

# THE CONNECTION

CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

## Bull Run Regional Park Home to Special History

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### Attack at Connolly's Fairfax City Office

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### Who Wants To Be On School Board?

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Volunteers help with the cleanup event in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park.

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MAY 17-23, 2023

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# NEWS

## Devastating Attack

Chantilly man charged with four felonies.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**rmed with a baseball bat and fueled by anger, a man seeking Congressman Gerry Connolly in his Fairfax City office, Monday morning, violently assaulted two members of Connolly's staff before being subdued and arrested by local police.

Later that evening, authorities revealed it wasn't the man's first attack of the day – and that, about 15 minutes before arriving at the U.S. representative's 11<sup>th</sup> District office – he allegedly committed a hate crime in Chantilly's Greenbriar community.

Ultimately charged with four felonies for the two events, the alleged perpetrator, Xuan Kha Tran Pham, 49, of Greenbriar, is now being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. At press time, no motive had been determined for the attack on Connolly's staffers. But according to Pham's parents – with whom he lives – their son has mental-health issues.

Meanwhile, after the incident in Connolly's office, Special Agents with the U.S. Capitol Police Threat Assessment Section were dispatched to Fairfax. They're now coordinating with City of Fairfax police and the FBI's Washington Field Office on this case.

Fairfax City Police spokeswoman Lisa Gardner said police responded at 10:49 a.m. to a call about an active assault at 10680 Main St., Suite 140. When police arrived, she said, the staffers were "scared and hiding" in the office.



Xuan Kha Tran Pham

"Investigation revealed that the suspect, Xuan-Kha Tran Pham, entered Connolly's District Office and [reportedly] assaulted two Congressional staffers with a metal baseball bat," said Gardner. "The staffers received non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to a local hospital. One police officer also sustained a minor injury and is receiving medical treatment."

At the time of the attack, U.S. Rep. Connolly (D-11th) was at a ribbon cutting for a food bank in another section of Fairfax County. After asking for him by name and learning he wasn't in the office, said Connolly, the assailant allegedly took out his frustration on the two staffers.

He said his female outreach director was struck on the head with the bat, and a fe-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly

male intern in her first day on the job was hit on her side. They then fled to another office while the man broke glass windows and damaged office furnishings and computers.

Fairfax City police said Pham was taken into custody at the scene within 5 minutes of them receiving the call. The Criminal Investigations Division charged him with two felonies – aggravated malicious wounding and malicious wounding.

Distressed to learn about the attack that

injured the two staff members, Connolly released a statement saying, "Right now, our focus is on ensuring they are receiving the care they need. We are incredibly thankful to the City of Fairfax Police Department and emergency medical professionals for their quick response."

Connolly served 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors – including five years as chairman – before being elected to Congress in 2008. Ironically, he recently introduced a resolution in Congress honoring America's public servants.

"I have the best team in Congress," he said on Monday. "My District Office staff make themselves available to constituents and members of the public every day. The thought that someone would take advantage of my staff's accessibility to commit an act of violence is unconscionable and devastating."

Pham was a constituent of Connolly's and, according to the Washington Post, "Connolly said his office was working on a constituent issue for Pham" at the time of the incident, but he didn't know its specific details. Connolly said the man gave no previous indication that his actions on Monday could have been politically motivated. He also told the Post that responding City police officers subdued the assailant with a taser.

As for the earlier incident in Chantilly, Fairfax County police said that Monday, around 10:37 a.m., Pham allegedly approached a woman in the driveway of her Greenbriar home on Point Pleasant Drive, asked her, "Are you white?" and chased her with a bat as she screamed and fled from him. He then reportedly smashed her car windshield.

SEE CHANTILLY MAN CHARGED, PAGE 4

## 'Her Addiction Led to Her Incredibly Bad Decisions'

Health aide sentenced for stealing children's medications.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ennifer Carpenter's drug addiction explains why she stole schoolchildren's medications to use for herself. But in no way does it excuse it. And on May 5 in Fairfax County Circuit Court, this former school health aide was sentenced to probation and community service for her crimes.

Indeed, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Meredith Ralls, what Carpenter did was "theft, fraud and child abuse." And making it worse, she said, was that these actions were perpetrated by "someone in a position of trust."

Carpenter had worked in FCPS schools since October 2015, and all was well until 2022. Employed by the county Health De-

partment, she was the health aide at Greenbriar East Elementary in Chantilly. Her job was to maintain and administer the prescription medication kept at GBE for several students requiring it.

But police were contacted after a Health Department supervisor noticed a discrepancy in the amount of medication at that school. And on May 27, 2022, detectives with the Criminal Investigations Division started investigating.

As it turned out, said Ralls, from Jan. 2 through May 27, 2022, "The defendant engaged in replacing seven students' medications – including Ritalin and Adderall – with over-the-counter ones, such as antihistamines and Claritin."

According to police, detectives determined Carpenter was falsifying documen-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Greenbriar East Elementary School in Chantilly.

tation on the medication she gave the students. As a result, she was able to dispense sugar-placebo pills and/or over-the-counter medicine to them in place of the drugs that had been prescribed by their doctors. Carpenter then kept the children's medications

for her personal use.

Some of these medications were scheduled narcotics – including Ritalin, Adderall, and Focalin – all commonly used to treat

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# Chantilly Man Charged with Four Felonies

FROM PAGE 3

The incident was caught on a neighbor's security camera, and – still holding his bat – Pham could be heard muttering Connolly's name as he walked away. After being arrested in Fairfax City, county police charged him with committing a hate crime and felony destruction of property. Meanwhile, a female Greenbriar resident said that, after Pham's parents moved into the community, they went door to door telling the neighbors their son had mental-health issues but wouldn't hurt anyone. And according to CNN, Pham's father said his son is "schizophrenic and hadn't taken his medication for three months."

The attack in Fairfax City also hit home for many residents, who were upset to hear about such brutality happening in their city. "Today the City of Fairfax witnessed a heinous attack on people working at the offices of Congressman Connolly," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-37th). "My own family lives one

block away – which underscores the immediacy of this event. As always, we are thankful to Fairfax City police for their prompt reaction."

Local residents responding to Fairfax City's initial Facebook post about the incident, Monday afternoon, also commented. Calling it "horrifying," Elizabeth Yingling hoped the staff members would be all right. And Diana Rhodes wanted the assailant "punished severely."

"So glad city police got there quickly, but so disgusted with the physical violence in our communities," said Maryann Clary. "It's unconscionable that someone thinks it's OK to enter an office and start hitting employees with a bat. We need solutions to all this daily violence. Thanks, City Police, for helping to keep us safe."

"Thank God the guy didn't have an automatic weapon," wrote Cathy Schroeder. "They would have been slaughtered."

In addition, Marcy Cochran responded to an individual's Facebook post about the at-

tack on Connolly's staff. "After all he's done for this district, for government workers and for the country, how mislead would a person have to be to do that?" she wrote. "Gerry has always prided himself on being approachable by anyone with an issue to discuss. And for his staff, the best of public servants, to be attacked is something that should be unthinkable in society."

Calling it another "deeply upsetting episode" happening in the U.S., Cochran wondered, "How do we reach a person before they become a terrorist? How can we work to prevent the harm they do when they become so delusional (that) they think it's okay to act out this way?"

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner also issued a statement, saying, "Intimidation and violence – especially against public servants – has no place in our society. This is an extraordinarily disturbing development, and my thoughts are with the staff members who were injured."

"Violence does not belong in our political

system, and my prayers are with Rep. Gerry Connolly's staff for a speedy recovery," added Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "We've seen this against our judiciary and our legislative branch, and it has no place in our commonwealth."

However, in America's increasingly toxic atmosphere of pervasive hate speech, U.S. Capitol Police said that last year, they investigated some 7,500 cases of potential threats against members of Congress. In a press release after Monday's attack, they referred to U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger's recent comments about the "heightened threat climate" across the country.

"One of the biggest challenges we face today is dealing with the sheer increase in the number of threats against members of Congress – approximately 400 percent over the past six years," he said. "Over the course of the last year, the world has continuously changed, becoming more violent and uncertain." Manger was police chief in Fairfax County from 1998 to 2004.

# Health Aide Sentenced for Stealing Children's Medications

FROM PAGE 3

ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder). But because these drugs were diverted by Carpenter, the students were deprived of their medicine aimed at improving their attention in class. Ralls said the students whose medication was abused were 7 or 8 years old.

On Feb. 6, in Circuit Court, Carpenter, 46, of Chantilly, pleaded guilty to three charges: Felony possession of a controlled substance (Ritalin), plus misdemeanor charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, as well as unlawful dispensing of a different drug in place of a prescribed drug, without the permission of the person prescribing it.

Originally charged with 11 crimes – and indicted by a grand jury on all of them in July 2022 – she'd since been getting treatment for her drug addiction. So her attorney was able to make a plea agreement with the prosecution, enabling Carpenter to plead guilty to just three charges, with the rest to be dropped at sentencing.

First, though, at the outset of her May 5 sentencing, mothers of two of the children who were adversely affected by Carpenter's actions read their victim-impact statements in court. To protect the children's identities, The Connection will call them Parents One and Two.

"When we received the call from the public-health nurse [about this] last May, we were in shock and horrified," said Parent One. When her son was called out for his disruptive behavior in class, she said, he told his parents and teacher it was because something was wrong with his medicine.

But, she said, "No one believed him. He was accused of lying and lost privileges at home. Later, when he learned he was right, he lost his faith and trust in adults. He's 8 and now has PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], anxiety, severe depression and

suicidal ideation because of what happened. We've spent thousands of dollars on treatment for him."

As for Parent Two, she said, "As a mom of a child with special needs, I worried whenever I had to leave my son with others. But I felt safe leaving him at school. Then in May 2022, the Health Department called me about his medication being stolen at school by a staff member."

She said he was "also prescribed him what we thought was an allergy medication, and was actually Claritin, by someone not authorized to do so – and not knowing how it would affect him. My son said his medicine tasted differently and was slightly cloudy."

Once he learned the truth about what Carpenter had done, said Parent Two, her son was so upset that "I had to reassure him no other medical professional would harm him. Someone I'd trusted had put my son in danger for months. She was hired to take care of my child, and all I could think about was the harm she'd done to my son."

Afterward, said Parent Two, "I kept reassuring him he'd never see her again. My son and I now have trouble trusting medical professionals, and I still struggle with knowing that my son was at risk because I allowed someone else to give him medication."

Next, defense attorney Bret Lee called Matthew Slee with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) to testify on his client's behalf. Saying Carpenter was a volunteer public-health nurse during the pandemic, he described her as "a caring, goodhearted woman and mother to her three children."

He said she loved children, but was "escaping a 24-year, mentally and physically abusive marriage and had been prescribed medication herself, when she was younger." At some point, said Slee, she began using using drugs again, "hit rock bottom" and started taking the students' medicine.

But after her arrest, he said Carpenter enrolled in the CSB's Intensive Outpatient Program and got help for her addiction. "She now has no job or retirement benefits and can't find work in [the medical] field," said Slee.

"She holds herself fully accountable for her actions and is remorseful for hurting the children. She's tried to make healthy choices since then and is now in a stable relationship with a stable state of mind. She's completely ashamed of what she did and makes no excuses for it."

Ralls told Judge Tania Saylor the sentencing guidelines in Carpenter's case call for probation, so she recommended Carpenter be sentenced to prison, with all her time suspended, providing she's placed on active probation – meaning she must meet with her probation officer regularly. Ralls also requested a substance-abuse evaluation be done and that Carpenter undergo random drug screens and perform community service.

"The pain you heard about today from the parents was palpable," said the prosecutor. "Yet the Commonwealth recognizes this was a drug-abuse situation, so we're asking for those conditions to punish and hold her accountable, and probation to protect the community, going forward."

Lee concurred, agreeing that because of Carpenter's mitigating factors, "This case doesn't call for incarceration. She took responsibility and gave a confession to the police. She wants to apologize to the parents, and she now has the tools to make sure she never does this again."

He also noted that, as a result of what happened, FCPS has changed its policies regarding children's medications. "It now does weekly audits of medicines and stronger background checks on employees," he said.

"Ms. Carpenter won't be able to work with children again because she betrayed a trust

and broke the law," continued Lee. "Her addiction led to her incredibly bad decisions. But she won't make these mistakes in the future. She now wants to help abused women and those with substance-abuse issues. She's sincerely trying to make amends, and I hope her apology today will help the parents heal."

Then before sentencing, Carpenter stood and told the parents and the Greenbriar East staff how sorry she was. "I let you all down," she said. "I never meant to hurt anyone, and I'm sorry. My personal problems interfered with my ability to do my job. I was in such a dark and twisted place that all I could think about was my own pain."

"I have three children and, as a parent, I'd be outraged and would trust no one. I needed help mentally, but I've learned coping mechanisms and have the tools to live a healthy, productive life, and I want to give back and help others. I'm asking for your forgiveness for my horrible actions."

Judge Saylor then sentenced Carpenter to five years in prison for the felony charge of possession of a schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance, six months for knowingly dispensing incorrect medication, and 12 months for contributing to the delinquency of minors. She suspended all that time, ran the sentences concurrently and placed Carpenter on three years active probation.

In addition, she ordered Carpenter to perform 100 hours of community service and undergo substance-abuse treatment, a mental-health evaluation and random drug screens, plus maintain employment. She then dismissed the other charges.

"I think you understand the gravity of what you did and how it impacted others," Saylor told her. "The parents highlighted how far this reached into their children's lives and how it's still affecting them. The court hopes you understand this can never happen again."



Fairfax County Planning will hold a virtual meeting on Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m. to discuss adding residential to the Pan Am Shopping Center.

## Pan Am Shopping Center Rezoning Could Add Residential

If you visit or live by the Pan Am Shopping Center, you'll want to join a virtual community meeting on Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m. to learn about changes that are being considered for the site. There is potential to create a mixed-use community and add residential uses to the Pan Am Shopping Center. The proposed change would keep some of the existing retail uses and add a residential component to the existing shopping center, as well as new park spaces for new residents and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Learn more: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/.../pan-am-shopping-center>

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# OPINION

## Thoughts on Civil Discourse in the Wake of Violence

BY KAREN CORBETT SANDERS



I am saddened today as we hear about the violence against two staff members and the destruction of Congressman Gerry Connolly's field office in Fairfax City by a man with a metal bat. When I announced my decision not to run for office again, I cited the increased vitriol, hateful rhetoric, and lack of civility in our public discourse. It is hard to look at a situation such as today, or reflect on the events of Jan. 6, 2021, and not see some correlation between the divisive politics of hate which depersonalize our political foes into caricatures of villains and the acts of violence.

According to her Congressional Testimony on March 31, 2022, Rachel Kleinfeld, a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment, there was an acceleration of political violence between 2016 and 2020 and the level of acceptance and support for political violence has also increased by members of both political parties. Justifications are steeped in the importance

of protecting the traditional American way of life, validity of elections, and other false or misleading narratives. Threats against members of Congress have almost doubled, and hate crimes are increasing, with rates higher in 2021 than in the year following 9/11.

More disturbing than even historic numbers is the broader base of individuals who are involved in these acts of aggression. Acts of aggression like what happened today at Connolly's office are no longer contained to extremist groups, but have spread to lone actors reacting to the rhetoric they are hearing or seeing online, in public meetings and feeling compelled to take aggressive action.

We do not know the motivation of the intruder in Connolly's office. There have been moments and periods of time, as an elected school board member, where I worried about my colleagues, our staff, and my own safety during official proceedings when emotionally charged issues came before the board.

We do know that each of us can do our part to mitigate these acts. Collectively, we must tone down the divisive rhetoric, vilifying name calling, and character assassination. The issues before our Federal, State legislatures, and local governments are too important to trivialize with destructive and non-productive behavior. We must focus on the issues before our policy making bodies that affect the everyday lives of our community members.

We can realize that there are policy areas where groups or individuals may align on individual issues and others where the makeup of a group supporting an issue may be different. However, this is only possible if the discourse focuses on the content of the policy issues and does not cast aspersions on the character of individuals in a group.

Together we can achieve the American dream of a more perfect union by reinforcing our foundations of civil discourse.

*Karen Corbett Sanders is the Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board. Sanders is not seeking reelection.*

## Not Yet Enough

### Gun violence is now the leading killer of children.

BY DEL. KENNETH R "KEN" PLUM

For nearly a decade I have been participating in vigils at the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax on the 14th of the month — the anniversary of the mass murder of mostly children at Sandy Hook Elementary School. While I was out of town this past weekend, the several dozen faithful were there to remind us that gun violence is a problem that needs immediate public attention. Our concern grew at least in part from the fact that there is so much gun violence that we could become immune to outrage about it. Our vigil at the NRA is to bring attention to the facts that gun violence continues to increase, the number of guns purchased continues to increase as well, and gun violence has become the leading killer of children.

It takes at least four persons to be killed to be considered a "mass shooting." The ones that make the front page of newspapers and the evening news have many more than that number. After several days the stories of these mass shootings fade into the background. For every one of these big mass shooting events, there are dozens of stories on the inside pages of newspapers of the ones and twos of murder and suicide



Several dozen faithful demonstrators were at NRA headquarters in Fairfax to remind us that gun violence is a problem that needs immediate public attention. Gun violence has become the leading killer of children.

that take place with limited note and seem at some places to have become the norm!

Complete statistics on gun violence are hard to come by for the NRA has convinced legislators to limit the record keeping and reporting on the misuse of guns. As best as can be determined, there were about 21,000 gun homicides and 26,000 gun suicides in 2021. Those numbers will soar in 2023 as there have already been more than 200 mass shootings.

With each slaughtering that happens there is usually a call for "thoughts and prayers" for the victims and their families. When inquiry has been made to election of-

officials as to what will be done, the response too many times has been that we should not jump into the issue because everyone is grieving and that an investigation should be conducted. Too many times there is silence on the issue after some time has gone by.

Virginia has not been an exception to this issue. Virginia Tech and more recently Virginia Beach have made the list of record-setting gun violence. Thoughts and prayers were offered up, but it was not until 2021 that some progress was made on common sense legislation to end gun violence with Democrats controlling the executive branch and the legislature. As

soon as the Republicans took over the House of Delegates there were bills introduced to repeal or soften the progress we had made.

The Youngkin administration has shown no leadership on the issue. There continues to be talk about arming teachers, more trauma training, and metal detectors at school doors.

Let your elected officials know that we have had enough. Meaningful legislation is critical at the federal level considering that there are 350 to 400 million guns in our country. Tell candidates that enough is enough and ask them specifically what they are going to do to stop it.

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## Take Food Scraps to Farmers Market for Composting

Each of the Park Authority's 10 Farmers Markets now include food scrap disposal sites where customers can dispose of food waste to be composted. This expansion is the result of a highly successful pilot program that experienced strong customer support in 2022.

Composting is a natural process by which organic waste -- anything derived from animal or plant sources -- is broken down into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Composting lowers greenhouse gases by improving carbon sequestration in the soil and by avoiding methane emissions. It is a sustainable alternative that puts the nutrients from our food scraps back into the earth.

The county's compost program, operated by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services began in November 2020 with two drop-off sites. In 2022, the program expanded to include a pilot project with collection events co-located with five Farmers Markets. By the

end of the year, nearly 37 tons of compost had been collected at the markets, eliminating an estimated 32.5 tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.

In 2023, the Park Authority will be utilizing Veteran Compost and Future Acres Urban Farming to assist with compost collection at each location. Food waste drop-off is only available during market hours. All food items are accepted, including meat, dairy and leftovers. Food-soiled paper, such as tea bags, coffee filters, napkins, and paper plates, are also acceptable. More than 1,000 food items can be composted. For details on the types of materials accepted, visit the Food Scraps Composting Drop Off webpage.

To find a Park Authority Farmers Market near you, visit the Farmers Market website. For more information about Farmers Markets or the food scrap collection program, please contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-642-0128

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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.

**AREA RECOVERY PROGRAM HOSTING A FREE TOWN HALL**  
Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia (RPSV), a nonprofit that operates five free Recovery Centers and weekly virtual support groups in Northern Virginia is hosting a free virtual Town Hall titled Free Alternatives That Complement Traditional Mental Health and Substance Use Care on Sunday, May 21 at 3 pm. The event is in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month and is designed to address the stigma around mental health while encouraging those who may be reluctant to seek care to understand why there is no shame in doing so. The public is encouraged to register at <https://bit.ly/MHAMTH-RPSV>. Questions can be directed to [mtaylor@recoveryprograms.us](mailto:mtaylor@recoveryprograms.us).

**MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS TEEN CHARACTER AWARD AT MCLEAN DAY**  
The McLean Citizens Association is awarding four teens a Teen Character Award in the 25th annual award ceremony at McLean Day on Saturday, May 20. The award ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Lewinsville Park on Chain Bridge Road in McLean. Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust; Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member; and Scott Spitzer, McLean Citizens Association President; will present the awards.  
The award is to honor teens who demonstrate outstanding character. Teens who have, on their own and without compensation, helped out in their neighborhood or community, are being recognized not only for themselves but as an example to others.

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struct Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
LEE	10897	682	RTE 662	SIMS CREEK	4/12/2023
BOTETOURT	3421	636	BEAVER DAM RD/RTE 636	BEAVER DAM CREEK	4/6/2023
LOUDOUN	11384	850	PICNIC WOODS RD	MILLTOWN CREEK	4/4/2023
ALBEMARLE	875	810	DYKE RD	LYNCH RIVER	4/3/2023

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

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

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

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

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Volunteers help with the cleanup event in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY GILFILLEN

Gathering up branches and other debris on trails leading to a historic cemetery.

## Cleaning Up Trails to Historic Church, Cemetery

**O**n Saturday, April 22, NOVA Parks partnered with the NAACP's Fairfax County branch to improve trail access to a historic African American cemetery and Baptist church in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park. This ongoing partnership includes multiple planned trail workdays and events at the site, including an upcoming Juneteenth commemoration.

Recent discoveries on this land revealed more than 90 mostly unmarked graves at the cemetery of Old Bull Run Church, a Baptist church that had been open to both Black and white people. Those buried are believed to be descendants of the enslaved people

who were set free in the 1790s by Robert Carter III who, at that time, was one of the wealthiest people in America.

After both a religious and conscience awakening, Carter emancipated more than 500 of his family's enslaved workers, which resulted in a thriving Freedmen's community at the site of Bull Run Regional Park, 70 years before the Civil War and Emancipation Proclamation.

For more information, go to <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/bull-run-regional-park/things-to-do/park-history-interpretive-series-african-american>.

During the recent cleanup event, various volunteers plus groups from nearby church-

es did trail-maintenance work to improve access to this newly discovered historical site. For three hours, they cleared sticks, pruned bushes, raked and marking the trail.

The next volunteer workday is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, at 10 a.m. Participants will meet in the park's Atlantis Waterpark at 7700 Bull Run Drive. Sign up for it at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0948a4ae28a0fdcf8-volunteer#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0948a4ae28a0fdcf8-volunteer#/)

**Jun 17**

**Bull Run Church and Harris Cemetery Juneteenth Celebration in Centreville**

Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park will host the Second Annual Juneteenth cele-

bration to recognize this, the largest private emancipation of enslaved people, on Saturday, June 17. This event is free and open to the public, and co-sponsored by NOVA Parks. Hear the story of Robert Carter III's emancipation of 500 enslaved people in the 1790s and the freed community at this site. Bull Run had one of the earliest Baptist Churches in the region and its cemetery. There will also be a Black Expo, a children's activity, and recognition of descendants of Henry and Jemima Harris and Robert Carter III in attendance.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bull-run-church-and-harris-cemetery-juneteenth-celebration-tickets-596941045737>

## Feed Fairfax 5K Yields Money and Meals

**Proceeds provide food for local schoolchildren.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**R**aising money for two local nonprofits that feed hungry people in Fairfax County, the third annual Feed Fairfax 5K and 1-mile fun run/walk was a huge success. Held May 6 in Chantilly's Greenbriar community, the event yielded \$60,800 to help both Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) and Food for Others.

According to Race Director Ken Tarr, more than 400 people participated in the run and walk, covering 1,477 miles total. And another 300 or so volunteers and family members were there, as well, cheering them on and helping out with the event. The top male and female finishers in the 5K were Karina Conrad of Fairfax and Kevin Cory of Arlington.

But in reality, the biggest winners will be all the local students who'll receive food from both organizations, as a result of this event. Proceeds from the race and walk support WFCM's Free Food Fridge program and Food for Others' Power Pack program – which both enable children in need to have food to eat over the weekend.

And at the end of the race/walk, participants filled Power Packs with food for the students. Each pack contains six meals, plus two snacks and two drinks, and all the items are easy for children to prepare, themselves. A total of 17,500 meals in about 2,500 power packs were packed on race day for Food for Others.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENNETH TARR

And they're off! The beginning of the May 6 Feed Fairfax 5K race in Chantilly.

In addition, WFCM and Food for Others each received \$20,000 checks from the event's registrations. WFCM's donation will stock its free refrigerators at 14 sites, including Chantilly and Centreville high schools, Rocky Run Middle School and the Boys & Girls Club of Chantilly.

Between the two organizations, the Feed Fairfax 5K funded meals for 45,595 Fairfax

County children. Delighted, Food for Others Executive Director Annie Turner said, "This is a great example of what partnership and community can accomplish."

Agreeing, WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo said, "We are grateful for the support of the many community members and businesses who participate in this fun event that benefits WFCM and Food



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARMONIE TADDEO

Annie Turner, left, and Harmonie Taddeo.

for Others. We look forward to using these funds to buy fresh food to stock our Free Food Fridges."

# Candidates Answer Tough Questions from NAACP

Endorsements matter for non-partisan candidates.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County NAACP invited the county's nine candidates running for non-partisan contested offices as Fairfax County School Board at-large representatives, Mt. Vernon district representative, and Hunter Mill district representative to its virtual candidate forum.

Members of the organization's communications, education, and political action committees collaborated to bring the forum to the public to learn more about the candidates. Additionally, the organization would decide which candidates it would endorse.

Michelle Leete, the president of the Fairfax County NAACP, and Sujatha Hampton, the education chair, moderated the forum. Hampton opened the sessions by saying Fairfax County had not been spared from the threats against school boards as seen across the United States.

In Fairfax County, school board members faced death and violence threats, hostile messaging, acts of intimidation, protests, and litigation because of their voting records. Much anger focused on pandemic-related school closures, the purported teaching of critical race theory, and the rights of LGBTQIA+ students and their parents.

Fairfax County Public Schools strengthened its security presence at school board meetings. Guards and police were present



Michelle Leete, Fairfax County NAACP president

to maintain order and prevent disruptive behavior from meeting attendees. The current school board heard outrage expressed by speakers during the board's public hearings and heckling from bystanders. They witnessed the diminishing civility levels among their colleagues.

Nonetheless, the nine candidates for school board who participated in the forum appeared eager to be elected and serve. When running in the nonpartisan school board races, getting the word out about candidate platforms and gaining endorsements could make a difference to some voters.

The forum moderators asked similarly stated questions at each of the three sessions, although not all questions were asked in each session. Candidates responded in an alternating sequence. At the end, there were

SCREENSHOTS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP ZOOM



Dr. Sujatha Hampton, education, Fairfax County NAACP

question(s) from the chat box and a candidate one-minute wrap-up.

"Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of black people and all persons of color," Karen Campbell, the political action chair, said. "So the focus of our questioning today is what the candidate will be able to do if they are elected ... How will they be able to govern in accordance with the NAACP?"

The following candidates are not contested and are the Fairfax County NAACP's endorsed school board candidates for this year: 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; and Sully District: Seema Dixit.

These candidates are endorsed by Fairfax County GOP: Cassandra Aucoin (At-Large); Saundra Davis (At-Large); Priscilla DeStefano (Braddock District); Paul Bartkowski (Dranesville District); Harry Jackson (Hunter Mill District); Kristin Ball (Mason District); Stori Zimmerman (Mount Vernon District); Tony Sabio (Providence District); Debra Tisler (Springfield District); Cindy Walsh (Sully District)

Virginia does not allow party labels in school board races. Candidates for these seats must run as independents and cannot be identified with party affiliation on the Commonwealth of Virginia election ballots. However, non-partisan candidates can be endorsed by party affiliation Members of the FairfaxGOP endorsed its ten FCSB candidates on April 19. The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) is holding its 2023 Democratic Endorsement caucus for School Board. Online voting started May 13 and ends May 20, 2023, with in-person voting on May 20, 2023, at locations listed on the committee's website. To vote in the caucus, voters are required to register with the FCDC.

SCREENSHOTS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP ZOOM



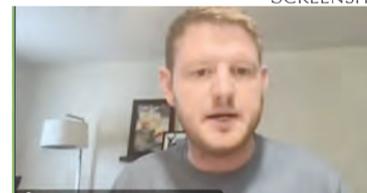
Ryan McElveen, Fairfax County School Board candidate at-large



Lawrence Webb, Fairfax County School Board at-large



Ilryong Moon, Fairfax County School Board at-large



Kyle McDaniel, Fairfax County School Board at-large



Hamid Munir, Fairfax County School Board At-Large Candidate

## Fairfax NAACP Virtual School Board Candidate Forum

At-large school board candidates answer tough questions.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Connection lightly edited questions and answers for clarity and space. To view the Zoom sessions, visit <https://www.fairfaxnaacp.org/upcoming-events/> and search the candidate forum.

The following are highlights of Session 1 of the Fairfax County NAACP Virtual School Board Candidate Forum held Saturday, May 13, featuring Fairfax County School Board at-large candidates Lawrence Webb, Ilryong Moon, Kyle McDaniel, Hamid Munir, and Ryan McElveen.

### REDISTRICTING:

Will you support districting to allow students to attend schools in their communities?

dents to attend schools in their communities?

**Kyle McDaniel:** I'm a big fan of community schools. We have opportunities to bring in wraparound services that feed into a host of other policy sectors as well. We are going to have to look at countywide global boundary adjustment because we're starting to run out of building capacity.

**Ilryong Moon:** Boundary decision processes bring a lot of people into auditoriums and gymnasiums, thousands of parents, community members, and students who are concerned about their future. Perhaps not on a countywide basis because that is more difficult to make, but I'd rather go on a regional basis first and decide what to use as criteria for boundary adjustment proximity.

**Ryan McElveen:** I've watched as development decisions have been made throughout the county, which has frustrated me. These decisions have led to stark divides between haves and have-nots in our communities ... leading to what we call socio-economic tipping points in which some of our schools and communities have a greater strain on services than they can provide. I support redistricting so that communities can be together in the school ... and not be bussed for hours.

**Lawrence Webb:** Schools, particularly in the Mount Vernon and Franconia area, need to be addressed. We need to look at it location-wise, that students should not be bussed to school when they have a school lit-

erally around the corner from them... many times, it's those marginalized students and communities that are most impacted.

**Hamid Munir:** I will support boundary changes because I've seen the inequity. It's not just by region but also throughout the county. Why? Because I think when it comes to that, it is also a question of affordable housing. I firmly believe that strategically there are some people who are placed into a certain side of the county, and that's not fair. We need to have affordable housing throughout the county, and we need to make sure that the boundaries are addressed to our county as well.

# NAACP School Board Forum

**Hunter Mill school board candidates Melanie Meren and Paul Thomas answer tough questions.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Connection lightly edited questions and answers for clarity and brevity. To view the Zoom sessions, visit <https://www.fairfax-naacp.org/upcoming-events/> and search the candidate forum.

The following are highlights of Session 3 of the Fairfax County NAACP Virtual School Board Candidate Forum held Monday, May 13, featuring Fairfax County school board candidates for the Hunter Mill district, Melanie Meren and Paul Thomas. Not participating were Harry Randall Jackson who is endorsed by Fairfax GOP, and Geoffrey P. Akey,

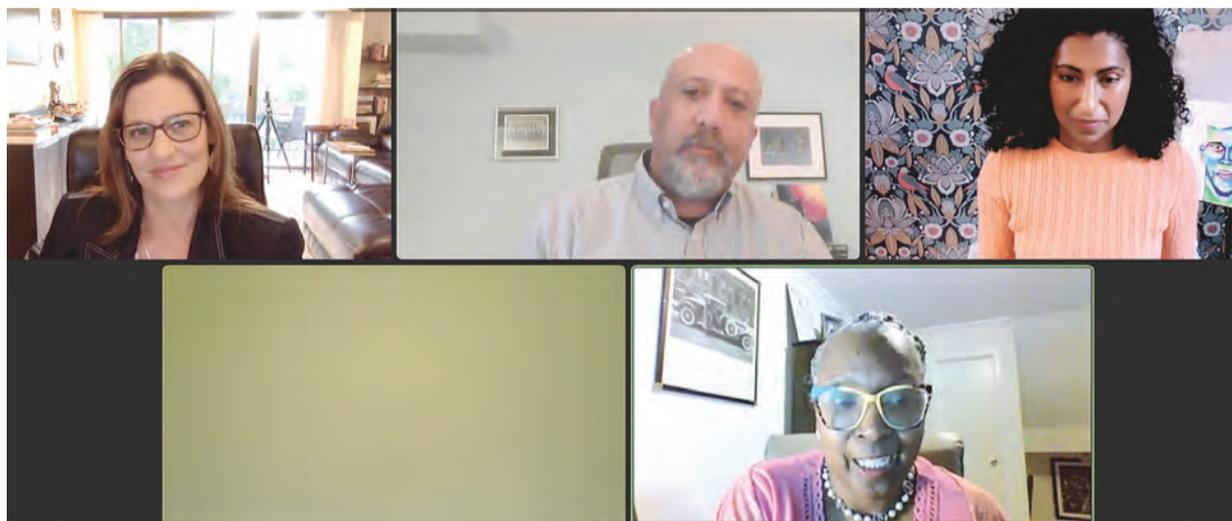
**Equity related to boundaries: Will you support redistricting to allow students to attend schools in their communities?**

**Will you commit to a good faith effort to adjust the proximity-based school boundaries plan with a timeline or with a timeline for fruition?**

**Paul Thomas**-Yes, I will commit to good faith discussions about this. I've worked for Oakton School District, and that's crazy. It is a big long broken finger, lengthy as well. We have these problems where these districts have been sort of gerrymandered to ensure that people who have sort of similar economic backgrounds are in school with each other. We need to look at these for the ones that could be more centered around community.



Melanie Meren Paul Thomas



Group image of the Zoom screen for the FXCO NAACP virtual School Board Candidate Forum for Hunter Mill district representative candidates held May 15, 6 p.m.

**Melanie Meren**-The boundaries will get adjusted when there is an effective boundary policy. It is the board's responsibility to set the policy. The prior board did a study, but the study basically said the results of what makes for a good boundary policy. It did not help the board decide what a good boundary policy is. That's the work on this next board. It is not equitable for some students to be able to walk to school and others to take a bus an hour away. It is not equitable that some middle and high schools are crowded while others remain not.

**Libraries and access to books: Virginia PTA is considering a resolution next Saturday that would give tremendous power to parents who deemed certain materials as quote, sexually explicit. This policy could exclude books like Toni Morrison's "Beloved," and a great deal of in-**

**tersectional literature representing BIPOC people and the LGBTQ+ community. How would you protect FCPS school against this real threat, especially in the light of this resolution that very well may pass?**

**Melanie Meren**- I'm doing this work right now. I don't have to imagine what I would do because I am doing it, and I have done it. When these critics started com-

ing to our school board meetings and later turned up dressed in masks and costumes with signs, I went back to the policy. I read that, and I worked it, and I made sure it was airtight. My colleagues and I ensured that policy and regulation were airtight governance. The governor said we had to develop a sexually explicit materials policy to notify parents. I worked with my colleagues on the governance team to have that policy in effect by January as per the law.

**Paul Thomas**- It's critical that we defend our librarians and our teachers. We need to trust that our librarians know how to select and curate the library selections and the teachers and assistants know how to contextualize and frame them. The first thing is to talk with legal experts and figure out what is it that we need to do in terms of the policies and anything we need to push more in the county or the state, defend our

ability to enable our teachers and our librarians to do what they know is right.

**Every student deserves a safe learning environment to learn and grow in peace. Can you share creative ideas for how to keep our students safe in school?**

**Paul Thomas**- The first thing for me is a set of recommendations developed by the National Council for school counselors, school psychologists, elementary school principals, and secondary school principals. They framed up recommendations for a safe school. A lot of it is about staffing, collaboration, communication, and focusing on that mental and emotional health, that when we have students who are more healthy, more completely healthy, that can help quite a bit. Yes, do we have to have safe schools with appropriate locks on doors and ensure that we have the officers in there that they are really boxed into focusing on safety? But we also need to focus on the mental and emotional health of everybody in our school.

**Melanie Meren**- I worked for two years to get into the budget implementing security vestibules in our schools that don't have them, to provide another layer of support to the tune of \$5 million per project. But I also don't want to harden our schools, and I know that you (Fairfax NAACP) have been such a voice in our school resource officer conversation. I'm eager for the board to address that because it is vital. I know the data about it disproportionately impacting students of color and mental and emotional health.

The state needs to fund us at the appropriate levels- 250 students to one counselor or is what the industry field proposes. The state still doesn't fund us at this level, but we keep advocating for it. Students will feel safe when they feel respected when they have space to learn.

## Virginia Has Made It Easier To Vote

**Early voting, underway through June 17, could increase primary turnout in critical upcoming election.**

BY CHLOE WATSON  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**R**ICHMOND, Va. If it feels like campaign season started earlier than usual this year, it has, with early

voting for the primary election already in full swing.

In a primary election, voters will pick their preferred candidate to square off against the other party's candidate in November. All Virginia General Assembly seats, along

with other local races, are on the ballot this year.

It is the first time Virginia voters have had the 45-day early voting period before a full legislature election. Voting will continue

SEE EARLY VOTING, PAGE 15



A voter shows their early voting sticker. Over 1 million absentee ballots have been requested in Virginia this year.

PHOTO BY VCU CNS

# Fairfax NAACP Virtual School Board Candidate Forum

FROM PAGE 9

## ADDRESSING LACK OF EQUITY:

*Focusing on equity and academic access, how might you address the enormous differences within districts and pyramids related to disparities and offerings for after-school enrichment, access to AP advanced mathematics, and IB?*

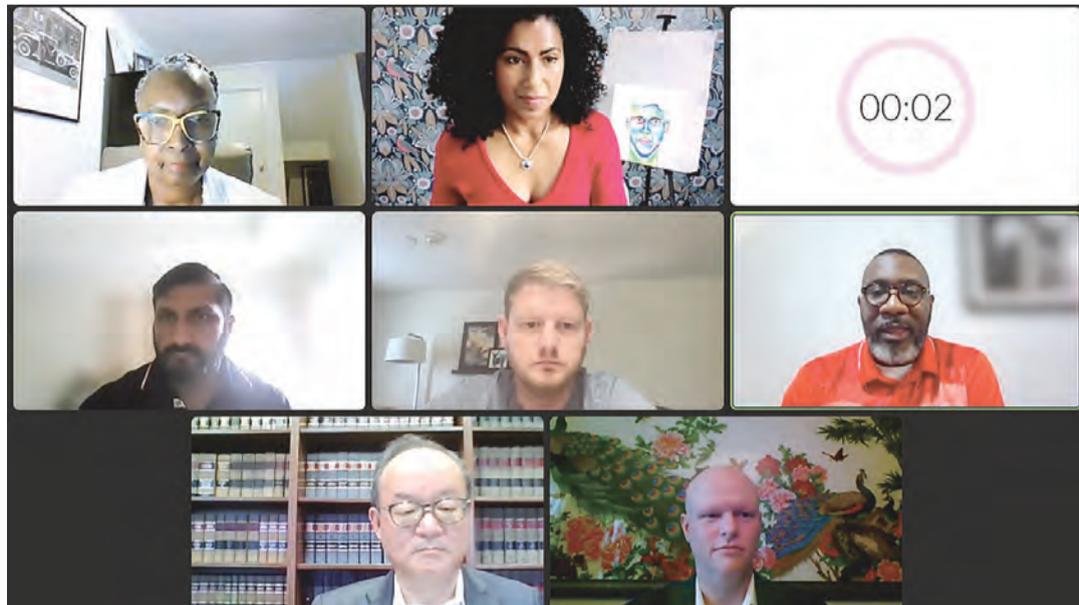
**Ilryong Moon:** The opportunity gap starts from home and starts from the early years, so we need to expand our pre-K program beyond the current approved budget. That's 180 students out of close to 2,500 students who had indicated that they had not received any pre-K service. That pace has to be accelerated.

**Ryan McElveen:** FCPS Advanced Academic Program's strengths are rooted in its recognition as an international model for gifted education with a robust curriculum and strong pedagogical practices. But it's also weak in that the robust curriculum and practices have not been extended to all the classrooms in the school system. It's left some students behind. I've been a strong voice for expanding the AP curriculum and practices to all of our schools.

**Lawrence Webb:** I will work hard to make sure these programs are spread across the county. We see disparities in opportunities in certain areas of the county. We also need to expand working with the Board of Supervisors to get the funding that we need to make sure that pre-K is available to as many county residents as possible.

**Hamid Munir:** Every child needs to feel valued, nurtured, and seen in our schools, no matter if you are new to our country... from historically underrepresented communities, struggling with learning a new language, a member of the LGBTQ community, or a student with disabilities. All students must feel welcome and included in our classrooms and extracurricular programs and have the opportunity to participate in advanced academics and specialty programs, regardless of where they live.

**Kyle McDaniel:** First thing is identifying the problem, identifying the gaps, identifying what has to be fixed, and that's not as easy as it sounds. It's got to be data-driven. It's got to be fact-based, and it's got to be in conjunction with the communities and stakeholders like this group. After that, it boils down to resource allocation issues. This requires stakeholder input. This type of policy development is never going to be a silver bullet. Following is a long-term initiative process. Simply- we've got to find the problem and fix the problem; go back and make sure that what we put in place is addressing the problems that we've identified, and that takes making sure this is part of the strategic plan.



SCREENSHOT VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP ZOOM  
Group image for the Fairfax County NAACP virtual School Board Candidate Forum for at-large representative candidates held May 13.

## INTERSECTIONALITY:

*Speak to the challenges of supporting students' intersectionality; for example, through the challenges to the book and library collections and access to materials, how it threatens the LGBTQ-plus community. But there is an intersectional threat to the BIPOC population (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) as well, whose literature so often includes themes of sexual violence or abuse due to the history of this country and so many things like that.*

**Lawrence Webb:** As someone who grew up within the LGBT community ... many times living in the closet, I will be the first to say that I appreciate seeing what our LGBTQ students today are able to do, living their lives, and being who they are at such a young age. I will always be an advocate for the students making sure that they continue to do that, making sure books and other things are out there for them to be able to learn how to express themselves. I will always protect them and make sure I will be the first person protecting them in the buildings and making sure they have the facilities that they need to identify with going to the bathroom as well as locker rooms.

**Hamid Munir:** I come from a community that's often marginalized. I know how important it is to support marginalized communities such as LGBTQ. I will fight to protect the rights of every student and staff to be part of our community, allowing them to be their authentic self and see themselves in our curriculum and our library, and ensure that every child is treated with dignity.

I believe that if bigotry against one group is allowed, it will spread to the others. As Democrats, we need to stand up to bullies.

I will work with the superintendent to ensure students' pronouns are respected, private spaces are available in restrooms and locker rooms, and correspond to gender identity.

**Kyle McDaniel:** I think one of the problems we have is that people don't feel com-

fortable coming forward. We have to create this environment because we're such a massive system. It's very difficult sometimes to find some of the bigotry that exists if we don't know that it exists. We must encourage intersectionality to be talked about; encourage it to be discussed with the LGBTQ community. Specifically, we don't recognize the LGBTQ community; we celebrate the community.

**Ilryong Moon:** I was the one in 2014 (serving on the school board) who motioned to include sexual orientation as part of our nondiscrimination policy. In 2015, I seconded Mr. McCabe's motion to include gender identity as part of the nondiscrimination policy, standing strong against any hostile cry in meeting after meeting... (We) need to do a little better job in educating our grown-ups.

**Ryan McElveen:** I have a long history of making sure that gender identity and sexual orientation are respected and welcomed in our school, from policy to regulation. When we talk about LGBTQ students of color, it's right to say they're at particular risk. I would also add that there's intersectionality there with students from those backgrounds that are also disabled ... We need to look at studies that have been done, for example, the Trevor Project. I know that this can be addressed with mental health support. We need, in Fairfax County, a higher number of mental health professionals who have a focus on the needs of the LGBTQ community in particular.

## COLLEGIALITY:

*How will you balance the need for good governance and collegiality; they need to do good work that supports the needs of our most educationally and economically vulnerable children, as well as those of our most privileged and active stable children. It seems there are two needs here, often at odds with the current board.*

**Ryan McElveen:** The current political environment has fostered instability... It's critical we have a board that works

together. My experience has shown that I am a strong team player, with my colleagues working to make sure that we're battling civility for the entire district. And frankly, we are not doing enough to work in the curriculum to teach those values. You've seen after the pandemic backsliding. We need to work on teaching students how to behave in public which they haven't been exposed to during the pandemic.

**Lawrence Webb:** We need a board that works together, and one of the first things for whoever walks away with these endorsements is we all need to come together to begin the process of getting to know one another and working together. It's going to be a team effort to move forward into November. As chair of the school board of the City of Falls Church, I came into that role because of some of the very challenges you're talking about. I have a reputation for being a person who listens and works well with others. I took that role very importantly and led the board to better regain the public trust.

**Hamid Munir:** It comes from experience. I have experienced the same thing on multiple boards. If you see my résumé, I've done it several times. Get to know people, work with people. If you don't agree with something, there's a simple way of bringing information and voting on it properly.

"Robert's Rules" (and) civility go hand-in-hand. We need to make sure that all of our board members are aware that diversity is not just by culture or color. You need to have a diversity of professions as well.

**Kyle McDaniel:** Teamwork. I've said in the hundreds of opening statements I've given it boils down to teamwork. It boils down to collaboration and congeniality not just amongst each other, which is critical, but with the public, staff, teachers, and parents. Because this cuts across a host of different relationship channels. If we're not professional, and we're not collaborative, and we're not congenial, that's going to lead to credibility issues that are going to lead to some of the issues that this past board has been challenged with. We are all grumpy after Covid ... Let's give each other a little bit of grace, a little bit of dignity, and some breathing room. By treating others with a little more respect, we're going to get a lot farther. That's the goal.

**Ilryong Moon:** I don't want to speak ill of the current board; I'm focusing on the next board. My three years of experience as chairman of the Fairfax County school board, 20 years of experience on the board, (and) for a number of years I was on the minority side ... As long as you respect everyone on the board and what they are doing is for the best interest of the students and do not take anything personally, we can bring back civility. I am a listener; I am a uniter.

# CALENDAR



**McLean Day 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.**

## 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 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 double-headers. Begin Spring Training now. 703-663-7881. Visit the website: [www.nvss.org](http://www.nvss.org)

## NOW THRU JUNE 3

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

## NOW THRU 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



**BrewWorks will take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.**

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 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 MAY 25

**Open Life Drawing.** 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Life drawing and painting group, on the first four Thursdays of every month. Bring your own drawing and/or painting supplies- easel, stools, and tables are provided. \*Note: This is not a class. A monitor will be present to take the model through different poses but no instruction will be provided. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/visual-arts-classes>

## 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.

## MAY 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 18

**McLean Project for the Arts Spring Benefit.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Wildersmoor House in Great Falls. McLean Project for the Arts, a leading contemporary visual arts non-profit supporting the work of artists for more than 60 years, will host its signature spring fête, Spring Benefit, on Thursday, May 18. Several stunning pieces by the renowned McLean sculptor Emilie Benes Brzezinski will be featured onsite during the event. Additionally, Spring Benefit 2023 will feature the music of The Bitter

Dose Combo, DC's premier gypsy jazz and swing band, and Abbie Palmer, a multi-genre harpist. The event will also include fare from Windows Catering Company. Visit [mpaart.org](http://mpaart.org) for more information.

## FRIDAY/MAY 19

**Abstract Watercolor Demo.** 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Mclean Art Society is honored to present Chica Brunsvold giving a demonstration of her innovative style of abstract painting with watercolors. As a Signature Member of both the National and American Watercolor Societies, Ms. Brunsvold trademarked the term Zooillogicals to describe her unique technique in which she paints on a slick surface called Yupo, then discerns "an intense, compact composition of animals (mostly birds) arising directly from the texture of the work."

## FRIDAY/MAY 19

**Bike to Work Day 2023.** Across the Metropolitan D.C. Region. Join thousands of area commuters for the free 22nd annual event celebrating bicycling as a fun, low-cost, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to get around! Riders can find Bike to Work Day pit stops around the metropolitan region in DC, Suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The first 15,000 to register and attend one of the pit stops will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-shirt. Pit Stop information is available at [bit.ly/BTWD-2023](http://bit.ly/BTWD-2023)

## SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Vendors are welcome. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Additional information may be obtained from Don Hakenson at [dhakenson@verizon.net](mailto:dhakenson@verizon.net) or Bud Mayo at [mayo5304@cox.net](mailto:mayo5304@cox.net).



## MCC Holds Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting for McLean Day 2023 Festival

**WHAT:** MCC will hold an Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting for McLean Day 2023 with local dignitaries at Lewinsville Park

**WHO:** State and local government officials, community leaders, MCC Executive Director Betsy May Salazar, MCC Governing Board Chair Barbara Zamora-Appel, MCC special events staff and festival patrons will be in attendance.

**WHEN:** Friday, May 19, 2023, at 1:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** Lewinsville Park  
1659 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, Virginia 22101

McLean's largest annual festival begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at Lewinsville Park, with T.G.I.F. Carnival Rides. The festivities continue on McLean Day, Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event draws approximately 10,000 patrons throughout the day who come to enjoy carnival rides, music, games, amusements, exhibits, gourmet food and much more. This yearly, free community celebration dates back to 1915.

For more information, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org).

Town Center, Reston. The annual Festival is a signature fundraiser for Tephra ICA that attracts tens of thousands of people to the unique, outdoor environment of Reston Town Center. This year more than 200 artists will travel from 33 states across the U.S. and Canada to exhibit and sell their work in Reston. Tephra ICA will also launch the Anniversary Celebration of its 50-year history in the community. Visit <https://www.tephraica.org/festival-information/get-involved-with-the-festival>

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Tours of Woodbury.** 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunrise at Silas Burke House, Burke. The Burke Historical Society will conduct tours of "Woodbury," the historic house at Sunrise at Silas Burke House, on Saturday May 20. Tours will begin at 11:00. The last tour group will be at 1:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Engineering: Then and Now.** Noon to 3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill Park, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See the mill in action, explore historic and modern-day engineering tools yourself, and talk with professionals in a variety of engineering fields.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**McLean Day 2023.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The free, outdoor festival is produced by the McLean Community Center (MCC) and offers a wide variety of attractions, including carnival rides, games and performances. Music and Dance Performances

Free performances will be offered throughout the festival on the Community Stage.

#### Schedule

- 11 a.m. Art in Motion – MCC's Youth Dance Class Participants
- 12:50 p.m. Noah Asher – Low-key Covers and Originals
- 1:10 p.m. Hull – Alternative Rock Band
- 1:40 p.m. Unruly Theatre Project – The Alden's professional teen improv group
- 2:20 p.m. Minahil Ishaq – Singer-Songwriter
- 2:50 p.m. Kiril French – Broadway and Pop Solos
- 3:00 p.m. Teen Character Awards – Presented by the McLean Citizens Association
- 3:20 p.m. Kiril French – Broadway Tunes and Pop Solos
- 3:45 p.m. Hull – Alternative Rock Band

### SUNDAY/MAY 21

**Braddock Bark.** 1-4 p.m. At McLaren Pavilion, Lake Accotink Park, 5650 Heming Ave., Springfield. Don't miss the paw-tay! Get information from adoption agencies to learn how you can provide a forever home for a dog in need while you enjoy pet activities, local exhibitors, and more! Hosted by Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw in partnership with Celebrate Fairfax. This free event will be held rain or shine, and all dogs must be leashed. Visit the website: <https://celebratefairfax.org/event/braddock-bark/>

### SUNDAY/MAY 21

**Sound Bath.** 4-5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Work-

house Way, Lorton. The May Sound Bath will be conducted by Mark Torgeson. Mark will perform on angel harps and didgeridoo tuned to sacred geometries – harmonics for deep visceral transformation and a musical delight. Mark will further share original compositions on the piano! Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/sound-bath>

### SUNDAY/MAY 21

**NTRAK Model Trains Running.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge (NTRAK) model trains will be running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and military, active and retired, \$4. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), 703-425-9225.

### SUNDAY/MAY 21

**Grind Day and Woodcarver.** 12-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Cost is \$10. Online Registration Required.

### SUNDAY/MAY 21

**Messy Church at Lewinsville.** 9:30-11 a.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Through storytelling, games, and crafts they will explore the person of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. The activities time will be followed by interactive worship and brunch in Fellowship Hall. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

An Abstract Watercolor Demo with Chica Brunsvold will be held Friday, May 19, 2023 in McLean.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**BrewWorks.** 12-6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Drink with the Workhouse Arts Center sampling beers, wine, and spirits! Delicious food and lawn games, listen to local bands. Browse galleries, artist studios, gift shop and Lucy Burns Museum. Cost: \$5-\$75. Visit the website: [workhousearts.org/brewworks](http://workhousearts.org/brewworks)

side of Dicks Sporting Goods), and on Sunday, May 21st, 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., at the BASIS Independent School, 8000 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. More than 2,500 runners are anticipated to participate at each event. The GOTR NOVA 5K celebrates the completion of the 10-week season by 3rd to 8th graders (ages 8 to 14), who learn critical life skills through social-emotional based lessons and physical endurance training.

### MAY 20-21

**Girls on the Run 5K Weekend.** On Saturday, May 20th from 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Fair Oaks Mall (out-

### MAY 20-21

**Tephra ICA Arts Festival.** At Reston

## Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival Returns

### JOHN CARLYLE SQUARE

#### MAY 20 – 21

This weekend, May 20 -21, marks the return of the Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival. The outdoor fine art affair takes place in John Carlyle Square on May 20 - 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Featuring a juried selection of artwork from local and national fine artists, visitors to the free, outdoor event will see thousands of handmade, exquisite pieces of art across every medium, including life-sized sculpture, paintings, jewelry, pottery, textiles and more. The popular springtime event mirrors the caliber of works found during the September Alexandria Old Town Art Festival, which has been consistently voted by Sunshine Artists Magazine as one of the top-ranked art festivals in the nation.

**WHAT:** 3rd Annual Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 am to 5 pm

**WHERE:** Old Town Alexandria in John Carlyle Square, Navigational: 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Free and open to the public  
[www.ArtFestival.com](http://www.ArtFestival.com)



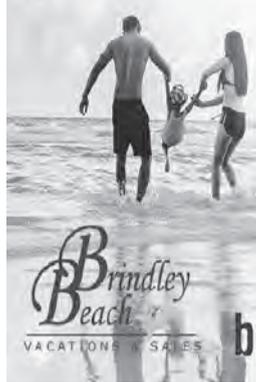
Sculpture by Maduka Uduh



### Jennifer Beaudoin Moffitt, Kensington, MD, Glass

Kensington, MD glass artist Jennifer Beaudoin Moffitt began her artistic career in cold-fusion glass jewelry-making, creating exquisite, iridescent works of wearable art. During the pandemic, she started experimenting with glass oil candle making, with masterful results. Featured in Condé Nast Traveler, her Beaudoin Glass creations are now collected around the world.

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**NEWS**

**\$34K Grant for Mobile Nature Center**

Fairfax County Park Foundation was recently awarded a \$34,000 grant from the Environment Fund, a component of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's Permanent Fund for Northern Virginia. The grant will help fund the Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) new Wonder Wagon Mobile Nature Center to bring environmental and nature programs to underserved, underrepresented communities and SACC programs at Title 1 schools in Fairfax County.

"The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia is proud to fund organizations like the Fairfax County Park Foundation in a competitive grants year. We congratulate them and look forward to the incredible impact our organizations can make together," said Alex Carey, spokesperson for the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

The FCPA aims to ensure that underserved areas of the county have access to environmental education and to raise the profile of nature exploration as an activity with all residents to promote resilient communities and landscapes. By providing memorable experiences with nature in their own communities, residents will gain a greater understanding of the natural and cultural resources around them and seek to preserve them.

"As an environmental educator, I am excited that we will have the opportunity to share our passion for nature with new audiences and provide opportunities for all people to feel connected to the environment around them," said Tammy Schwab, manager of Education & Outreach, Resource Management Division.

FCPA's Resource Management Division helps county residents connect to the rich, natural and cultural resources in our area, and understand their stewardship role. The FCPA offers a variety of programs and projects that cover a number of topics, including natural sciences, threats to native habitats, local wildlife and best practices for making environmentally friendly choices wherever they are.

The Fairfax County Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3), supports the Fairfax County Park Authority by raising private funds, obtaining grants, and creating partnerships that supplement tax dollars to meet our community's needs for park land, facilities, and services.

# Early Voting

FROM PAGE 10

through June 17 at 5 p.m. for the June 20 primary day.

“That’s a big change from the way it used to be in Virginia,” said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor and director of the University of Mary Washington Center for Leadership and Media Studies. “Where most of the votes were cast on election day, that’s just no longer the case here.”

Primaries typically have the lowest levels of turnout, he said.

“Most people are looking at planning summer vacations, going to graduations and weddings, rather than showing up to participate in primaries,” Farnsworth said.

Virginia voters now have 45 extra days to work voting into their schedule.

“Virginia has made it a lot easier to participate, you can vote early right now,” Farnsworth said.

Another key change this election is the use of the new redistricting map for legislative districts.

“The lines have been drawn in very different ways than they existed before the 2020 Census,” Farnsworth said.

New boundaries have brought new candidates to the field, and also pushed incumbents into new territory — with new constituents. Or, pushed established candidates into a district where they face a colleague.

“What this has done is created a lot of opportunity for challengers to be competitive, because even incumbents are going to be looking at an electorate that is different than the old electorate,” Farnsworth said.

Some Virginia legislators have announced their retirements rather than choosing to run for reelection in the new districts.

This will cause a large generational change in 2023, according to Farnsworth.

“The legislature that takes office next January will be much younger than the current legislature,” Farnsworth said. “It will also be a legislature that is less experienced; you’ll have many first-time candidates because there are a great deal of open contests this year.”

The election outcome will likely impact the rest of Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s term. If Republicans keep their House majority and take over the Senate, Youngkin might have a more successful final two years, Farnsworth said.

“That could mean tighter restrictions on abortion, it could mean more tax benefits for businesses,” Farnsworth said. “Those two

things are probably at the top of the list of how things would change if there were a unified government in Virginia.”

Two years ago, the governor’s office and the House of Delegates flipped red and wrested away Democratic control of the legislative and executive branches. Since then, many legislative efforts have failed to pass the brick wall of each chamber.

Even if Democrats keep the Senate and win the House majority there will still be some of the gridlock of the past two years, according to Farnsworth.

Suburban districts will likely influence who gains legislative control, such as Chesterfield, Loudoun and Stafford counties, according to Farnsworth.

Not every district will have a primary election. Some candidates are running uncontested, and some Republicans will hold a convention in certain districts.

Early voting is done weekdays at the local registrar’s office. Starting on June 10, voter registration offices will be open for early voting as well. Law requires early voting on the two Saturdays before the primary election day, and gives localities the option to open on Sundays also.

The deadline to register to vote, or update a registration is May 30. Voters can register after that date, but will be given a provisional ballot. The deadline for a ballot to be mailed to a voter is June 9.

Anyone may vote in the primary of their choice for their district, regardless of previous party participation.

A list of Democratic candidates can be found here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/candidate-list/2023-june-primary/Dem-List-of-Candidates.pdf>

A list of Republican candidates can be found here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/candidate-list/2023-june-primary/Rep-List-of-Candidates.pdf>

More information on the upcoming election, including voter registration and ballot lookup, can be found on the Virginia Department of Elections website: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/upcoming-elections.html>

*Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University’s Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.*

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**POTOMAC ALMANAC** CENTREVIEW

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

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

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

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers—Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac  
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## A Break in the Action



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When all is scheduled and done, it will have been four months between my last scan in early March and my next regularly scheduled scan in early July. As of today’s date, April 26, 2023, I am approximately seven weeks past that early March scan and 10 weeks or so from the next scan. I am, to invoke a formerly familiar “CB” phrase, “in the rocking chair, good buddy.” Meaning that I am enjoying being in the middle. Other than taking my 50-plus daily pills and getting my obligatory every-four-week lab work, I am on easy street: minimal cancer-related activities or responsibilities. For a cancer patient undergoing treatment and being scanned regularly, this kind of stress-free interval is as good as it gets. (Though I certainly realize that being told by your oncologist that you’re in remission would be ideal, I live in the real world of managing expectations. Being told you have a “terminal” illness will do that to you. Moreover, having your cancer diagnosis change from lung cancer to thyroid cancer - after surviving nine years of treatment will likewise make you steady-on and cautiously optimistic. Still a cancer diagnosis looms large and is unpredictable. And each scan presents a patient with reminders of how tenuous one’s grip on life can be. Minimizing this anxiety and/or rationalizing any cancer demands to allow you to try and live a semi normal life - without being totally preoccupied with your disease/life expectancy is the true prescription for success. No guarantees of course but as the doctor in Miles City advising Augustus McCray said in the third night of “Lonesome Dove” as to whether Gus would allow “sawbones” (as he called him) to cut off his remaining leg: “I assure you, sir, the alternative is grim.”)

Aside from the 10 days my wife, Dina and I spent in Ne-gril, Jamaica in 1978, this interval is yet another honeymoon - of sorts: an escape/diversion from the everyday which for a cancer patient undergoing treatment might be more like every minute. Nevertheless, it’s not as if I’m totally preoccupied with my health status (as in every second), but one is never far, emotionally, from the underlying, all-encompassing circumstances of your life: having an incurable form of papillary thyroid cancer for which the life-sustaining medication I take every day has a three-year-ish shelf life/effectiveness. And my three years-ish are up in the fall. What happens then? God only knows, literally. (I know from experience not to ask/discuss scenarios with my oncologist and endocrinologist. It’s generally wait and see. I imagine, they know the options. Sharing them with me now however seems premature. They don’t like to get too far ahead of the patient vis-à-vis options/what’s next? I’ve asked and this is the answer I’ve received most often.)

Fortunately, that three-year timeline is not hard and fast. It’s a median-type measure. Some shorter, some longer. And most importantly, every patient is unique and the miscellaneous interactions between your medicine and your body/tumors is not cast in stone either. Everyone is different, and the doctors don’t really know if your differences are enough to win the day and survive past your window which supposedly is closing. This reality permeates my subconscious - and consciousness as well. And even though I’ve been told and understand all of this, somehow, I’ve got to ignore it, and somehow delude myself into thinking I’m more than a statistic and the fall of ‘23 has no more meaning to me than any other than it’s around my birthday, wedding anniversary, my brother’s birthday, and my parent’s birthdays and their respective dates of death and even the time of my Bar Mitzvah all those years ago. Adding my cancer-medicine-affected timeline to this rather impressive list of significant events in the fall seems a bit too much to bear. As such, I will choose not to. (Though I realize that ignoring any of this won’t really solve the problem/inevitability of it, I likewise don’t see how focusing on a negative - me dying, can have a positive impact on me living. And I refuse to be a victim of my own circumstances.)

And right now, being/living in the middle of an extended interval between scans when I’m not stressing nor waiting for results, enables me to damn the torpedoes and live (try to anyway) full speed ahead. I will not be dragged down - nor bogged down either. I will enjoy any port in this unexpected storm (no cancer history in my immediate family as well as being a lifelong non-smoker) and let the scan results and the presumptive ineffectiveness of my cancer medication fall where they may. As I’ve often said, if and when anything bad happens, it will be bad enough when it does happen so that I’d rather not put the cart before the horse and make it bad now. I’d just as soon ride off into the sunset after something bad happens, not before. I don’t see any advantage to getting to the front of the line. Until that line becomes obvious to me, I’m happy to bide my time, mind my own business and try (quoting Richard Pryor) to “keep some sunshine on your face.”

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



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# McLEAN DAY

Est. 1915



**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

**LEWINSVILLE PARK • 1659 CHAIN BRIDGE RD. • [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org)**



**McLean  
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Center**  
*The Center of It All*



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- Fitness & Culinary Arts
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- Dance & Music Together
- Seniors in Action

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Holiday Art & Crafts Festival
- McLean Day
- 4th of July Celebration
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# McLean Day 2023

Celebrating Our Hometown since 1915!

Guide to Sponsors,  
Exhibitors and Food

(See Map, Pages 4&5)

## Sponsors

Wheat's Landscaping

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McLean Properties

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Booth	Exhibitors
1	Daughters of the American Revolution - Freedom Hill Chapter
2	Simply Sara Soaps and Candles
3	McLean Community Players
4	National Capital Lyme Disease Association
5	Color Street
6	Lewinsville Retirement Residence
7	Friends Of Pleasant Grove
8	McLean Racquet & Health Club
9	G+H Custom Workshop
10	Beyond The Glitter
11	Vitadrip IV Therapy
12	Gray Works LLC
13	Pawistively Natural
14	Friends Of The McLean Community Center
15	Fairfax Connector
16	Riverbend Park
17	Dolly Madison Library
18	Fairfax County CERT
19	DC Paper Arts LLC
20	Why Not
21	Steamify LLC
22	AnewSkin Aesthetic Clinic & Medical Spa
23	Plane Art
24	Universal Title Falls Church
25	The T.E.A. Center
26	Peruvian Collection
27	The Wandering Cricut
28	Stix & Stones
29	Chesterbrook Residences
30	Craftsman Auto Care
31	Family Of Nuts
32	Tysons Modern Dentistry
33	Mivaglo Aesthetics
34	Onelife Fitness McLean
35	Dance Academy Of Virginia
36	Vector Security
37	Berry Dove LLC
38	Merrill Lynch
47	American Legion Post 270
48	VFW Post 8241
49	Long And Foster
50	Tutoring Club Of McLean
51	McLean Trees Foundation
52	McLean Citizens Association

Booth	Exhibitors
53	Brooksfield School
54	American Association Of University Women McLean
55	Golden Boot Soccer
56	Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust
57	Traveling Players Ensemble
58	Redeemer Luthern Church
59	McLean Family Dentistry
60	MusicFully
61	Adamson Woodworking LLC
62	Holy Trinity Church
63	Stemtree
64	VCA South Paws Emergency Center
65	Expressions Music Academy
66	The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints
67	Purple Cardinal Arts LLC
68	Otis Farms LLC
69	Child's Play
70	Trinity Preschool Of McLean
71	Babycito
72	Immanuel Presbyterian Church
73	Merak Skincare And Wellness
74	Fairfax Republicans
75	McLean Swimming & Tennis Association
76	Mathnasium Of McLean
77	Staybridge Suites Tysons McLean
78	Montessori School Of McLean
79	Davis For Education
80	Alejandra Jewelry
81	The Albert Group Of NextHome Envision
82	Culipher For Clerk
83	Kitchen Saver
84	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
85	Dranesville District Democratic Committee
86	Americas K-9 Caring Angels
87	Lafayette Federal Credit Union
88	Renewal By Andersen
89	Charles Schwab
90	McLean Youth Athletics
91	Aucoin For School Board
92	Dominion Energy Smart Home VEIC Program
93	Capital Remodeling
94	Paw Mind Body LLC
95	Safe Community Coalition
96	McLean Baptist Church
97	My Gym McLean
98	Ameritech Construction
99	First Church Of Christ Scientist McLean
100	Primis Bank
101	Department of Emergency Management and Security

## Lots of Treats to Eat!

*Do you favor festival food?*

Come to McLean Day ready to enjoy a wide variety of American and international entrees, snacks and beverages.

Some of the area's best gourmet food trucks will be on hand to serve the crowds in Lewinsville Park.



# McLEAN DAY

## LEWINSVILLE PARK

1659 Chain Bridge Rd.  
McLean, VA 22101

### COMMUNITY STAGE SCHEDULE

Art in Motion  
11 a.m.

Noah Asher  
(with band)  
12:50 p.m.

Hull  
1:10 p.m.

(the) Unruly  
Theatre Project  
1:40 p.m.

Minahil Ishaq &  
Noah Chian  
2:20 p.m.

Kiril French  
2:50 p.m.

Teen Character  
Awards  
3 p.m.

Kiril French  
3:20 p.m.

Hull  
3:45 p.m.

**Saturday, May 20**  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

**MCC Governing  
Board Elections**  
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Friday Night Rides**  
Friday, May 19, 2-10 p.m.

### KEY

Info Tent #1    Info Tent #3

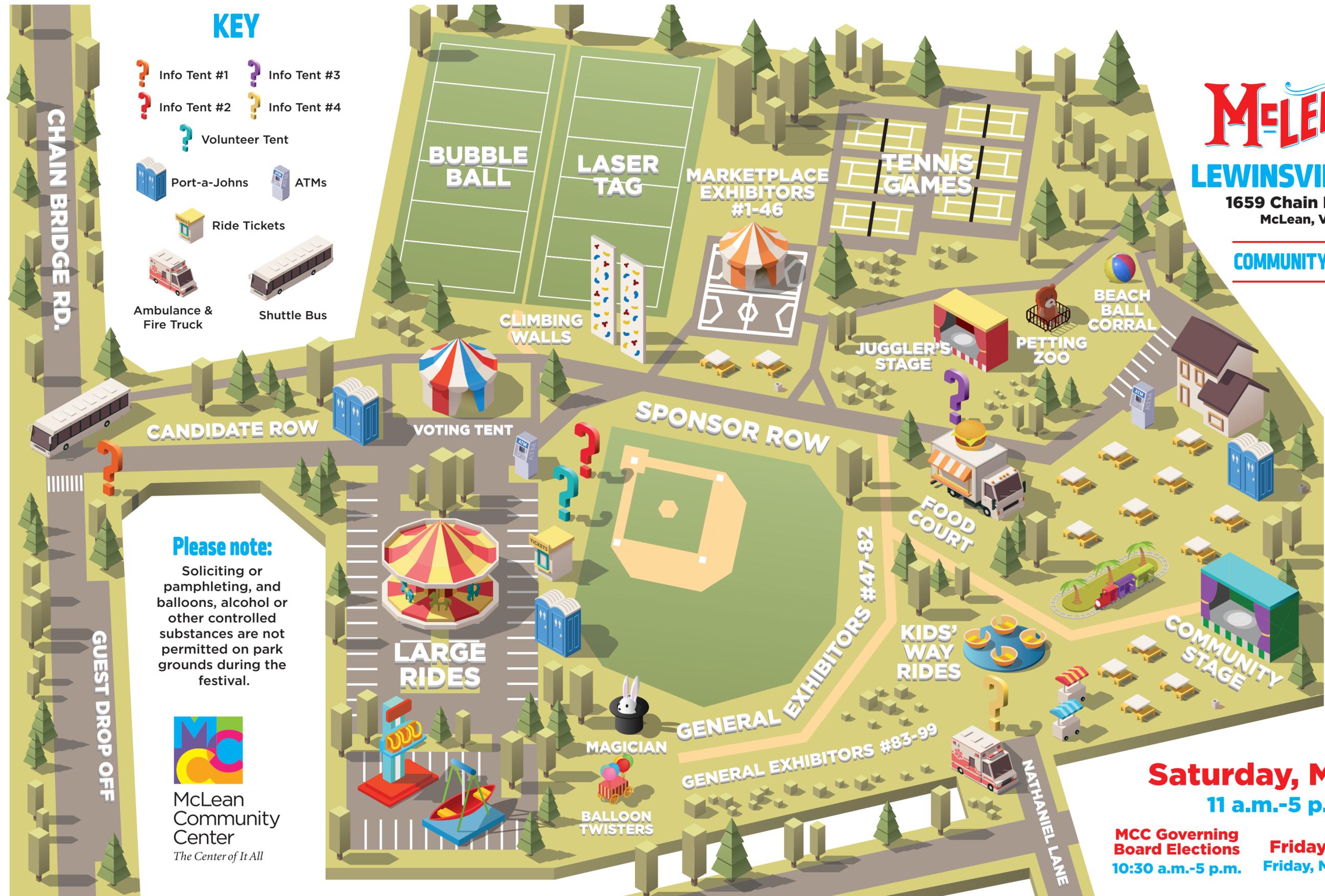
Info Tent #2    Info Tent #4

Volunteer Tent

Port-a-Johns    ATMs

Ride Tickets

Ambulance &  
Fire Truck    Shuttle Bus



### Please note:

Soliciting or pamphleting, and balloons, alcohol or other controlled substances are not permitted on park grounds during the festival.



McLean  
Community  
Center  
*The Center of It All*

**McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**



**Vote on**  
**McLean Day!**



The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center (MCC) strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of its 2023-2024 Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

**WHEN & WHERE**

Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the McLean Day 2023 festival on Saturday, May 20, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

**REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE**

1. You must be a resident of the MCC tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old by McLean Day to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old by McLean Day to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes and may vote for one candidate in the McLean High School boundary area and one candidate in the Langley High School boundary area.
4. You must bring identification as proof of residency in the tax district, such as a driver's license, passport or utility bill, or you may sign a sworn affidavit statement.

**In-person voting at McLean Day is open only to individuals who did not vote early by absentee ballot.**

**QUESTIONS?** Contact MCC at elections @mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

**mcleancenter.org**



## McLEAN DAY 2023

# McLean Day 2023 Brings Mega Family Fun to Lewinsville Park on May 20

McLean's annual party in the park, McLean Day 2023, is almost here. The free, outdoor festival is produced by the McLean Community Center (MCC) and offers a wide variety of attractions, including carnival rides, games and performances. Here's a brief rundown of various aspects of the festival, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at Lewinsville Park. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.



### A Brief History of the Festival

McLean Day has been in existence for 108 years. It began in 1915 as a school and community fundraiser put on by the McLean School and Civic League at Franklin Sherman School. Over the years, a host of community organizations kept it going until the mid-1970s when MCC began producing it and then moved it to its current home, Lewinsville Park, in 1988.



### MCC Governing Board Election

MCC's 2023 Governing Board Election will be held at the park from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fifteen Dranesville Small District 1A residents are running for seats on the board. Five adults are vying for three vacant adult seats and 10 teens are vying for two vacant student seats (one for the Langley High School boundary area and one for the McLean High School boundary area). Only district residents are permitted to vote in the election. Absentee voting is available through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17. For more information, visit MCC's website, www.mcleancenter.org.

### T.G.I. F. Carnival Rides

Patrons can enjoy carnival rides on Friday, May 19, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the park. Ticket prices vary, and some rides have height requirements. The rides are located in two areas of the park, the parking lot to the right of the entrance and toward the exit at the back of the park, where small carnival rides are located. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Cole Rides through a link on the center's website, www.mcleancenter.org, or onsite on Friday and Saturday.

### Rides and Amusements

The carnival amusements and rides are a big draw at McLean Day. This year's selection will shake things up! Large rides are located on the parking lot at the right of the entrance. The Kids' Way area of the park offers ticketed rides especially for younger children. Roaming costumed characters, including your favorite superheroes, will be available to interact with patrons and pose for photos. Other free activities include a beachball corral, laser tag, Bubble Ball, two rock-climbing walls, balloon twist-

ers, a magician and a petting zoo.

### Lots of Treats to Eat!

Do you favor festival food? Come to McLean Day ready to enjoy a wide variety of American and international entrees, snacks and beverages. Some of the area's best gourmet food trucks will be on hand to serve the crowds in Lewinsville Park.

### Music and Dance Performances

Free performances will be offered throughout the festival on the Community Stage.

### Schedule (Subject to change)

<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Art in Motion	MCC's Youth Dance Class Participants
<b>12:50 p.m.</b>	Noah Asher	Low-key Covers and Originals
<b>1:10 p.m.</b>	Hull	Alternative Rock Band
<b>1:40 p.m.</b>	Unruly Theatre Project	The Alden's professional teen improv group
<b>2:20 p.m.</b>	Minahil Ishaq	Singer-Songwriter
<b>2:50 p.m.</b>	Kiril French	Broadway and Pop Solos
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	Teen Character Awards	Presented by the McLean Citizens Association
<b>3:20 p.m.</b>	Kiril French	Broadway Tunes and Pop Solos
<b>3:45 p.m.</b>	Hull	Alternative Rock Band

In addition, a Jugglers' Stage, located close to the children's ride area, offers free performances throughout the event.

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# McLEAN DAY 2023

## Mega Family Fun to Lewinsville Park on May 20

### Transportation Options Aboard

Parking is not available at Lewinsville Park on the day of the festival. Patrons can take free Fairfax Connector shuttles from McLean Metrorail Station and three satellite locations to McLean Day. Free shuttle buses will run from the parking sites to the park starting at 10:25 a.m. and running through 6 p.m.

### Satellite Routes are as follows:

**Red** - McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101, McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.

**Yellow** - McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101. Patrons should meet at the main entrance of the center where signage indicates.

**Blue** - Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.

Patrons can also take Fairfax Connector Route 721 to stop ID 5429 for just \$2 each way. All Fairfax Connector Shuttles to McLean Day are air-conditioned, ADA and wheelchair accessible, have low floor ramps or are lift-equipped. They also have two bike racks and allow service animals. For more information, visit the MCC website, [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

### Sponsors Help Make McLean Day Happen

McLean Day is produced by the McLean Community Center (MCC). Community-minded local businesses enhance festival offerings. To date, this year's sponsors are Wheat's Landscaping, Giant Food, Mars Inc., McLean Propert-



ties and Washington Fine Properties.

Let's Keep It Clean and Comfortable for All

Zero Waste Event Productions will return for a second year to help McLean Day to stay clean and green. The company will manage and process all waste and recycling materials generated at the event. Patrons are encouraged to help by using the proper bins when disposing of items throughout the event.

### Additional Information

Patrons are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and report suspicious activities to MCC staff and Police and Fire personnel. Balloons, alcohol or other controlled substances are not permitted on the park grounds. Patrons are requested not to smoke cigarettes or vape on park grounds. Political candidates, exhibitors and other vendors must contain their activities to their assigned booths. Soliciting or pamphleting is not allowed on the grounds of the park during McLean Day.

**For festival updates**, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map,



visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events) or call MCC at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711. The center's telephone will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of the festival.

### Use free shuttles to come to McLean Day 2023

McLean, VA —McLean Community Center (MCC) encourages residents who plan to attend the McLean Day 2023 festival to make use of three satellite parking lots. Parking is prohibited at Lewinsville Park and is extremely limited on

surrounding streets. The free shuttle bus service is the best transportation option for patrons and will help relieve congestion around the park. The free festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, May 20. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

With the help of community partners, event producer MCC has secured the use of the following parking locations. The shuttles will run between the hours of 10:25 a.m. to 6 p.m.

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., patrons should meet the shuttle at the

front entrance.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd., at the corner of Westmoreland and Chain Bridge Rd. Patrons should meet the shuttle at the front entrance to the church.

McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, across from Franklin Sherman Elementary School and Langley Shopping Center. Patrons should meet the shuttle in the parking lot at the church entrance.

All Fairfax Connector shuttles to McLean Day are air-conditioned, ADA and wheelchair accessible, have low floor ramp or are lift-equipped, have two bike racks and allow service animals. While at McLean Day, stop by the Fairfax Connector booth to find out more about bus service in Fairfax County. Patrons can also take Fairfax Connector Route 721 to the festival (Stop ID 5429) for just \$2 each way.

For festival updates, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map, visit: [mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://mcleancenter.org/special-events) or call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711. MCC's telephone will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of the festival.

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# A!

# SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS *in the park*

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**JUNE 11**



**JUNE 18**

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**JUNE 25**



**JULY 2**

**CAPITAL BLEND**



**CZARNA WOLGASTAR**

**JULY 9**



**JULY 16**

**SIX PACK RODEO**



**JUSTIN TRAWICK & THE COMMON GOOD**

**JULY 23**



**JULY 30**

**PHILIP BOWEN**



**SCAN HERE**  
for The Alden's full schedule!



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