

# THE CONNECTION

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

The Vienna Singing Princess at the annual ViVa! Vienna!



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION ❖ OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

Grateful Dead (Tribute Bands) Play Vienna, Fairfax

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Honoring Planning Commissioners Late Nights and Long Hours

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Viva! Vienna!  
And Other  
Memorial Day  
Traditions

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# Memorial Day Weekend 2023

Remembering those who served, and welcoming summer.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

**M**emorial Day, the last Monday in May, is generally three weeks before the summer solstice but still recognized as the unofficial beginning of summer. The weather is usually warm, and it is a three-day weekend for many.

In Fairfax County's communities and city and town jurisdictions, pools are open, and the smells of barbecues and the chatter of people having fun reign in backyards and public parks.

And Memorial Day is, as the Rotary Club of Vienna writes in its ViVa! Vienna! Memorial Day Weekend Festival guide, when "we need to honor the sacrifices made and dedication shown to something larger."

Here is a snapshot of five events held Memorial Day weekend in Fairfax County.

## Friday evening, May 26, Town of Herndon:

Volkswagen Group of America presents Friday Night Live! featuring the Royals in the historic downtown behind the Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn Street, from 6 to 10 p.m. Except for Friday, June 2, due to the Herndon Festival, bands will play for the 16-week summer season, which wraps up with Social Call on Aug. 25. The series is sponsored by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Herndon, and others. Funds raised at some booths help support the local FCPS Al-Night Grad Party.

## Saturday afternoon, May 27, Reston:

Most of Reston Association's pools are open, and its lakes and watersheds offer quiet enjoyment. Adding to the two Reston Association pools that opened on May 13, nine open Memorial Day weekend. The remaining pools will open when Fairfax County schools are closed for the summer. According to Laura A. Kowalski, director of recreation and environmental education at CPRP and AFO of Reston Association, they welcomed 140 staff members at their life-guard orientation earlier this month. "We still need lifeguards; all are welcome to join us, and we train," she said.

At the North Shore Recreation Area and pool, Hayden, 8 of Reston, enjoys the 82-degree heated water with her mom. "I like this pool; it's warm and has a diving board," Hayden says.

In a shady green space and stream at the North Shore Recreation Area, backs of a pair of people can be seen as they share the porch swing. Meandering paths provide a view of the stream with turtles basking on wooden turtle rafts. "This is my grandpa," says Linda Vallejo of Reston, one of the pair on the



Friday Night Live! May 26



Reston: At the North Shore pool down the street from Lake Anne, Hayden, 8 of Reston, enjoys the 82-degree heated water.

swing. "He moved here a few months ago from New Jersey and lives with me now." His name is Daniel Coello.

## Saturday 10 a.m., May 27, Town of Vienna:

The Rotary Club of Vienna's annual ViVa! Vienna! charity event opens

People crowd the blocked-off streets in the historic downtown for the three-day celebration and the Memorial Day Service



ViVa! Vienna! festival-goers pack Church Street.

on May 29. With its partners Navy Federal Credit Union and the Town of Vienna, the club launches its signature event, the free weekend festival, May 27–May 29. It is open to all to attend and caters to families.

ViVa! Vienna! features a diverse range of attractions, including vendor booths and stage performances, ticketed carnival rides, a food court, and the BrewFest Beer Garden on Mill Street.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



The Vienna Singing Princess at the annual ViVa! Vienna! charity event by the Rotary Club of Vienna

According to the Rotary Club of Vienna's Facebook post, Memorial Day, to be held Monday, will pay respects and honor American heritage by remembering the country's "heroic dead of all wars."

"This event takes a tremendous amount of planning," says Kurt E. Sayce, club president. It has 186 vendors, which are made

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 7



From left are Pete Murphy and Jim Hart after the ceremony.



From left are Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Jim Hart and Jeff McKay.

# Honoring Long Hours and Late Nights

Fairfax County dignitaries fete Jim Hart and Pete Murphy.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

At the outset of the recent luncheon feting past Fairfax County Planning Commissioners and one leaving his chairman's post, County Executive Bryan Hill told them, "Your time with us has been well-spent and we appreciate it. This is all about the county saying thank you, and to honor these great, county residents."

Emcee of the May 4 event at the Fairview Park Marriott was the new chairman, Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner – who, as Providence District's commissioner, knows firsthand what the position entails. "Serving on the Planning Commission involves long hours, late nights and complex, controversial issues," he said. "But Planning Commissioners get the job done."

Acknowledging the packed room filled with local dignitaries – including current supervisors and commissioners, plus former Board of Supervisors Chair Kate Hanley, former Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey and former planning commissioners Ron Koch and John Litzenberger – Niedzielski-Eichner said, "They've all made profound contributions to the historical evolution of Fairfax County and also to its future."

Current Supervisors Chair Jeff McKay then noted the attention to detail that's required of the commissioners and praised their families who "supported them in their long hours on the job, away from them." This article will focus on former At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart of Centreville and Burke's Pete Murphy who's still a member but has stepped down as chairman.

## Jim Hart

Niedzielski-Eichner read Hart's biography and list of accomplishments and presented him with a plaque. Hart is a 23-year member



From left are Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Pete Murphy with plaque and gavel, and Pat Herryty.



From left are Charlene, Cheryl and Pete Murphy.

of the county's Board of Zoning Appeals as well, serving on it since 2000; and in 2021, he was elected vice-chairman.

Originally nominated to the Planning Commission by then Board of Supervisors Chairman (and now U.S. Rep.) Gerry Connolly in 2004, Hart was an at-large representative for 16 years, until 2020. During his tenure, he served in various capacities, including parliamentarian, secretary and vice-chairman.

Hart was formerly on the county's Board of Equalization and on the countywide Non-Motorized Trails Committee from 1994-2004. But that's not all. Before that, Hart served 10 years on the West Fairfax County Citizens Association Land-Use Committee, including as its chairman from 1998-2000. He was also president of its umbrella organization, the WFCCA, from 1996-98.

A Virginia Run resident, Hart also previously represented the Virginia Run Community Association, on the Sully District Council. And in 2016, he received a citation of merit from the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

An attorney, he graduated from UVA's School of Law, receiving an undergraduate degree in architecture. He's lived in the county for 40 years and, since 1998, he's been director of the law firm of Hart & Horan PC. in Fairfax City.

"I consider myself very fortunate," said Hart at the podium. "Over the years, I've been allowed to participate in all kinds of things I've never volunteered for. Kate Hanley and Michael Frey asked if I'd go on the BZA; and at some point, Gerry Connolly asked me to join the Planning Commission, too. And for 16 years, I did."

"I heard it all – lots of interesting things," continued Hart. "I learned a lot and chaired the [Commission's] Environment Committee for 13 years. I've appreciated the opportunity to work with so many fine people, including Pete – a monument. The Planning

# LOCAL BANDS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FREEFLOWING MUSIC EXPERIENCE



On stage, it's a colorful site with the Freeflowing Music Experience.

## Tie Dye and Grateful Dead Are Alive Among Local Bands

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

When the Grateful Dead's singer Jerry Garcia died on Aug. 9, 1995, it seemed like the idyllic, tie-dyed culture of Garcia's following might die too, but that's not what happened. The Dead Heads lived on, listening to the Grateful Dead's music and seeing all the tribute band shows they could.

That's still happening today, 28 years later. In June, one of the bands called the "Jerry Tripsters," will be playing at Jammin' Java in for local Grateful Dead fans keeping the spirit alive. "It's the last place that people can let their freak flag fly," said one fan. Alexandria musician John David Coppola went to 54 Grateful Dead shows back in the

SEE LOCAL BANDS, PAGE 11

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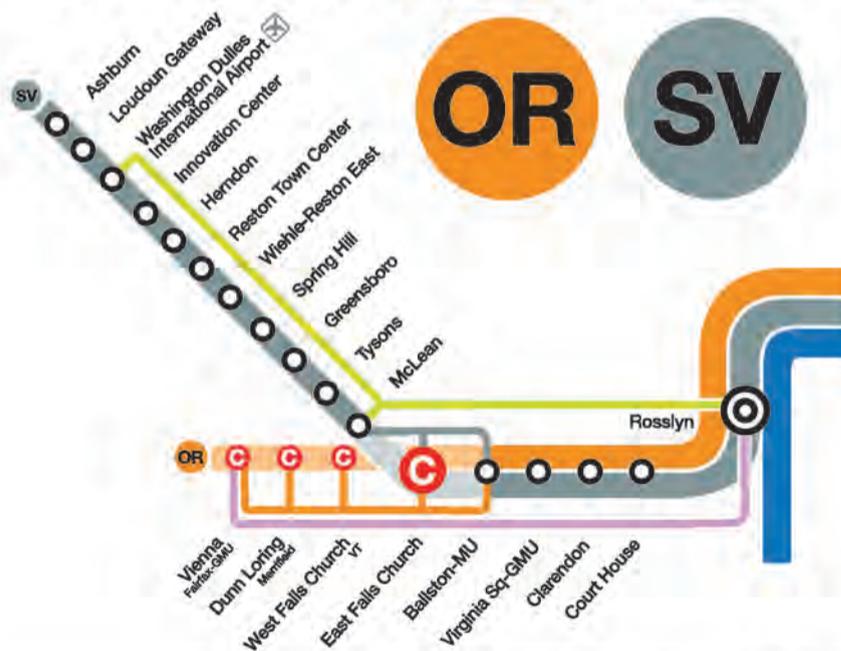
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## What Is Going On with Virginia Taxes?

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS

**F**irst in a series of monthly columns from Del. Vivian Watts

Virginia normally passes a two-year budget and, then, we update it going into the second year. Thus far, even though the second year starts July 1, we've only passed a few technical amendments focused on our rainy day set aside, retirement funds, and federal income tax provisions.

Why the holdup? Essentially, it started last December with a proposed \$1.4 billion-dollar permanent tax cut versus funding K-12 education and the mental health crisis. Resolving the budget has been made significantly more challenging by the federal debt ceiling standoff and efforts to control inflation.

When Gov. Glenn Youngkin proposed his tax cut, state income and sales tax revenues were running

well ahead of what was needed to balance the budget. Ever since then, monthly collections have been falling and, now, the total for the first nine months of this budget year is up just 0.6%.

The good news is that part of the drop in revenue is due to tax cuts we passed last year. Income tax refunds are way up due to increasing the standard deduction and allowing low-income working families to get the federal tax credit. As of April 1, refunds totaling over \$2.5 billion are going back to taxpayers compared to just \$1.1 billion as of April last year.

The month after month fall in state revenues since December has made Virginia Senate and House budget negotiators reluctant to agree to \$1.4 billion permanent tax cuts proposed by the Governor.



Vivian Watts

Added to that downward trend, national speculations about the impact on the economy of an unprecedented refusal to raise the federal debt ceiling are very disturbing. With 30 percent of our workforce dependent on federal spending, resultant job losses will hit Virginia harder than virtually any other state.

Just as our state revenue is affected by federal decisions, local government budgets are affected by Virginia not updating the state budget. This is particularly true for K-12 school funding. The lower the share the state ends up funding, the more pressure on the local real estate tax. In other words, cuts in the state income tax and in the corporate tax – which are taxes based on ability to pay – may well result in higher local real estate taxes.

This isn't good tax policy given real estate taxes are based on the re-sale value of the home – not on the current owner's income.

Even if the federal debt ceiling crisis is resolved, the federal budget negotiations that follow will still leave Virginia revenues in jeopardy given our military and civilian federal workforce and related private sector support. If, by July 1, Virginia budget negotiators nonetheless decide a tax cut is necessary to get a budget passed that increases funding for education and mental health, hopefully, it will be as we did last year: give all taxpayers an equal, one-time rebate. This is far preferable to the House budget that gives a permanent and sizable tax cut of \$1000 and \$1000 to those at the high end. Minimum wage workers will get nothing, most beginning teachers get \$30-\$35, and three-quarters of all other taxpayers get less than \$100.

## Fiscal Cliff Lite

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

**F**or weeks we have been hearing the steady chatter about the fiscal crisis our country confronts as we face going over a fiscal cliff if our members of Congress and the president fail to come to some negotiated agreement on raising the debt ceiling. In the previous presidential term the debt ceiling was raised twice without fanfare as part of the accounting system our nation uses. Current circumstances, with a Democratic president and a Republican controlled House of Representatives, are just too much of an opportunity for political mischief to extract concessions from the administration and/or to make sparring points on a variety of issues—some are unrelated but meant to embarrass the administration. As I am writing this column there are indications that an agreement might be nearing. Once again, with a divided government we have been freed from the horrors of a plunge over the fiscal cliff. My hope in all this is that our most vulnerable citizens will be spared in the final compromise for in the protracted discussions their benefits were the ones most often on the chopping block. Squeezing a few more nickels from the ever-increasing billionaires in this country seemed never to be seriously discussed.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is in a fiscal situation that I hesi-

tate to call a cliff for fear that the term might catch on, and we never hear the end of it. It is somewhat like the federal situation in that the legislative and executive branches are controlled by different political parties with the ensuing gamesmanship that encourages. The two are different in that the federal government is looking to increase its debt ceiling in order to pay its bills, and the Commonwealth is looking for ways to distribute an abundance of cash. Virginia does not face an impending deadline because it is midway in a biennium budget with



Ken Plum

an additional full year already budgeted. The challenge that those who govern Virginia have is what to do with the unbudgeted amount of cash it holds.

The last General Assembly session adjourned with no agreement among the governor, House of Delegates, and State Senate as to how the budget should be modified to reflect the increased revenues the state has been receiving. The economy is much stronger in the state than it was projected to be when the budget was constructed. The state currently has a balanced budget, a

fully funded rainy-day provision, a reserve fund within the budget and a couple of billion dollars of monies unappropriated despite the needs in the state that go unmet.

It is now looking like there will not be a budget reconciliation this year. The government will continue to operate on the previously approved budget. A big consideration in the current political races is how Virginia's budget challenges are to be resolved in the coming session. While I will not be there as I am retiring, I know that strong leaders like Karen Keys-Gamarra who shares my values and possesses strong leadership skills will be able to resolve the budget in the best interest of all citizens.

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# MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2023

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



Griffin Fallon, 5, and mom. Liz Young. Liz says they will be here yearly for the Memorial Day weekend event.



Layla, 5, Elena, 2, and Benjamin, 10 months



Dan and Michell Marcinak of Herndon and their family attend the Memorial Day observance by The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 of Herndon-Reston and the Town of Herndon. Post members distribute the Poppy Flower, a long-time symbol of fallen soldiers, and raise funds for veterans.

## Remembering Those Who Served

FROM PAGE 3

up of small businesses, big businesses, and nonprofits. He estimates crowd attendance at the three-day event at 45,000 people.

"We had 25 different food choices, not counting what Cole Amusements had around the rides. We recorded 315 volunteer shift sign-ups and another 50 shifts where people just stepped up without signing up. That is almost 1000 hours of human capital. We had 24 different acts for entertainment featuring local and regional talent. Virginia Living rated the event #1 in the 'Best of Living and Recreation' in NoVa. Money raised from this event is on track to exceed last year's \$180,000, but by how much, I don't know yet. Proceeds go to local charities and twenty percent to international charities," says Sayce.

### Sunday 9 a.m., May 28, Town of Herndon:

Motorcyclists slowly roar down Elden Street for Jimmy's 26th Anniversary Party and Memorial Day Weekend Bash. They will ride to D.C. together to pay respects at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Following a complimentary breakfast, opening remarks set the day's tone. "Let's start with a moment of silence and not forget what today is all about," says Jimmy Cirrito. "We'll leave Jimmy's and head straight to the Vietnam Memorial."

### Comments: Why are you here this Memorial Day?

❖ "In memory of my grandfather, Andrew Karol, who served in the U.S. Army." - Loving grandson, John Karol

❖ "In memory of my father, Norman Derbyberry, USAF - Loving daughter, Terri Karol

❖ "Honoring all U.S. service members past and present." - Steve Lindwood

❖ "[In memory of] Doug Nelson, Airforce; A. John Oakley, Army; and Charles Raba, Army. -Maureen and Jim Raba, US Navy helicopter pilot, "Seawolves," river patrol in the Mekong Delta

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Guest speaker, Vice Admiral Jeffrey Trussler, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, N2/N6, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations/Director of Naval Intelligence

The rubber hits the road at 10 a.m. as sixty-some motorcycles with approximately 80 riders pass by a U.S. flag held high across Elden Street. The motorcyclists roll through the town two-by-two, cruising toward Great Falls and the George Washington Parkway. They end at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, honoring and remembering the war dead. Later that afternoon, they return to Jimmy's for live music, food and drinks, lasting until the early hours of Monday, Memorial Day.

### Monday morning, May 29, Town of Herndon:

The 10 a.m. Memorial Day Observance by the Town of Herndon and Herndon-Reston American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post # 184 at Chestnut Grove Cemetery is on.

Heavy rains prevent Post members from raising the Avenue of Flags to honor fallen U.S. veterans from Herndon. The 66 casket



David Womack, commander of the Herndon-Reston Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184

flags loaned to Post 184 by the families of veterans will be kept safe and dry until Nov. 11, Veterans Day. According to Christine Cutler, adjutant of Post 184, small parade flags form a mini-Avenue of Flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, and the name signs are posted.

"We, at the post, consider this a very important event in strengthening the community. We have learned from the past that we will do this rain or shine in some form or fashion. And we continue to seek better ways to do that because we value it so highly," says Post Commander David Womack.

Vice Admiral Jeffrey Trussler, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, N2/N6, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations/Director of Naval Intelligence, will deliver the keynote address. His message: "How appropriate it is that we have ceremonies like this. They are a part of small towns and small communities because that's where the people who died in the service of our country came from."

Trussler explains how people were re-



Reston: At the North Shore Recreation Area, Linda Vallejo and her grandpa, Daniel Coello, share the porch swing.

moved from war in the 1990s and the War on Terror. For those who had experienced previous wars, it hit close to home. World War II ravaged the economy. It shattered the national way of life. That no longer takes place. "We don't even raise taxes at all, even just to fund a war," Trussler said.

Trussler said: "In World War I, one in 300 servicemen died; in World War II, one in every thousand servicemen died. In Korea and Vietnam, it was about 1 in 4000."

Trussler adds, "If you go to any small town in America, they have a small plaque; they have a small statue from those early wars, World War I and World War II, that lists the names because they knew them. ... Somebody in that town knew them, and those plaques and those memorials still exist. It's appropriate we remember those people," Trussler adds.

Dan and Michell Marcinak, of Herndon, are in the crowd with five of their eight children. "The children wanted to be here," says Dan. "They understand its meaning, and it is a tradition."

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# Honoring Long Hours and Late Nights

FROM PAGE 4

Commission started in 1938, and to its current members I say, 'Do your job, ask questions and vet proposals. Don't take anything for granted and, hopefully, the county will be a better place.'"

## Pete Murphy

As for Murphy, McKay called him "an institution – a true public servant who always puts the interests of the community first. On behalf of the 1.2 million [county] residents, we salute you."

Then Niedzielski-Eichner read Murphy's biography and achievements.

A Boston College graduate, he received an Army commission through the Reserve Officers Training program and worked in public relations and communications as a civilian. In December 1982 – more than 40 years ago – the Supervisors appointed Murphy as Springfield District representative to the Planning Commission.

"After serving two terms as vice-chair and three terms as secretary, he was elected chairman in 1989 – and served in that capacity for an astonishing 33 years," said Niedzielski-Eichner. "During that time, he's served on and led a multitude of Planning Commission committees and served on various task forces."

On the Celebrate Fairfax Board of Directors for many years, Murphy helped organize that event and several others. He's a member of the Old Guard Monument Campaign Leadership Council; and in 2010, he was selected to serve on the Department of Defense's 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission.

He's received a slew of awards and honors over the years, including the Department of the Army Commanders Award for Public Service, the Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award, the Distinguished Public Service Leadership award presented by the Springfield District Council, the Fairfax County Volunteer of the Year award in the "Community Leader" category, and an award from the county's Department of Planning and Zoning.

Murphy was also given the Army Ten-Miler Leadership Award and the James Scott Public Community Spirit Award from Celebrate Fairfax. And he was named honorary chief of the Burke Fire and Rescue Station. Yet there's more.

He was named the Springfield District's Lord Fairfax and received the Celebrate Fairfax Ambassador award, presented to those who've dedicated themselves to that event's success, served extended periods of time and significantly improved the organization



Jim Hart



Pete Murphy

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Bryan Hill



From left are Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Pete Murphy, Pat Herryty, Jeff McKay and Dan Helmer.

**"[Murphy] played a critical role in transforming the county from a sleepy, bedroom community to the economic powerhouse it is today."**

— Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield District)

and event. And on May 7, the county Federation of Citizens Assns. gave him an award of special gratitude.

Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) also spoke at the luncheon. Saying Murphy couldn't have done all these things without his family's support, Herryty had the attend-

ees applaud Murphy's wife Charlene and daughter Cherilyn. And, he added, "You can't go to a Burke Volunteer Fire Department dinner without having one or more of the three Murphys recognized for something, so thank you for all your service to the community, as well."

During Murphy's time as Planning Commission chairman, said Herryty, "He's played a critical role in transforming the county from a sleepy, bedroom community to the economic powerhouse it is today. He's been [instrumental] in forming land-use policies in Fairfax County, and his steady leadership is one of the elements that's enabled the county's development success."

Addressing Murphy directly, Herryty said, "I'm proud to call you my friend – you represent the best of Fairfax County. The Supervisors [previously] recognized your service, and today you've earned the Springfield District challenge coin."

Next, Del. Dan Helmer (D-40th) presented Murphy with a gavel and a proclamation from the Virginia General Assembly in his honor. Then Murphy, himself, took the podium, acknowledging everyone present and thanking his wife and daughter for all their "years of service," making his accomplishments possible. He also stressed that crucial to his success were "the great people I worked with."

"We've had differences on the Planning Commission, but they've been professional ones," he said. "We've worked together as a team, even though we don't agree all the time – so it's like a family." Murphy said the county's changed over the years, but reminded his colleagues that "Citizens and their testimony [on land-use cases coming before the county] are important."

Regarding the luncheon, Murphy said, "It was overwhelming, and I felt proud, to hear over 100 people signed up for it. Knowing that former and current commissioners and all the people on the different staffs, in different areas of the county, responded to this event made me feel really good, and I thank you all very much for this wonderful honor."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## JUNE 1-4

**Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale.** At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Thursday, 1 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 2 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 3 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 4 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.

## JUNE 1-4

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Thousands of like-new books to choose from. Thursday, June 1st, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday, June 2nd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, June 3rd, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Contact Friends of Richard Byrd Library at rbfriends@gmail.com

## JUNE 1-4

**Herndon Festival.** At Northwest Federal Credit Union, 200 Spring Street, Herndon. It will include musical entertainment, a carnival, and business vendors. Kicking off the Herndon Festival on Thursday, June 1 will be Herndon's own Pool Boys. Headlining Thursday night will be Uncle Jesse, taking festival goers back to the 90's and 2000's, covering hits from Avril Lavigne, Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, Smash Mouth, and more! On Friday, June 2, Pablo Perez "El Alcalde de la Salsa" will have the crowd dancing and ready to open for headliner The Chuck Brown Band. On Saturday, festival attendees can enjoy the legacy of



The Herndon Festival takes place June 1-4, 2023 in Herndon.

Louisiana's vibrant music tradition with headliner Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. & the Legendary ILS Sont Partis Band. The Creole cousin of jazz, Zydeco will have everyone up and dancing. Saturday will also feature acts, such as Northern Virginia's very own Carribean band Tobago Bay, Latin tropical music from Pablo Antonio y La Firma, and more. Closing out the weekend on Sunday, June 4, is Festival headliner David Cook. David was launched into stardom following his American Idol Season Seven win and has broken several Billboard chart records. Opening for David Cook will be Broke Royals, known for their sing-along, arena-ready sound. Visit [www.herndonfestival.net](http://www.herndonfestival.net).

## THURSDAYS, JUNE 1 - AUG. 31

**Take a Break Concert,** 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. At Reston Station, Reston. Beginning with Don't Back Down, a Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers tribute band, the Take a Break concerts fill the plaza atop the Wieh-

le-Reston East Metro station. Other performers include Texas Chainsaw Horns, Loudoun Jazz Ensemble, Scott Kurt and Memphis 59.

## FRIDAYS, MAY 26 TO OCT. 13

**Darden Purcell and Friends.** 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. At Reston Town Square Park, Reston. Jazz vocalist and series curator Darden Purcell brings her group to open the summer series of "Darden & Friends" in Reston Town Square Park. This concert will feature exciting new arrangements of Great American Songbook repertoire and jazz standards.

## JUNE 2 - SEPTEMBER 1

**Fab Fridays.** 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. At Reston Station, Reston. Kick off the weekend with Fab Fridays featuring the U.S. Army Blues Big Band, festive rhythms from Dogo from Togo, merengue with Latin pop band Ocho de Bastos and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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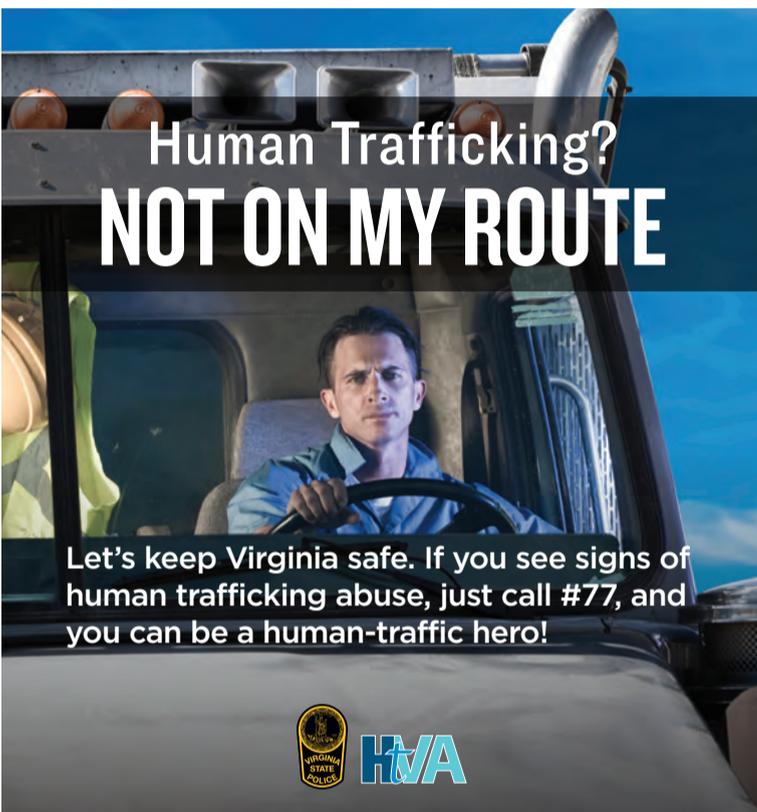
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**Senior Living**, fourth week of every month.

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### CALENDAR

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9



**Paws on the Plaza will take place Saturday, June 3, 2023 at Tysons Corner Center.**

many more. See the full concert schedule here: RCC Fab Friday Concerts. Three hours of free parking are available in the ParkX garage with validation. Concerts are presented by RCC in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc., and are hosted by Reston Station.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 Paws on The Plaza.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At The Plaza at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. Pups are invited to roam the dog park with obstacles and splash pads, while adults are invited to enjoy the Beer Garden, visit local vendors, including Woofbowl + Woofie's of McLean or take part in other activations, like a pet friendly photobooth and free caricatures of your pet.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 Onstage: Josanne Francis.** 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. D.C.-based award-winning artist, composer and educator Josanne Francis began playing steelpan at age 9 in her native Trinidad & Tobago. She delivers unmatched technical mastery and an energetic and emotional complexity that enchants listeners across the world. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/josanne-francis>

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 Inova Saville Cancer Screening and Health Fair.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Inova Schar Cancer Institute, 8081 Innovation Park Drive, Fairfax. The free community event is open to all and will provide valuable information to anyone interested in learning more about their own risk factors for developing cancer, or for those who have questions about cancer screening and prevention. Complimentary on-site and take-home cancer screenings will be provided, as well as interactive, educational exhibits about cancer prevention and genetic research at Inova. In addition to the screenings and educational programs, attendees can enjoy local food trucks, family activities, sport and exercise sessions, and art therapy.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 Pickleball Tournament.** 9 a.m. Weichert, Realtors' Burke/Fairfax Station Office to host Amateur Pickleball Tournament to benefit charity. At Rolling Valley West Park on Sydenstricker Road, next to Pohick Regional Library. Players of all skill levels are invited to participate. The festivities will continue until late afternoon, depending upon the number of teams and games played. In addition to pickleball, there will be a variety of activities for the whole family, plus refreshments and raffles. To compete in the tournament, please visit the Weichert Burke/Fairfax station website to register. Each \$30 registration fee includes a tournament hat, and all proceeds go to the winning team's charity of choice. Call 703-569-7870.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 Gardens of Note.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Presented by the Reston Chorale in partnership with the Reston Garden Club and Hidden Lane Residential Landscapes. Enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of five beautiful, private Reston Gardens, open to the public for one day only. Cost is \$20 in advance; \$25 on tour day. Tickets are available online at [RestonChorale.org](http://RestonChorale.org).

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 AutoWorks Festival.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. There is a \$30 car registration for individuals who would like to participate by showcasing their classic cars. Car enthusiasts can attend the AutoWorks Festive for free, browse at their leisure while listening to live music, and vote for their favorites in the following car categories: Antique (pre-1960), American Classic (1950+); Import Classic (1950+); Sportscar; Muscle Car; Truck/SUV/Wagon; Unrestored & Well Preserved; Diamond in the Rough; Hot Rod & Custom; and Modern Marvels. Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/auto-works-festival>.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 3 SYA (Southwestern Youth Association)** is celebrating 50 years in youth sports! June 3rd from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. will be the big 50th anniversary party at SYA Sports Park. If you have been a part of SYA in the past 50 years... you are invited. There will be sports demos, giveaways, local celebrities, food and drinks. Visit <https://www.syasports.org/e-newsletter>

**SUNDAY/JUNE 4 An Irish-American Concert.** 4:30 p.m. At Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale. Presented by the Focal Arts Ensemble. With special guests Cool McFinn, a Celtic music combo, and dancers from the O'Neill James School of Irish Dance. Tickets \$30; students \$15.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 4 Book Drive and Concert.** 4:30 p.m. At Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale. VAE will be working with Food for Others for this concert to support their Books Are Food for Your Brain program, which works to improve literacy for low-income children in Northern Virginia. Please consider bringing new/gently used children's books including board books, picture books, easy readers, and chapter books through 5th grade level. Dictionaries and bilingual books (especially Spanish) are welcome. Religious books cannot be accepted. A donation box will be set up in the lobby prior to the concert.

# ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FREEFLOWING MUSIC EXPERIENCE



Grateful Dead songs dominate the show.



The Freeflowing Music Experience plays originals too, and could be making an album soon

## Tie Dye and Grateful Dead Are Alive Among Local Bands

FROM PAGE 5

1980s and now his band Freeflowing Music Experience, rocks to Grateful Dead music as well as some of their own originals. Around Northern Virginia, they've played at the Birchmere, the State Theater, Earp's Ordinary and Jammin' Java.

Grateful Dead songs "are our common theme," said. "We're all Dead Heads," he said, and the other band members have been to at least 50 shows back in the day, and maybe more. Although there are staple Grateful Dead songs on the play list, like "Truckin'," "Sugar Magnolia," and "Bertha," that may be old favorites around the circuit but some of the young listeners are hearing these songs for the first time. "It still seems to be pretty popular," Coppola said.

Jerry Tripsters and the Freeflowing Music Experience are among a handful of Grateful Dead-themed bands that play around town and they bring out a big crowd due to the popularity of the Grateful Dead's music and the spirit of a live show. "There is something special about the Grateful Dead music performed live that attracts old 'dead heads' and younger fans," said Luke Brindley at Jammin' Java. It's not only the older crowd either, the twentysomethings like the music and the party, he added.

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The Freeflowing Music Experience consists of John David Coppola, left, Scott Fallon and Gregg Park.

Coppola remembered going to a show for the first time years ago, and the crowd was into it, there are tie dyes everywhere and dancing in the aisles. "That was my favorite part, it was like a carnival," Coppola said.

Want to experience the scene yourself? In addition to the Jerry Tripsters and the Freeflowing Music Experience shows on June 16, there is a "Grateful Dead Meet Up at the Movies," event in June as well, showing a film of the Grateful Dead in Chicago on June 22, 1991. There will be a showing of this documentary June 22, 2023, at AMC Tysons Corner, the Angelika Mosaic and the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Crystal City. Go to meetupatthemovies.com for more information.

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

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 results of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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

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## In-Laws or In Trouble



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm quite aware, as a longtime married man, that when one refers to in-laws, he or she is referring to the parents of their spouse. However, what does one refer to the parents of your nephew's wife? They're his in-laws, not mine, right? Regardless of what we call them, they're flying in from Kansas next week to sight-see in the nation's capital and we've been asked by our nephew to offer a helping hand. Though they're not staying at our house, they are nonetheless local and our guests, sort of, so we will be, as my friend Sean says: "pulling duty." Since Dina and I are both retired, as Curly of The Three Stooges said: "It shouldn't be a total loss."

Exactly how much time we'll be spending together is unknown. And neither are we aware of their expectations/interests/commitments, et cetera. What is known is that we are picking them up at Reagan National Airport Saturday night and driving them to their hotel in Old Town. (When they texted us about how they far/how to get to their hotel, we offered to pick them up. No problem.) After we confirmed that we'd be happy to pick them up and take them to their hotel, I was going to joke in our text back to them that we're less expensive than Uber. I decided to ask my wife, Dina if texting this text attempt at disarming humor was OKAY? She said, "Absolutely not! Sometimes humor doesn't come across in a text." And since I value our marriage, I omitted my joke.

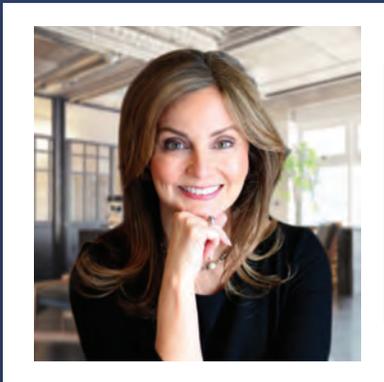
Now we've only met these quasi-in-laws once, at our nephew's wedding to their daughter some 10 years ago or so and have never communicated/exchanged any information about the other (no phone numbers, no emails, no landline; nothing. We couldn't get a hold of them if our lives depended on it). And though the reception was outside at their home - in a comfortable and welcoming environment, I can't say Dina or I spent much one-on-one time with either of them. Nor would we have remembered their first names, or last name even for that matter until our nephew reminded us - in advance. Furthermore, we're not sure if we'll even recognize them at the airport and "tour-guide" them around Washington, D.C. We're definitely off to a good start, I would say. Still, I'm going to keep my powder dry until I see the whites of their eyes - and to quote my late father: "the cut of their jib."

I imagine we'll get through the week relatively unscathed. As multi-decade "DVM-ers," having the opportunity to revisit the spectacular sites and Memorials in Washington, DC is worth any awkwardness that may ensue.

Certainly, we won't be discussing politics (they're from a red state in the Midwest) or religion/abortion (since they're regular church goers), so I won't be taking the name of the Lord in vain. And there won't be any swearing - on our part. We will try to seek some common ground and navigate the terrain - literally and figuratively, as carefully and respectfully as possible. Come to think of it, they may even be younger than we are, but we don't know that either (add it to the list of things we don't know).

All we have in common is the simple fact that our nephew married their daughter. Beyond that we're clueless. On balance I would say however, that Dina and I are sort of looking forward to the week. We'll have to play the arrangements and mutual commitments by ear, so to speak, knowing as little as we do about them. And even though I'm a good listener and not a know-it-all control freak, the challenge will be integrating their expectations about Washington DC/the visit with our reality/availability and personalities. I have no doubt we'll get through the presumptive ordeal as we've experienced family members. Nevertheless, I must admit to being a bit anxious concerning our total lack of knowledge about who they are - really, and especially about the lack of any details about their reasons for coming to Washington, DC. And our exact role in any of it. Though we know visiting Washington, DC has world-wide appeal and is one of the great tourist destinations, we can't help but be curious about why now, why them? Their daughter, along with my nephew and their children visited us for July 4th holiday in 2022, perhaps that gave us a solid recommendation. If so, additional pressure may be on. Wish us well. We may need it.

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



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