiction work tells the story of the U.S. Model 1913 Cavalry Saber and the man who forced its development and adoption, General George S. Patton. At the time of the saber's development and adoption, Patton was a young lieutenant, fresh from competing in the modern pentathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games. Swords-

manship, or epee fencing, was one of the five events.

According to the book's publishing company, Pen and Sword Books, "The Last Sword" provides an illustrated overview of the history of cavalry swords and their employment on the battlefield from the end of the Renaissance through the Napoleonic Era, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, culminating with the Patton cavalry saber."

Very few specialized works were written about these models, according to militaria expert Matt Easton, who reviewed the book, "The first half of the book is looking at the other swords that led to its development, and the second half ... s looking more specifically at American swords."

Russ Lockwood from the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society, writes "The transition from curved to straight cavalry swords gets full attention and ends with an analysis of Patton's design being accept-

SEE A NONFICTION, PAGE 15



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Third Place: "Food for the Soul" – Acrylic painting by Anya Huang, Langley HS.

## Art Competition

FROM PAGE 5

mic painting by Anya Huang, Langley High School. The third place winner receives a \$200 scholar-

ship sponsored by the Mason Community Arts Academy and their artwork will hang in Congressman Connolly's district office for a year.

## ALICE Lives Here

FROM PAGE 6

three pillars of health, education and economic opportunity and improve outcomes for individuals and families in the National Capital Area, particularly for our ALICE population," added Allen-Herring. "We cannot do this work alone, so we're calling on community organizations and partners to join us."

The ALICE in the Crosscurrents for United Way NCA was funded by Greater Washington Community Foundation and Kaiser Permanente.

To read the report and access online, interactive dashboards that provide data on financial hardship in the National Capital Area, visit [unitedwaynca.org/alice](http://unitedwaynca.org/alice).

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# Shoppers Welcome the Opening Days at County Farmers Markets 2023

Last night in the ground, next day on your plate

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**armers Markets operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority are now open for the 2023 season. The markets provide shoppers access to locally grown food, allowing farmers and producers to sell their goods. All farmers and producers come from within a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County, with a few exceptions for those providing hard-to-find products. The markets are producer-only, meaning vendors can only sell what they raise or make on their farms.

This year, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is doubling the amount available to purchase fruits, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, and vegetable starts. For those eligible, bring your EBT card to the SNAP information table at the four selected farmers markets in Reston, Mount Vernon, Annandale or Lorton. Choose the amount to charge to your card, and staff will assist you in swiping your card and entering your pin.

If you missed your neighborhood's county farmers market day, consider visiting one of the other locations. There are ten-Annan-dale, Burke, Kingstowne, Lorton, McCutcheon/Mount Vernon,



The Reston Farmers Market, which offers SNAP matching and 34 vendors, is held Saturdays, now through Dec. 2, 2023, at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston.



A family enjoys popcorn for breakfast on opening day at the Reston Farmers Market.



The Herndon Farmers Market, with 15 vendors, attracts Mayor Sheila Olem on opening day. It is held at 765 Lynn Street Thursdays from now through Nov. 9, 2023.











Wakefield, Reston, Herndon, McLean, and Oak Marr. Markets are open one day weekly, depending on the location, Wednesday through Sunday. There are no markets on Mondays and Tuesdays.

In most market locations, the Fairfax County Park Authority established Community Use Areas where individuals, nonprofits, and other community groups could engage in non-commercial expressive activities. An online guide can assist in locating the Community Use Areas and understanding the rules governing the Community Use Areas.

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

## 2023 FARMERS MARKET SCHEDULE

PHOTO VIA PARK AUTHORITY WEBSITE

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p><b>Mount Vernon Farmers Market</b> Apr. 19-Dec. 20 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	 <p><b>Annandale Farmers Market</b> May 4-Nov. 2 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	 <p><b>McLean Farmers Market</b> May 5-Nov. 17 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	 <p><b>Burke Farmers Market</b> Apr 22-Dec. 16 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	 <p><b>Lorton Farmers Market</b> May 7-Nov. 19 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p>
 <p><b>Oak Marr Farmers Market</b> May 3-Nov. 8 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	 <p><b>Herndon Farmers Market</b> May 4-Nov. 9 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</p>	 <p><b>Kingstowne Farmers Market</b> May 5-Oct. 27 3 - 7 p.m.</p>	 <p><b>Reston Farmers Market</b> Apr 29-Dec. 2 8 a.m. - Noon</p>	
 <p><b>Wakefield Farmers Market</b> May 3-Oct. 25 2 - 6 p.m.</p>				

The 2023 Farmers Market Schedule: Missed your market day? Fairfax County Park Authority has you covered; shop at another location. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets>



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION

The McLean Farmers Market, which has 14 vendors, is held on Fridays from now through Nov. 17, 2023, at 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. (File photo 2022)



SNAP is accepted at four locations, Reston, Mount Vernon, Annandale and Lorton.



The Oak Marr Farmers Market, which features 11 vendors, is held Wednesdays from May 30- Nov. 8, 2023, at 3200 Jermantown Road in Oakton



# Green Convicted of Chantilly Man's Killing

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Steven Green, 55, pleaded guilty in Fairfax County Circuit Court to manslaughter and malicious wounding. He was convicted, April 28, of fatally shooting Miguel Angel Leiva Hernandez, 30, of Chantilly.

The tragedy occurred May 24, 2019, around 1:30 a.m., in the parking lot of the Chantilly Park Shopping Center in the 14500 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Green, of Manassas, was at work cleaning that parking lot when he had an altercation with Leiva Hernandez's girlfriend, Myra Osorio Cordero, who was standing outside a restaurant there.

Green used his leaf blowers to send debris towards Osorio Cordero and, after they exchanged words, he hit her in the face with one of those leaf blowers. During his 2019 preliminary hearing in General District Court, she said Green told her, "All Hispanics are trash," but he denied saying it.

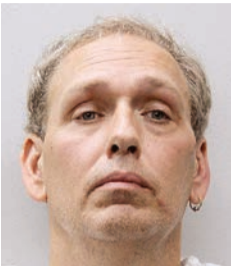
After his girlfriend was assault-

ed, Leiva Hernandez and another man came outside. When Leiva Hernandez saw Osorio Cordero bleeding profusely, he and Green began a physical struggle. There were no outdoor surveillance cameras to capture exactly what happened between the two men – and in what order.

But at some point, Green shot Leiva Hernandez once in the chest, killing him. Police responding to the scene found the victim's body in the parking lot. He was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead.

Officers recovered a firearm at the scene and charged Green with murder, malicious wounding and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Then came the pandemic, which delayed his Circuit Court proceedings until this year. He stood trial in early March and admitted to killing the Chantilly man but said he did so in self-defense.

Green claimed he shot Leiva Hernandez after they fought be-



Steven Green

cause he saw a gun on the victim's person and was frightened for his life. But the prosecution contended Green shot the victim before the fight, as soon as he saw Leiva Hernandez's gun – which turned out to be a BB gun.

Green's weapon, however, was real, and discharged a fatal bullet. Eventually, his trial ended in a hung jury. But on April 28, Green entered his guilty pleas – including to the lesser charge of manslaughter. His sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 1.

"It's always a tragedy when a young person dies, and nothing can bring Miguel back to his family and loved ones," said Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano afterward. "As prosecutors, our job is to put on a fair trial, and we respect the original jury's serious deliberation of the evidence in this case. Today's agreement guarantees a just outcome for the community."

# Fairfax Man Charged With Centreville Robbery

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police have charged a 31-year-old Fairfax man with the recent robbery of a Centreville gas station's convenience store.

The incident occurred April 26. Officers responded at 7:02 p.m. to the Sunoco station at 14709 Lee Hwy. in response to a report of a robbery there. Police say a man entered the store, walked around the counter and indicated he had a firearm. He demanded the clerk open the register and then fled on foot with the money from it.

Afterward, a K-9 officer arrived on the scene and saw a man speaking with a Fairfax Connector bus driver in the commuter lot across the street from the Sunoco. The man boarded the bus, which drove him away from the area. However, officers obtained the gas station's surveillance footage of the suspect, and it allegedly matched the description of the man who'd boarded the bus.

The K-9 officer obtained the bus number, and police then responded to the 6400 block of Old Centreville Road, where they saw the suspect. When officers challenged him, they say he "refused commands and mimicked drawing a firearm from his waistband" before running from them.

Another K-9 officer arrived on scene and deployed his partner dog. Police were then able to take the suspect into custody. According to police, "The money stolen from Sunoco was [allegedly] found in his possession."

The suspect received medical treatment at a nearby hospital and was then taken to the Adult Detention Center, where he was charged with robbery and served with a warrant for petit larceny from Fairfax City police. He was held without bond; no firearm was recovered.

Anyone with information about this event or who may have witnessed it is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS.

# Man Charged: Malicious Wounding, Animal Cruelty

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police have charged a 22-year-old Centreville man with malicious wounding and animal cruelty in an alleged attack they say was domes-

tic in nature. Police say the suspect reportedly stabbed a man and a family dog.

Officers responded April 25, at 9:14 a.m. for a report of a stabbing in the 5500 block of Cedar Break Drive in Centreville's Sequoia Farms community. Police

say an adult male told them he'd sustained multiple stab wounds. They declined to give the victim's age, but said his alleged assailant was a family member so this was a "domestic-related incident."

When officers arrived, they also  
SEE MAN CHARGED, PAGE 15

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Joseph Pulitzer and his staff. From left are Emily Short, Colin Stoffer (Pulitzer), Bailey Rhodes and Annabelle Drummond.



Shaking hands are Alejandro Cahoon and Samantha Stephan.



Mary Campbell and Alejandro Cahoon rehearse a scene.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAWNE LEKANG

# Not Just Dance Presents Musical ‘Newsies Jr.’

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It’s 1899 in New York City, and homeless newsboy Jack Kelly works hard selling papers while dreaming of a better life. But with circulation declining, New York World publisher Joseph Pulitzer establishes new rules making it harder for the newsboys to make any money. So the newsies go on strike to fight the unfair conditions; and as their plight grips the city, journalist Katherine helps them face their fears and prepare for the fray.

That’s the premise of “Disney’s Newsies Jr.,” the upcoming show by Not Just Dance. Performances will be at the group’s studio at 14225 Sullyfield Circle, Suite D, in Chantilly.

Show times are Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 20 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m. Ticket information is at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35534/production/1152070>.

With a cast and crew of 33, the performers come from several Fairfax County schools and have been rehearsing since September. “Based on a real event, ‘Newsies Jr.’ is a timeless story full of spirit and heart,” said Producer Dawne LeKang. “It’s about kids coming together and being able to influence change – and that’s very inspiring.”

Scenes take place on the streets of New York, inside a theater and in Pulitzer’s office. “Audiences will love the singing and dancing,

plus the terrific period costumes, reflecting both the elite and the poor of 1899,” said LeKang. “It’s a dance-heavy show featuring mainly contemporary, upbeat, jazz numbers, and even tap. The music is challenging to sing, but our performers sound amazing, and their dancing is phenomenal. People will just be blown away – and the whole thing is visually appealing.”

Portraying Jack Kelly, the newsies’ leader, is Fairfax High junior Alejandro Cahoon. “He’s 17, charismatic and dynamic, has a bubbly personality and loves to crack jokes,” said Cahoon. “He’s compassionate and is a really good artist who paints in his free time. But he has a tough shell when protecting the newsies – who he considers his family.”

Thoroughly enjoying his role, Cahoon said, “It’s challenging to balance all those personality traits to make him likeable to the audience. And he’s also been an outlet for me to improve both my dancing and vocal technique.”

Cahoon said attendees will like “seeing how things are different, compared to now – the clothing styles, the way the streets and buildings looked, and how people spoke, using more formal English.”

Colin Stoffer, a Rocky Run Middle School eighth-grader, plays Joseph Pulitzer. “As owner of The World, he’s king of the New York City newspapers in 1899,” said Stoffer. “He’s a strong business leader who knows what’s good for him and his company. But he’s trapped

in his own world and doesn’t realize he’s actually a villain because of the choices he thinks will help his company.

“He’s trying to do his best but doesn’t understand what the newsies are going through. The paperboys back then had to buy the newspapers they were selling; but they couldn’t afford to once Pulitzer raised their price.”

Stoffer likes playing him because “He has a strong moral compass. When he realizes his choices were wrong, he compromises and comes up with a plan to help everyone.” As for the show, Stoffer said, “It’ll inspire audience members to change things in their lives they’re unhappy with.”

Westfield High freshman Mary Campbell portrays Katherine. “She’s a reporter attempting to blaze a path in a profession where

women aren’t typically taken seriously,” explained Campbell. “She begins following the newsies’ story, and because she truly believes in their cause. Unlike most of the characters in ‘Newsies,’ Katherine came from a fairly high-class family, not all of whom approve of her career choices.”

Calling her role both difficult and exhilarating, Campbell said, “Katherine starts out self-conscious and nervous, but becomes more confident in herself as the show progresses. I especially like her determination and willingness to stand up to everyone around her.”

“Newsies’ is an empowering story of kids banding together to battle injustice and exploitation,” she continued. “And I think audiences will especially like the choreography, particularly in the ‘King of

New York’ number.”

Playing newsboy Davey is South County sophomore Samantha Stephan. “He and his brother Les start selling papers because their father is out of work,” she said. “Davey’s the brains behind the strike, knows what he wants and won’t back down from a challenge. He’s well-spoken, passionate and persuasive.”

“I usually play comedic sidekicks, so I enjoy the challenge of playing someone as brave as Davey who’s a natural leader and inspires others,” said Stephan. “I wish I could be more like him.”

She said “Newsies” became her favorite musical the moment she saw it. And, added Stephan, “I think audiences will love it, too – the music, dancing, costumes and the story about standing up for what you believe in.”

## Music, Food Trucks and Fun at Bandemonium

Centreville High’s band concert under the stars.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Get ready for Bandemonium – the Centreville High Wildcat Band’s 2nd Annual outdoor music festival under the stars. This free concert, which also features food and beverages for purchase, is slated for Friday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. on the school’s bus loop.

Opening acts will be the Centreville Area Band and the Liberty Middle School Jazz Ensemble. Centreville High’s JazzCats, Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will round out the evening’s entertainment.

Food trucks Little Lady Grill, Two Smooth Dudes, Kona Ice and Adam’s Delights Ice Cream will be onsite for guests to enjoy while the musicians entertain the

SEE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, PAGE 11

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# Music, Food Trucks and Fun at Bandemonium

FROM PAGE 10

crowd. The fun also includes face painting, henna tattoos and even dancing to some swingin' jazz tunes. An event for all ages, it promises something for everyone to enjoy.

"Last year's inaugural Bandemonium was a tremendous success, with over 500 audience members in attendance," said Band Director Melissa Hall. "It was such a joy to create a new tradition for Centreville High and our surrounding community that was so well received. The students and I are excited to bring it back, bigger and better this year."

Some 500 folding chairs will be available for guests to sit in, but people are also encouraged to bring picnic blankets and camping chairs. As with last year's event, the performers will entertain on two stages. In case of rain, the concert will be moved indoors into the Skip Maiden Auditorium.

Little Lady Grill will offer sandwiches and grilled delicacies, and Two Smooth Dudes is serving gourmet tater tots, wraps, salads and pineapple smoothies. Besides ice cream and shaved ice, desserts will include sheet cakes celebrating the students comprising the Centreville Wildcat Band program, and especially its 2023 graduating seniors.

As for the concert, The JazzCats, Centreville's own Jazz Ensemble, will play music illustrating the theme, "All the Feels." Tunes from a variety of jazz genres – including swing, funk, rock and Latin – will be per-



Student musicians playing piccolos, clarinets and tubas.

formed. Two vocal selections, "You Make Me Feel So Young" and "Don't Know Why" will showcase student singers from the Centreville Choral Department.

The Concert Band will feature a work by composer Jeremy Bell called "Escape from Dead Raider's Hollow." And audience members are invited to join the musicians on this suspenseful tale of an imaginary adventure brimming with danger and intrigue.

"The music begins quietly as the escape is

planned, with secrecy being of utmost importance," explained Hall. "The volume and energy gradually build to the moment the escape begins and the chase is on. The music surges forward, creating an action-packed scenario that includes loud percussive hits, huge brass and soaring woodwinds before ending with a bang."

Bringing the magical sounds of steam-punk to the night will be the Symphonic Band with an imaginative work titled "Ex-

traordinary Machines of Clockwork and Steam" by composer Scott Watson. In addition, said Hall, "The audience will musically visit the fascinating worlds of Jules Verne, H.G. Wells and others whose creative and limitless view of the future included all sorts of fanciful contraptions. These included forward-looking modes of transportation, time travel and weaponry."

Hall said the Wind Ensemble is excited to perform a medley arranged by James Barnes from the classic movie, "The Wizard of Oz." According to the director, "The composer uses brilliant transitions, rich counterpoint, development and the full range of the concert band to create a truly fabulous piece of entertainment."

Songs in this medley are "Over the Rainbow," "Ding! Dong! The Witch is Dead," "We're Off to See the Wizard," and "The Merry Old Land of Oz." And, added an enthusiastic Hall, "Wait until you hear the tuba solo on 'If I Only Had a Brain.'"

Topping off the night, the band's finale will be its traditional, end-of-year performance of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa.

"This is a family-friendly event that we hope will bring in many guests from the Centreville community," said Hall. "Come celebrate another tremendous year of music making, along with the Centreville High Wildcat Band family. We hope to see everyone there."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA HALL

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# World premiere of Henry Dehlinger's Monumental Suite

## Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony.

In partnership with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, National Philharmonic (NatPhil) presents the world premiere of *Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony* by composer Henry Dehlinger of Oakton. Dehlinger's space-themed music will reach audiences across the area with performances on Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Capital One Hall and Saturday, May 13 at 8:00 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. Tickets are currently on sale at [nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org).

"I am very excited for this program, which brings together two of our favorite collaborators: NASA Goddard and my dear friend Henry Dehlinger," said NatPhil Music Director Piotr Gajewski, who will conduct both concerts. "We look forward to this third premiere, which we commissioned from him. The extraordinary visuals from NASA Goddard will make the experience even more magical and enveloping for those in attendance."

*Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony* is a seven-movement symphonic suite that draws inspiration from images captured by NASA's Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes and visualizations created by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Each movement carries a programmatic title, alluding to the images, illustrations, and videos which informed the composer's writing process: 1. The Sun; 2. Earth, Our Home; 3. Earth as Art; 4. The Moon; 5. Planetary Fantasia; 6. The Travelers; and 7. Echoes of the Big Bang. In the performances, these symphonic poems will be paired with HD projections of the visuals.

"Cosmic Cycles is a dream project because it bridges the gap between art and science," Dehlinger



Composer Henry Dehlinger of Oakton.

## About the Composer

San Francisco-born Henry Dehlinger is an American composer known for his choral and symphonic works. He is described as "a master of myriad styles" in a review by Gramophone and as "one of the most successful practitioners of polystylism, a distinctly 21st-century musical style" in a profile by musicologist James Melo.

This 2022-23 season, Dehlinger is collaborating with NASA on creative projects that bridge the gap between art and science. Notable among them is *Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony*, a suite of seven symphonic poems inspired by images of space, and *Return to the Moon, A Fanfare to Artemis*, a powerful anthem that marked the rollout of the main launch vehicle of NASA's Artemis lunar program. Live performances are accompanied by an HD screening of stunning images captured by the Hubble and Webb Space Telescopes and groundbreaking new visualizations created by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

In addition to his choral and symphonic works, Dehlinger has a celebrated body of art songs, chamber works, and jazz arrangements.



IMAGE: NASA

The world premier of *Cosmic Cycles* by Oakton composer Henry Dehlinger will be performed against the backdrop of out-of-this-world images, animations and groundbreaking visualizations from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

said. "Together with two of D.C.'s biggest stars—NASA and NatPhil—we're taking the audience on an exploration of the universe through an immersive experience that combines symphonic music and visual storytelling."

Like with Dehlinger, NatPhil's partnership with NASA Goddard has developed over the past seasons. Their most recent collaboration, Holst's *The Planets* in February 2022, was also presented at Capital One Hall and Strathmore. Other projects included *Journey Through Space* with NASA in 2021 and *Cosmic Designs* in 2018. These programs centered imagery around existing compositions; the upcoming program, however, flips that around as Dehlinger's *Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony* was created to existing images from space.

On May 11 and 13, NatPhil and NASA Goddard will also host educational and engagement pre-concert activities in the lobbies of Capital One Hall and Strathmore. These offerings include a lecture

## Concert Details: Cosmic Cycles

**In partnership with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center**

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 7:30 pm at Capital One Hall

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 8 pm at The Music Center at Strathmore

In partnership with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, National Philharmonic presents the world premiere of Henry Dehlinger's *Cosmic Cycles*. Dehlinger's new work integrates a symphonic suite played live against the backdrop of out-of-this-world images, animations and groundbreaking visualizations from NASA Goddard.

Program notes from the composer are available here.

<https://henrydehlinger.com/news/blog/7186698/cosmic-cycles-a-space-symphony-premieres-may-11>

## Pre-Concert Activities Schedule:

**NASA Astronaut Lecture and Q&A: 6:45 p.m.**

**at Capital One Hall and 7 p.m. at Strathmore**

Ask a Scientist Booths: pre-concert and intermission at both locations

Lunar Kiosk: pre-concert and intermission at both locations

NASA Merchandise Sales: pre-concert and intermission at Strathmore

Ticket Information

Tickets (\$19-\$99) are available online at [nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org).

Kids 17 and under can attend National Philharmonic performances for free through the All Kids. All Free. All the Time. initiative.

from a real-life NASA astronaut, "ask as scientist" booths corresponding to movements in Dehlinger's new symphonic suite, and a touchable lunar rock.

The world premiere of *Cosmic*

*Cycles* is supported by World Premiere Feature Sponsor Northrop Grumman, with additional support from The Mather, Carole Taylor & George Roll, and TTR Sotheby's International Realty.

## Call for Entries: MPAartfest 2023

McLean Project for the Arts makes a call for submissions for MPAartfest 2023. Selected by Sunshine Artist Magazine as one of the Top 100 Fine Art and Design Shows in the US, MPAartfest will take place on Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 10am-4pm in McLean Central Park. The deadline for submission is June 17, with an early-bird discount for entries received

before May 20.

McLean Project for the Arts currently seeks submissions for the 17th Annual MPAartfest, a one-day juried fine art and craft show and sale featuring the work of more than 40 local and regional visual artists. This year's festival will take place on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 from 10 am – 4 pm in McLean Central Park. Artists retain 100 percent of in-park sales. MPAartfest 2023 is made possible with the help of

the McLean Community Center, and partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

**WHAT:** MPAartfest 2023 Call for Submissions

**WHO:** Artists from across the mid-Atlantic region are encouraged to apply

**WHEN:** Early Application Deadline – May 20, 2023 (\$300)

Deadline for Submissions – June 17, 2023 (\$350)

Festival Date – Oct. 1, 2023

**WHERE:** McLean Central Park; 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd; McLean, VA

Accepted artists will also be featured on the MPAartfest website

**HOW:** <https://mpa.submittable.com/submit>

**MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Jennifer Lillis, Gallery Manager, at [jlillis@mpaart.org](mailto:jlillis@mpaart.org)



# ENTERTAINMENT

## 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. Check out the full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

### WEDNESDAYS

#### McCutcheon/Mount Vernon

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

Open through 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>

Through Dec. 16, from 8 a.m. to noon  
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

#### Reston

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

Through 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.

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The Jennifer Cutting OCEAN Celtic Quartet presents "The Lusty Month of May" on Sunday, May 14, 2023 at McLean Central Park.

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

### NOW THRU JUNE 25

#### Falls Church Arts All Member Show.

More than 155 artists will be featured in the All Member Show at the Falls Church Arts gallery from April 22 to June 25. To handle the expansive show, the exhibit will be held in two parts this year: submissions from members with last names from A-K will be on view from April 22 to May 21. Submissions from artists with last names from L-Z will be on view from May 27 to June 25. The show features the work of emerging and established member artists from Falls Church Arts and encompasses an extensive range of media from the more traditional watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, pastel, fused glass, oil, photography, and sculpture to a wide variety of mixed media and printing techniques. The Falls Church Arts gallery is at 700-B West Broad St. (Route 7), Falls Church. Admission is free and the gallery is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artworks can be viewed online at [www.fallschurcharts.org](http://www.fallschurcharts.org). All pieces can be purchased at the gallery or on the website.

### 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



Students from the Metropolitan School of the Arts perform in the 10th Anniversary Academy Showcase on May 12-13 at the Vault in Tysons Corner.

throughout the experience. The journey includes candy samples throughout the experience. Visit [www.candytopia.com](http://www.candytopia.com).

**THROUGH 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 dou-

ble-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 OCT. 28, 2023

Vienna Optimists' Farmers Market. 8 a.m. to noon. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Premiere local vendors feature fresh, seasonal produce, beautiful flowers, hardy plants, sweet and savory treats, free garden advice and free live music. Admission is free.

Each week at the Farmers Market, different talented local musicians perform. Here is May's schedule. On May 13, Swingology performs; On May 20, Accotink Rising performs; On May 27, Carter Farm Band performs; For more information about the Farmers Market or the Optimists, visit <https://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/>

### NOW THRU AUG. 23

Art Wednesdays. 5 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The first four Wednesdays starting May 3 watch live graffiti art come to life. The Lorton Workhouse and Live Art International introduces alternating art concepts for participants to take a drawing class, take home personalized airbrushed swag and more. All materials will be provided.

### NOW THRU AUG. 31

Game Night Thursdays. 6 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Starting May 11th, DC Fray will host a free game night every other Thursday. Game concepts will rotate between Cornhole, Roller Skating, Ping Pong, Bingo, RC Racing and Pickleball. Prizes will be awarded!

### NOW THRU AUG. 11

Music & Dance Fridays. Classes: 6 p.m. or 6:45 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join Silvia and La Musica the first two Fridays of each month starting May 5 through August 11 for salsa lessons and a musical workshop. For beginners, Salsa lessons start at 6 p.m. and bachata lessons begin at 6:45 p.m. The La Musica: World of Encanto music workshop for kids will feature musical genres from successful Disney films: Coco, Saludos Amigos, The Three Caballeros and Encanto for karaoke session with live percussion instruments.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 10

This Way to Reston. 7 p.m. At Reston Community Center, Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza N., SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



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**CALENDAR**

FROM PAGE 13

Reston. Whether walking, biking, or driving Reston's paths and roads tell a story. Join in a program that explores the history behind street names, Reston's evolving transportation system, and how Reston's community has advocated for accessibility. The panel for this event includes RAC Project Manager Colin Mills, who will speak about RAC's history of advocating for barrier-free accessibility throughout the greater Reston area, spotlight some of our successful projects, and explain why accessibility is a crucial piece of the puzzle of getting around Reston. Registration is required. Visit the website: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/>

**THURSDAY/MAY 11**

Suffragist Memorial Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. At Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Join AARP Virginia for a guided tour of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. The memorial commemorates the millions of women who engaged in the suffragist movement primarily from 1848 through passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 that allowed most women to vote. The memorial commemorates the millions of women who engaged in the suffragist movement primarily from 1848 through passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 that allowed most women to vote.

This memorial is both a visual symbol and educational tool that elevates them to their proper place in history.

**THURSDAY/MAY 11**

Author Joshilyn Jackson. 7-8:30 pm. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Meet Joshilyn Jackson, author of With My Little Eye, in conversation with Lydia Netzer, author of How to Tell Toledo From the Night Sky. A Q&A and book signing will follow this conversation.

**THURSDAY/MAY 11**

Cosmic Cycles. 7:30 p.m. at Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. In partnership with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, National Philharmonic (NatPhil) presents a new program that features the world premiere of Cosmic Cycles, A Space Symphony by D.C.-based composer Henry Dehlinger. Tickets are currently on sale at national-philharmonic.org.

**MAY 11, 18, AND 25**

Business Startup Essentials. 7:30-9:30 a.m. At Mason Enterprise Center, Office Evolution, 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120, Herndon. Mason Enterprise Center in Herndon will be hosting a three-week start-up cohort in May for small business owners and aspirants in the Town of Herndon to learn about the essentials required to launch your business. This program is ideal for early-stage businesses looking to grow. Experts and mentors from the Mason SBDC who will lead you through the key steps and practices to successfully start and run your business. Call 703-261-4105.

**THURSDAY/MAY 11**

Tour Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. 10-11:30 a.m. At Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Join AARP Virginia for a guided tour of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. The memo-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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# Man Charged: Malicious Wounding, Animal Cruelty

FROM PAGE 9

found the family dog suffering from a puncture wound to its abdomen. The man was taken to a hospital for injuries not considered life-threatening. The dog was treated at a nearby animal hospital, where it remains in stable condition.

According to police, detectives from the Police Department's Major Crime Bureau and Crime Scene Section determined that the suspect left the scene in a black Chevrolet pickup truck before authorities arrived. A lookout was given to surrounding jurisdictions for his vehicle.

Virginia State Police found the suspect

driving the truck on I-95 and attempted a traffic stop. However, they say he fled, and a pursuit ensued. Ultimately, though, State Police were able to safely take the suspect into custody.

Besides malicious wounding and animal cruelty, police also charged the suspect with disregarding police commands to stop. He was held without bond at the Adult Detention Center.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case or other similar cases. Those with information are asked to please call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5.

# A Nonfiction Book by C. Anthony Burke

FROM PAGE 7

ed by the US Army and put into production just prior to WWI. Springfield Armory produced 24,799, and Landers, Frary & Clark produced 54,000 of the swords. (p 93) ... While this book won't do much for the tabletop wargaming crowd, it proved an in-

teresting adjunct to Patton's enthusiasm for cavalry."

Burke said his book, first published by the UK by Pen and Sword Books, is now available from Barnes and Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-last-cavalry-sword-c-anthony-burke/1141909681>.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

rial commemorates the millions of women who engaged in the suffragist movement primarily from 1848 through passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 that allowed most women to vote. This memorial is both a visual symbol and educational tool that elevates them to their proper place in history. Visit the website: <https://events.aarp.org/TP05112023>

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6-9 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Hall, Lorton. Sip on period cocktails as you learn about 18th-century mixed drinks and snacks in the heart of the historic property. Sit and chat with friends and spouses in our kitchen yard, and experience the serenity of Mason Neck during an exclusive candlelight tour. Tickets for this program are available online until 6 p.m., Thursday, May 11.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Cost: Individual \$35, Member \$25. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/cocktails-by-candlelight-4/>

### FRIDAY/MAY 12

APs Out! High School Party. 7 p.m. At the Old Firehouse in McLean. This event was designed and planned by local high school students specifically for high school students. Local teens come and blow off steam after the completion of your AP testing! Join McLean-area high school students, McLean Community Center's (MCC) Youth Government Board members and the MCC Youth Ambassadors to enjoy a fun evening of indoor and outdoor amusements, including a DJ, dancing, concessions, games, a photo booth and delicious food and drink.

### MAY 12-13

10th Anniversary Academy Showcase. Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 6 p.m. At The Vault at Capital One, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons Corner. Students from the Metropolitan School of the Arts will present a cabaret-style performance with live music and guest artists, including student musicians from the Westminster School Camarata orchestra in Annandale, Va. and Meredith Mancini, a harpist from Laurel, Maryland. The show will feature selections of classic and contempo-

rary theatre, musical theatre and dance with pieces from 42nd Street, Eurydice, The Sound of Music, Twelfth Night, Kinky Boots, Jagged Little Pill and many more.

Tickets can be purchased at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)) with the Friday show priced at \$30, while the Saturday show that includes a Pre-Performance Reception Celebration is priced at \$100 per person. For more information, go to <https://metropolitanschoolofthearts.org/academy-showcase/>

### MAY 12-14

Spring Art Show and Sale. Friday 5-8 p.m.; Saturday 10-4 p.m.; Sunday 10-2 p.m. At Church of the Covenant, 2666 North Military Road, Arlington. McLean Art Society will feature 25-plus talented artists of the McLean Art Society at this year's "Spring Into Art" Show and Sale. With a wide variety of art genres on display—including oil, watercolor, pastel, and acrylic paintings, as well as sculptures, artists' cards, and more—this show is the perfect place to find a unique and beautifully crafted gift for Mother's Day or Father's Day—or that special something to enhance a table, wall, or shelf at home—all while celebrating and supporting local artists. A reception will take place on Friday, May 12th from 5-8 p.m., during which awards will be announced by Gavin Glakas, a nationally acclaimed portrait artist who will judge the works on exhibit. This event is free and open to the public.

### SATURDAY/MAY 13

Honors Recital. 7 p.m. At GMU's Harris Theatre, Fairfax. The Honors Recital is a premier recital opportunity for Dewberry School of Music students, representing each instrument area, who auditioned and were selected to perform by a faculty panel.

### SATURDAY/MAY 13

Bark in the Park. 1:30-4 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Come enjoy a great day in the park with your friendly best friend at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park! Enjoy treats and snacks for dogs and humans alike! Snap some photos and scoop up a doggie bag, while enjoying live music. Admission is free. For more information on how to participate or sign up, call Ellanor C. Lawrence Park at 703-631-0013.

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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.

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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.

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# Number Us Among the Millions



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just welcomed a new member, family friend, Sherrill, into the cancer club. And though it's a club nobody wants to join, it is never at a loss for new members. If only there were dues (there's already plenty of don'ts). The accumulation of cash would rival the lottery. When you consider that now it's projected that up to half the population will likely be diagnosed with some kind of cancer over their lifetime, and an even higher percentage will know someone diagnosed with cancer, cancer is – and will continue to be, the dominant medical currency – a currency which often costs patients their lives. A life that becomes a daily struggle.

A struggle to endure the treatments, before, during and especially after the medication has been administered. I can still recall the worst pain I ever experienced. I was sitting in a Barcalounger at the Infusion Center psyching myself up to start my six-hour infusion which can only begin after the actual chemotherapy is prepared (it's not exactly off the shelf, it must be mixed/created chemically). Because chemotherapy is so expensive, the medicine is not available until after the patient has arrived at the Center and has been approved for treatment (this approval is a function of the preceding day's lab work, one's appearance that day and their on-site vitals). This wait/assessment occurs out of an abundance of caution as well as fiscal responsibility. If the infusion drug is prepared/mixed in advance of the patient's arrival/medical approval, and it happens for one of the reasons listed above that the patient is unsuitable for treatment that day, the medicine is wasted as it was specially prepared for this patient and can't exactly be undone and returned to inventory for the next patient. In effect, the money is spent with nothing to show for it.

As a result of this qualification period (for lack of a better description), patients must wait for their chemotherapy drug to be prepared and delivered to the Infusion Center. Moreover, given the volume of business many of these centers are experiencing (I was told "Obamacare" was responsible for increasing the numbers of patients; my center even has Saturday hours now), the wait can be up to an hour, so far as I've experienced anyway. And given the cost of these drugs, mixing them is hardly routine (anything but). Therefore, the process plays out very carefully. There's no hurrying it. You just must wait for your drugs, like it or not (and usually, not).

And what's to like? Everything that one equates with a cancer diagnosis/treatment: the hair loss, the nausea, the fatigue, the muscle weakness, the eating challenges, the neuropathy, the fear, the anxiety, the worry and on and on and on are unpleasant. Being diagnosed with cancer is all it's cracked up to be. Any help I've been given over the years to help me cope/understand/survive what is an ordeal, I am happy to pass it on. It's not quite paying it forward, it's more like prepaying. And every little bit of information helps when you consider the road ahead is long, hard, and extremely bumpy – with all sorts of obstacles and without any guarantees, generally. And by welcoming a new member, I hope to draw strength from their commitment. And all of us cancer patients need to draw strength from whomever and wherever we can find it. Encouraging and sharing experiences with new cancer patients as they begin their journey is beneficial to both.

As so I shared with Sherrill the worst pain, I ever experienced was at the Infusion Center. I was sitting in my Barcalounger. I was approved for my infusion. My oncology nurse put an intravenous line into my forearm (I've never had a port) and hung my medicine on the hook above the intravenous pump – through which the chemotherapy drips and ultimately moves its way into my arm/body. The nurse pressed several buttons on the pump which controlled the flow into my arm. One time, the nurse apparently must have hit the wrong flow speed and it increased the pace at which the drug went into my arm. It was like being attacked from the inside out, a burning sensation. I sort of screamed and within a few seconds the readjustment to the medicine's flow had been made. But for a second or two, I was at level 10-ish (patients are often asked to rate their pain on a scale of 1 – 10).

Sherrill understood and appreciated my chemo story. And she shared some of her experiences with me. This "the cancer talk", as friends have described it, is the bond that exists between us cancer patients. We all have a common enemy. I just hope there is strength in numbers because the numbers keep growing, exponentially it seems.

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





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