

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

Gardens that Mean More than Community

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Welcome

Anna Ford, of Lorton, shared she started gardening at Franconia Park to bring her family together during the COVID-19 outbreak, later finding they all enjoyed the experience of watching plants grow. She's moving plants she had already started for Fall to Laurel Hill to be just three minutes from home; extra work she says is worth it to be closer.

Tragic Crash on Burke Centre Parkway

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Help Britepaths Help With Back-to-School

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Director of Police Review Panel to Resign



Steven Richardson

Steven Richardson, executive director of the Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel for slightly less than 18 months, will resign voluntarily on Aug. 1, 2023, a county spokesperson confirmed on Monday, July 24. No reason for Richardson departure was given.

"I am extremely disappointed to learn of Steven Richardson's resignation. Steven has been a very strong advocate and champion for transparency in the work of the panel, and relentless as it relates to community engagement," said Dr. Vernon C. Walton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Vienna. "While I am not aware of all the day-to-day operations, I am extremely concerned about the narrative around the reason for the abrupt resignation and whether or not it was voluntary."

Walton serves on the Fairfax County Police Reform Matrix Working Group. He and nine other members presented a proposed action plan on May 12, 2023, to Rodney Lusk, chair of the Safety and Security Committee of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The plan was titled "Community Recommendations for More Equitable Policing in Fairfax County."

The Board of Supervisors appointed Richardson effective Feb. 28, 2022. He previously served as operations captain for the George Washington University Police Department and also served as criminal magistrate for North Carolina's Judicial District 26; project manager and courts and corrections senior advisor for the Cook County, Illinois Sheriff's Office.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will not designate an interim director. The panel's work will be continued under the coordination of the Chairman of the Panel, the remaining panel staff members, and the help of the Office of the Independent Police Auditor, the county spokesperson said. The panel will continue to function normally and have access to all information to avoid delays in reviewing investigations.

According to Walton, the panel's effectiveness will largely be determined not by its executive director, whoever it is, but by its ability to function with full independent investigative authority, which the Board of Supervisors must authorize. The state statute now permits the panel to have independent investigative authority, but did not at the time the panel was formed.

"If Fairfax County wants to remain in the forefront, this must be done immediately. A framework has been provided by the Police Reform Matrix Committee established by Supervisor Lusk," said Walton.

"Steps have already been taken to ensure a seamless transition until a review of the position is completed and the Board of Supervisors determines the next steps," the spokesperson said.

The nine-member panel reviews completed Police Department investigations into complaints alleging abuse of authority or serious misconduct.

The matrix working group recommends expanding the panel's authority:

"Effective July 1, 2021, the Virginia General Assembly gave localities the authority to substantially increase civilian oversight. Other Virginia jurisdictions of Arlington, Alexandria, Richmond and Virginia Beach have passed ordinances providing expanded authority, as have many large urban jurisdictions nationally. The State of Maryland enacted a law similar to Virginia's, but made oversight boards mandatory.

"As such, the MWG is recommending a two-pronged approach that grants some expanded authority immediately, while also directing the CRP [Civilian Review Panel] and the IPA [Independent Police Auditor] to draft a coordinated plan for implementing full expanded authority by a certain date."

Richardson could not be reached for comment.

For more on the Police Civilian Review Panel, see <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/>

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The new Hallmark store in Kingstowne celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting on Friday, July 21. The ribbon was cut by store manager Donna Najibi and assistant store manager Heather Grizzle. This Hallmark Gold Crown store specializes in greeting cards, gift wrap, ornaments and special gifts for all occasions with friendly and knowledgeable sales people. The store is located at 5840 Kingstowne Center.

NEWS

Burke Centre Parkway is Once Again Site of Fatal Crash

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Burke Centre Parkway is a wide-open road with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour, dotted with shopping areas and neighborhood access streets. It was this combination that led to a fatal crash on July 17 that left one person dead and three hospitalized with serious injuries.

According to the Fairfax County Police Department, officers from the West Springfield Police District responded to the crash at 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17 in the 5700 block of Burke Centre Parkway in Burke. Preliminarily, detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit determined the driver of a 2014 Cadillac XTS4, an adult man, was traveling westbound on Burke Centre Parkway. The teenage driver of a 2023 Kia Forte was attempting to exit a parking lot onto Burke Centre Parkway when the Kia Forte was struck by the driver of the Cadillac.

The teenage driver of the 2023 Kia Forte, reportedly Rebekah Alexis Zarco, was declared deceased at the scene. Three juvenile passengers in the Kia Forte were taken to the hospital with injuries considered to be life-threatening and remain hospitalized. The driver of the Cadillac was transported to the hospital with injuries not believed to be life-threatening.

"Detectives do believe that speed was likely a factor in the crash," said Lt. James Curry who was on the scene following the crash. Detectives continue to investigate the circumstances that led to the crash and determine appropriate charges.

To the businesses along Burke Centre Parkway the sounds of screeching wheels



In the days following the fatal crash, there were over 30 bouquets of flowers, a few candles, stuffed bears, unicorns and balloons to honor the victims.

In Loving Memory of Rebekah Alexis Zarco



Go Fund Me efforts have started for the crash fatality Rebekah Alexis Zarco.

and crashes are no stranger.

"We hear it a lot, lots of skidding, crashes," said one employee of the paint store nearby.

"Sometimes it's tricky to pull out," said a shopper.

The crash spot is close to the Chick-fil-A that is frequently crowded and has a popular drive-in window. One driver from Lorton that frequents the area thinks another traffic light might be in order here.

"Hopefully they'll put a light there," she said.

A petition has been started to get a traffic signal installed at that intersection on Burke Centre Parkway. Organizers cited that "Adding a traffic light will serve justice for Rebekah and the injured, as well as create a safer road environment and prevent another devastation in our community."

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



On this bear was a message: "Never underestimate the difference you made and the lives you touched."

Traffic Management

According to the police, this is the 8th non-pedestrian-related fatal crash in the County to date in 2023. Year to date, in 2022 there were 8 non-pedestrian-related fatal crashes.

Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Brad-dock) addressed the speeding which appeared to be a factor. "This tragedy should serve as a reminder to all of us that speeding and aggressive driving have disastrous consequences," he wrote in his periodic newsletter. According to Walkinshaw, FCPD will be conducting a high visibility enforcement and education initiative on Burke Centre Parkway in late July. This initiative will include pole mounted speed cameras and an emphasis on educating drivers about the consequences of speeding and aggressive driving.

'It's Important that this City Continues to Grow'

Fairfax City Council greenlights City Centre West project.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

One of the gateways to Fairfax City is getting a major upgrade: Get ready for City Centre West. Arising at 10501 Main St., between Judicial Drive and West Street, will be an eight-story building with 210,029 square feet of residential, office and commercial uses.

A project of Ox Hill Realty, it'll replace a former bank, an old office building and a burned-out restaurant that's long been an eyesore. Following a public hearing and discussion, Fairfax City Council approved it during its July 11 meeting.

"We began this project nearly five years ago, and it's truly a mix of uses," said attorney Bob Brant, representing the applicant. "We designed a building that Fairfax can be proud of and will be a landmark for the City. And we expect it to bring in \$1.4 million to \$1.9 million to Fairfax City in annual tax revenue."

Situated on 1.78 acres, City Centre West will feature 79, for-sale luxury condominiums and penthouses with amenities and a rooftop pool, 8,500 square feet of medical offices and 28,200 square feet of commercial-office space. There'll also be a drive-through bank, ground-floor retail, a restaurant and a .31-acre pocket park/plaza.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE PARROTTA

SEE CENTRE WEST PROJECT, PAGE 11

Artist's rendition of the City Centre West condo building.

COMMUNITY

Giving Local Students the Tools for Success

Britepaths seeks donations for backpacks and school supplies.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's tough being a poor kid in Fairfax County – and it's even worse if your classmates find out about your situation because you come to school without the necessary supplies your teacher requested. Luckily, though, that's where Britepaths comes in.

The Fairfax-based nonprofit is providing school supplies and backpacks to 2,500 area students through its Back-to-School Program, but it needs the community's support to help with its efforts. And when it comes right down to it, the students who'll benefit are everyone's neighbors.

"It is incredible to think about the fact that Fairfax County is one of the five wealthiest counties in the country – and yet, one in 14 children in our community lives in poverty," said Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "The families of students at our partner schools are having trouble paying rent and putting food on the table. So for them, the prospect of finding funds to purchase school supplies is stressful."

In the Fairfax High School Pyramid alone, backpacks and school supplies will be given to students attending Daniels Run, Providence, Eagle View and Willow Springs elementaries, plus Fairfax High, as well as Fairfax Adult High School. This goal can be accomplished via donations from local individuals, businesses, groups and organizations to Britepaths' Back to School Program through Aug. 31.

Via a partnership with Herndon-based Campus Survival Kits, Britepaths is able to



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABRA KURT

Jim McKay Chevrolet in Fairfax City is sponsoring students in need at Willow Springs Elementary. Celebrating this Britepaths/McKay partnership are (from left) Britepaths Community Development Manager Harper Garcia and Programs Manager Brenda Hernandez, Jim McKay Chevrolet President Kathy McKay and Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel.

maximize cash contributions to purchase all the necessary supplies, plus new high-quality backpacks, at a steep discount. Each donation of \$25 will provide supplies and a backpack for one student. Organizations may also choose to sponsor or co-sponsor all students at a specific, Britepaths' partner school in the Fairfax High Pyramid.

People may donate funds or register to sponsor a school at Britepaths' secure online donation page: <https://britepathsbt23.givesmart.com>. Or they may

send checks payable to Britepaths to 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Write "BTS23" on the memo line. For more information, call 703-273-8829 or email events@britepaths.org.

Already, some organizations have risen to the challenge and are lending a hand. Whetzel said Britepaths is grateful to PenFed Credit Union for sponsoring students at Daniels Run, Jim McKay Chevrolet for sponsoring Willow Springs students, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax

for co-sponsoring students at Bailey's Upper Elementary. She also praised the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia/Avalon Charitable Fund for providing a generous grant to support the program.

"Community members who sponsor students in our Back-to-School campaign are doing so much more than providing supplies and backpacks," said Whetzel. "They're helping young people whose lives can be stressful when school begins and giving them the confidence, dignity and tools that they need to succeed."

And the business donors who are already stepping up are happy to do so.

"Our personal connections to Willow Springs Elementary School and knowledge of the work that Britepaths does made it an easy decision to become a sponsor for Britepaths' Back to School program," explained Kathy McKay, president of Jim McKay Chevrolet. "We hope the community will join us in supporting this effort to ensure that students are ready to learn at the start of the school year."

40 Years

In 2024, Britepaths will celebrate 40 years of providing help, hope and a path forward for Fairfax County and Northern Virginia residents experiencing a financial crisis. In FY 2023, the organization served 7,999 households, impacting the lives of 11,555 people.

Throughout the year, Britepaths relies on funding and volunteer support from businesses, individuals, local organizations and faith communities to provide services that stabilize families via supplemental food and financial assistance, workforce development coaching and IT training, financial education and other programs. Visit britepaths.org.

A Small Patch of Dirt Can Yield Big Growth

Growing fresh vegetables can boost community health.

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

I was incredibly pleased to open our new Laurel Hill Community Gardens in Lorton last week. Not only do community gardens give residents without much yard space the opportunity to grow their own fresh food, but they often help us address health and food insecurity. "Give a man a vegetable, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to grow vegetables, and you feed him for a lifetime." OK, the saying is fish, but you get the idea. Small garden plots in urban areas can provide volumes of fresh food, including in areas considered food deserts.

The Laurel Hill Community Gardens has two dedicated plots to provide food for the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). Food pantries most often request non-perishable food items, as fresh foods are much harder to manage, but we all know that fresh fruits and vegetables are vital to our health and well-being. Managing their own gardens will allow LCAC to grow their own fresh produce, as well as teach their recipients about growing their own food and cooking fresh veggies! To see where Fairfax County Park Authority Community Gardens are and to sign up for a plot today, visit: www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/green-spring/plots.

Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food &

Agriculture (www.arcadiafood.org), which we featured in as a Community Champion in my April Updates e-newsletter a few months ago, takes all of these needs into consideration in our community. Through environmentally and economically sustainable farming practices, Arcadia is dedicated to creating a more equitable and sustainable local food system in the Washington, DC area, and is located right in Mount Vernon. Through school field trips and volunteer days, Arcadia is educating students and adults about healthy eating and growing practices. Arcadia is also training new farmers through their Veteran Farmer Program. This multilayered, hands-on educational

program capitalizes on the growing market in local, sustainably grown foods; and encourages entrepreneurship and job creation.

Arcadia is also committed to increasing access to healthy, farm-fresh food in underserved neighborhoods. A majority of the vegetables grown at the Farm are for Arcadia's Mobile Market, which provides affordable food to low income, low food access communities by taking it directly to them.

My office continues to work to bring more opportunities like this to our neighborhoods through additional community gardens in schools, community centers and parks.

SEE PHOTOS ON PAGES G-7

County Considers Dropping Vacuum Leaf Collection Service

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County wants customer feedback on permanently ending its vacuum leaf service after the upcoming winter. A public input survey ends on Aug. 18, and the Board of Supervisors will decide this fall.

Fairfax County's Public Works and Environmental Services vacuums leaves for 25,000 customers. County trash collection is fee-based, but a property tax funds the vacuum leaf service. The 2023-2024 vacuum season will occur as scheduled since residents were billed in January 2023.

The 2022-2023 leaf collection season experienced delays, staffing shortages, increased leaf volume, and unfavorable weather. County staff recommends ending vacuum leaf service with the tax after the 2023-2024 season. The County's inability to provide reliable vacuum service and customers' safety concerns when leaves are at the curb or street for collection led to the recommendation to end the service.

Customers worry about blocked storm drains flooding, pedestrian-vehicle collisions when forced to walk around the leaves, fire hazards when vehicles park on leaves, falls from slippery leaves, and reduced street parking.

Due to additional contractors, County employee overtime, and temporary contractor support workers, vacuuming leaves costs the County more. It is expect-



PHOTO VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY

Vac crew removes leaves raked to curb in Fairfax County.

ed to run a \$900,000 deficit in 2023 and a \$400,000 deficit in 2024. The service also violates the County's waste and greenhouse gas reduction policies.

A survey for customer feedback can be accessed at: <https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/leaf-collection>. Input can also be left via voicemail at 703-890-5898, Project Code: 2159.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VIRGINIANS MAY NOW INDICATE THEIR BLOOD TYPE ON THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID

Virginians may now choose to indicate their blood type to include on their driver's license to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. Virginians have the option to indicate their blood type when they renew or replace their driver's license or ID at dmv.virginia.gov or in-person at any Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) customer service center. Customers who are applying for a license or ID for the first time must visit a customer service center in person.

If you renew or replace your credential online, you will be prompted with a question whether you'd like to indicate blood type during the transaction.

Choosing to have your blood type displayed on your license or ID is optional. The blood type will be displayed in a small icon on the front of your license or ID.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

CONNECTION

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Laurel Hill Gardens Cut the Ribbon and the Middleman

Garden plots hold promise of food for the table.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

The prospects of enjoying garden fresh vegetables got closer for 19 gardeners, and possibly many more families, as Laurel Hill Community Garden Plots held its official ribbon-cutting on July 19. Newly released from its construction hold, the plots are now rented to fortunate would-be gardeners who jumped on the waiting list early. Some eager gardeners have already planted their new beds.

Each of the 19 plots at Laurel Hill includes a 20-by-30 foot fenced area with three raised, four-by-twelve foot soil-filled beds, access to two water hydrants, and a stone dust surface, and available parking. Many of these features are not available at earlier county plot sites. Park Authority manager Laura Grape notes the intentional focus at Laurel Hill provides features for accessibility including the hard-packed surface, wide aisles and doorways through fencing, and installation of raised beds as opposed to in-ground planting. The new design was a collaboration with Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Virginia Master Gardeners will assist new gardeners, as requested, with suggestions for best growing practices.

Community garden plots are popular in Fairfax County. Rented on an annual basis,



Supervisor Dan Storck (center), Park Authority executive director Jai Cole, and Park Authority board member Linwood Gorham, join county project staff and gardeners to officially open the Laurel Hill Community Gardens

with first right of refusal to current renters, the county now rents 721 plots located in parks, explained Park Authority director Jai Cole. There is a waiting list of over 700 would-be renters county-wide. Patricia Dietly, the county's garden plot coordinator based at Green Spring Gardens Park, works to match those on waiting lists with any plots that open as gardeners move out or shift to new locations. Opening of the new

Laurel Hill site in Lorton added 19 plots, and attracted what is now a waiting list of 75 people hoping for a future opening at Laurel Hill. Current plot renters at other parks, who live nearer to the new Lorton plots, were given the opportunity to move if they wanted to do so. Anna Ford, who rented a plot at Franconia Park for three years, but lives just three minutes from the new beds, is one who is making the switch. Ross Pan-

neton would have had an even faster commute from home to the garden since he once lived in the house across the street. Health issues prompted downsizing and his move to nearby Liberty Crest, but he will still be just minutes away from his plot.

Alberta Williams, of the Spring Hill community, is another gardener who started three years ago at the Franconia Park gardens. With her knowledge of crops from her



Raised beds in place just after construction in June lack that green look.

farm-reared childhood and love of being outside, she is now looking forward to growing her favorites, collards and kale, closer to home. Proximity allows more time to devote to the weeding and watering important to successful gardening.

The Laurel Hill plots project cost of \$202,465 was funded mainly using Stormwater Management Penalty Funds. Park Authority spokesperson Benjamin Boxer explains, "Through Land and Development Services enforcement efforts, property owners are sometimes found to be in violation of the law as they have committed some land disturbance violation. ... Permits are required for clearing, grading, excavating, filling, or paving areas of more than 2,500 square feet. If a property owner is found in violation of County Code for a violation of these requirements, then qualifying



The same beds in July show the promise of vegetable crops to come, although July is late for warm weather plantings

property owners may be offered the opportunity to pay a consent charge into a central fund in lieu of going through a court process. The funds paid into this account are used for small environmental projects and for awareness and education initiatives."

Lorton Community Action Center Executive Director, Rob Rutledge, hopes the money spent to construct the gardens provides new opportunities for fresh food donations to the Center's nearby food pantry. The Center relies on donations and fresh healthy foods are especially important. Additionally, the Center has been sponsored for two garden plots to add to the bounty that donors can drop at the Center located at 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. For drop off and distribution hours, see <https://lortonaction.org/donate-food/>

VIEWPOINTS



Anna Ford, of Lorton, shared she started gardening at Franconia Park to bring her family together during the COVID-19 outbreak, later finding they all enjoyed the experience of watching plants grow. She's moving plants she had already started for Fall to Laurel Hill to be just three minutes from home; extra work she says is worth it to be closer.

Why are you gardening at Laurel Hill Community Gardens?

QUESTION AND PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION



Dave Correll, of Lorton, was restricted to a small two-container garden at his home, and says he looks forward to the opportunity to grow more and larger plants. He has eggplants, cucumbers and more planted on his plot.



Dora Lockwood, of Fairfax Station, waited on the list for several years for a garden and took the first site offered. A Virginia Master Gardener, she is looking forward to having more space than the small square that is sunlit at her home.



Ross Panetton of Lorton looks forward to "getting my hands in the dirt again." His impressive deer resistant cages, built before moving to the community garden's fenced plots, are supporting his tomatoes, with peppers and squash also planted.



Community leader Wes Spears, who spearheaded action to realize the garden plots and is sponsoring two plots dedicated to the Lorton Community Action Center, examines ripening cherry tomatoes with the Center's executive director Rob Rutledge.



First time gardener Denise Platon of Lorton was looking for an activity for her kids who love to be outside. She says so far there have been no complaints from them about the heat or being without computer tablets or video games; they love gardening.

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Tennis Instructor Makes a Mark Over 40 Years

Retired submarine designer Gordon Lee sees the value of tennis instruction in Burke.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

Tennis is a way of life in one Burke neighborhood where the children's tennis lessons turned into a tennis family led by Gordon Lee on the courts in the Old Keene Mill Swim and Racquet Club. Lee recently celebrated his 40th year teaching tennis at the facility when he could find the time from his full-time position designing submarines for the Department of Defense.

"A lot of kids went on with tennis, we had a few that went on to be coaches," Lee said.

Tennis was good therapy for after work with the submarines. Lee finally retired in 2003 but even before that, he always made time when one of the students needed help. This included his grandson Kauluwai, at age 12. Lee's attention made a lasting impression.

"When I really want to do something, he'll come up to the courts and hit with me," Kauluwai said.

It was always about having fun, Lee stressed.

"Kids love it," Lee said.

Bryana Trupo who has two children in the program and now has a racquet and plays on a regular basis – something she didn't do before.

"It taught me to play too," Trupo said. "This is really an inclusive program, he makes sure everybody has fun in a sport they can do for the rest of their lives," she added.

Jeff Jones was a tennis student of Lee's who went on to coach tennis at Lake Braddock Secondary, West Springfield and Robinson High School between 1996-2021.

"He shaped my life, put me in a direction, it started with him," Jones said, pointing at Lee as he conducted a round-robin of games on the court. One of Lee's students also went on to teach tennis at Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology.

Tennis Cake

There was food, music and comradery up at the courts on July 19 as they celebrated Lee's achievements.

This summer, Preston Nemeti is using his tennis skills he learned from Lee to help all the children at the club. The 16-year-old is an official instructor with 135 kids in his program. "It's a pretty perfect job, I get to play tennis all day," he said.

It all started for Lee in 1983 and his class size was about 12-14 children. The court surface was a little different and the children's attention was on the task at hand, learning tennis. "Those days we didn't have computers," Lee said. "This keeps them out of trouble, their making true friendships," he added.



Gordon Lee poses with Jeff Jones and family.



At the anniversary party.



Over the last 40 years, Burke tennis instructor impacted many.



Gordon Lee taught tennis for 40 years in Burke.



Misty Lee, Gordon's daughter, saying a few words at the anniversary party.



Tennis is a sport these children could play for the rest of their lives.

ENTERTAINMENT

JULY AND AUGUST

Pups in the Pavilion. Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Reston Town Center Kicks Off "Pups in the Pavilion" this Summer; Pavilion transforms into a leash-free play area during the dog days of summer. Enjoy treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet-friendly giveaways, and more. Visit <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>

RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER 2023 SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

Saturdays, June 17 – August 5
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

At Reston Town Square Park, Reston Bring the kids for magic, comedy, puppets, music and lots of laughs. Shows include Rocknocos, Lohr Family Antics, The Uncle Devin Show and Turley the Magician. See the full schedule here: Family Fun Entertainment Series. Family Fun Entertainment is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with MSE Productions, Inc. Reston Town Center garages offer free parking on Saturdays.

Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory
Sundays, thru August 27
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Reston Town Square Park
Wind down your weekend with classical, jazz and cabaret-style music provided by faculty and students from Shenandoah University's acclaimed music conservatory. This series will run through August 27. Visit Sunday Art in the Park for the complete schedule. Reston Town Center garage parking is free on Sundays. Sunday Art in the Park is presented by RCC and Reston Town Center Association in cooperation with Shenandoah University.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Capital One Center is hosting special events all month at our new baseball stadium in Tysons, Capital One Park, and we wanted to make sure you were in the know. Capital One Park is located at 1820 Dolley Madison Drive Tysons, and steps away from the McLean Metro.

Military Appreciation Night Out -- July 26th with game times at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Free admission for all active and former members of the military.

JULY 31 – AUGUST 28

FUNDAY MONDAY in the heart of Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Enjoy free family programming that's perfect for the preschool set, but is open to children of all ages! On any given Monday there will be music, movement, storytelling, crafts and more. All performances and programs are held inside Old Town Hall located at 3999 University Drive, in the heart of Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

July 31: My Gym
August 7: Drew Blue Shoes Magic
August 14: Storytime with the Fairfax Regional Library
August 21: Miss Mollie's Bubble Party (held outside)
August 28: My Gym

THE TRAVELING PLAYERS

At Tysons Corner Center Plaza
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Traveling Players will present "Romeo & Juliet" at Tysons Corner Center Plaza July 27 to Aug. 2, 2023.

Jul. 27 – Aug. 2 – at 7 p.m. – "Romeo & Juliet"
Shakespeare's tale of star crossed lovers
Jul. 29 – "Erros & Psyche"
An ancient tale in modern language
Aug. 3 – Festival of 3 Plays. "Miser" at 4 p.m. "Green Bird" at 5 p.m.
A family-friendly festival of comedies, fairy tales, and joy!

JULY 29 – AUGUST 26

KIDZ KORNER in Old Town Square in Fairfax City! 10:30-11:15 a.m. Join us outside for a morning of Free Family Fun on Saturdays in Old Town Square (near the Splash Pad!) located at 10415 North Street in historic Fairfax City. Visit: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> for more information. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation.

July 29: Oh Susannah! Music
August 5: Mad Science! Things that Go Boom
August 12: My Gym
August 19: Superhero Training with Captain America!
August 26: Miss Mollie's Musical Fun

AUG. 3-6

4-H Fair and Carnival. Get ready for the ultimate farm-fun experience at the 4-H Fair and Carnival at Frying Pan Farm Park. From Thursday, Aug. 3 until Sunday, Aug. 6, enjoy action-packed days of activities for the whole family. Witness livestock displays and 4-H exhibits; indulge in mouth-watering fair food; enjoy live performances and carnival rides; and get up-close and personal with adorable farm animals.

Carnival Hours
Thursday, Aug. 3: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 4: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Big Truck Night: 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 5: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 6: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Carnival ride specials are available online. Save \$5 per person by purchasing before Aug. 3. Ride specials are \$20 per person for unlimited rides on Thursday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a full schedule of activities and information on buying ride specials, visit the 4-H Fair and Carnival webpage.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

"Civil War History Where It Happened." 1 p.m. At Mercer Tavern Antiques, 39359 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. The Aldie Ruritan Club Presents "Civil War History Where

it Happened." Hear historians and authors Don Hakenson and Carl Sell describe Mosby's Flour Mill raid, Captain George Custer's fall into the Little River and the Battle of Aldie right where it all happened. Books on sale benefit Aldie Ruritan Club and Clinton Hatcher Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans. Contact Carl Sell at sellcarl@aol.com or 703-971-4716 or Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net or 703-971-4984.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Poetry Beneath the Stars. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Calling all stargazers. Join up at Turner Farm Park to contemplate the cosmos through poetic form. Attendees will be provided with examples of star-gazing poetry and then given writing prompts to generate poems of their own while staring up at the marvelous Milky Way. This event will include a telescope viewing in the Roll Top Observatory, weather permitting. This workshop is limited to 25 participants. Visit ArtsFairfax.org to register.

AUDITIONS FOR "ON GOLDEN POND"

Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. Dates: Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 14 and 15 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Callbacks by Invitation on Thursday, Aug. 17 from 7:30-10 p.m.
Performances Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, 2023
Visit: www.viennatheatrecompany.org/audition/

BACK TO SCHOOL FALL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.
Aug. 4, Friday, 1-5 p.m.; Aug. 5, Saturday, 10-5 p.m.; and Aug. 6, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.
Bag sale on Sunday; fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10. Sponsored by Friends of Centreville Regional Library.

'DRIVE-IN' TO THE STARLIGHT CINEMA

Enjoy an all-new season of family-friendly entertainment at the Starlight Cinema at Trinity Centre, in Centreville, every Saturday evening in August. Come to watch the movies "drive-in" style from your car or bring chairs and blankets to watch from the lawn. As part of the Summer Entertainment Series, the Starlight Cinema



Funday Monday will be held July 31 to August 28, 2023 in the heart of Fairfax City.

brings the community together for wholesome family entertainment with live pre-show entertainment and feature film after dark. The schedule features:

Aug. 5: "Minions: The Rise of Gru" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by The Great Zucchini at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 12: "Lightyear" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Rocknocos at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 19: "The Bad Guys" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Geoff Marsh at 7 p.m.)
Aug. 26: "DC League of Super-Pets" at 8 p.m. (pre-show by Marsha and the Positrons at 7 p.m.)
Grab your picnic and enjoy the free entertainment that your family will remember. Gates open at 6 p.m., so come early to get a good spot. The Starlight Cinema is hosted at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, in Centreville. For details, visit the Summer Entertainment Series' Starlight Cinema webpage.

AUG. 11-12

"The Addams Family." 7 p.m. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts Music Theatre Company. The Addams Family theatre performance will feature 29 student-actors from the DC area, including Metropolitan School of the Arts and surrounding high schools. The performance is recommended for ages 10 and older, and will be supported by a 12-piece mentoring orchestra, consisting of professional musicians and the top youth orchestra players in the DC area. To get tickets to watch the comical antics of The Addams Family, go to www.metropolitanarts.org. Cost is \$25 per adults and \$10 per student.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance. 4-6 pm. At Herndon Friends Meeting House, 2263 Cocquina Drive, Reston. Join in this remembrance of the victims and effects of the 1945 bombings. Outside 4-5 p.m. vigil; inside 4-6 p.m. learning and reflecting through art (painting and peace crane making). Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available at the meeting house via Locust Street and nearby public parking is located across the street from the Herndon Depot. Visit the website: <https://www.herndonfriendsmeeting.com>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Sail or splash -- it's all fun. Register or sponsor Reston Museum's

2023 Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/cardboard-preregister>. You must register to race; spectating is free and open to the public.

AUGUST 19

Summer Concert Series: Genres. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. Join the Summer Concert Series featuring Delta Spur with Country & Classic Rock on August 19. Enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while dancing and singing along to your favorite tunes!

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK

The Alden in McLean presents its annual Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park at McLean Central Park. This free outdoor concert series runs now through Sunday, July 30. Performances start at 3 p.m., and the June concerts are designed to be family friendly. McLean Central Park is located at 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.

Schedule
Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m. – Philip Bowen
For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit The Alden website: aldentheatre.org.

LAKE ANNE'S PLAZA CONCERT SERIES

Lake Anne Live! brings Thursday evening concerts to the plaza from now through July 27. The free concerts will feature music and dance from local musicians and dance instructors. The plaza is located at 1609 Washington Plaza North. All concerts are free.

Schedule:
July 27 (6-9 p.m.): Salsa and Bachata Instruction and Dance with David Norton

FREE CONCERT SERIES AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Every Wednesday night from June 28th through August 23rd at 7p.m., Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) along with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be hosting the fifth annual Free Concerts in the Park series at Burke Lake Park. The series has expanded to nine shows with pop, rock and R&B music. Peterson's Ice Cream, 2 Silos beer and food trucks will be on site at all concerts. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and/or a lawn chair.

JULY

26 The Skip Castro Band

AUGUST

2 The English Channel
9 The Road Ducks
16 The Colin Thompson Band
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BRIEFS

Man Charged with Embezzling from Employer

Fairfax City police have arrested an employee suspected of stealing more than \$100,000 from a local optometrist's office. Charged with three counts of felony embezzlement was Joshua Goudreau, 30, of Winchester. According to police, the office of Dr. Michael J. Bermel reported on March 2 that an employee had embezzled a large amount of money from the business at 10640 Main St., No. 100, in Fairfax. Police say the suspect allegedly used the company's credit-card machine "to process fraudulent refunds to personal accounts."

Following an investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division, police arrested Goudreau, last Tuesday, July 18. He was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and held on \$5,000 bond, pending his Aug. 31 court date.

National Night Out is Aug. 1

The 40th Annual National Night Out will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 6-9 p.m., rain or shine. It's an annual, community-building campaign that promotes police-fire-fighter-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make residential neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.

Neighborhoods host block parties, cookouts, ice-cream socials and various other community get-togethers for the whole family and invite City fire and police personnel to join in the fun. To participate, civic association presidents should go to <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/community-programs/national-night-out> to register by this Friday, July 28.

Neighborhood Connected Grants in Fairfax City

The Fairfax City Economic Development Authority (EDA) has allocated \$36,000 toward a Neighborhood Connected Grant Program (NCGP) for nonprofit organizations. EDA Chair Beth Young said the goal is to help eligible nonprofits advance their own missions, as well as the City's economic growth and revitalization. Those selected for a grant would receive up to a maximum of \$12,000. The NCGP seeks entities with initiatives to foster partnerships in Fairfax City and market the City as a destination for business.

"The NCGP program recognizes the important work our nonprofits partners do to advance the economic development priorities of the community," said Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "In partnering with them for this program, the EDA is looking to support proposals that create jobs, lift our community, and continue our commitment to collectively moving the City closer to realizing the strategic goals established by the Mayor and City Council."

A complete list of grant eligibility requirements and program information is at fairfaxcityconnected.com/necgp. Email NCGP applications to matthew.easley@fairfaxva.gov or bring them in person or mail them to the EDA offices at 10300 Eaton Place, No. 235, Fairfax, VA 22030.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Fairfax City Council Greenlights City Centre West Project

FROM PAGE 3

This plaza will be a spot for outdoor dining and a space where people may gather for events. “Our open-space hub will be accessible to the public and connect to downtown Fairfax,” said Brant. As for the condos, he said, “We’re looking to attract empty nesters. The building will be elegant, special and unique – inspired by Old Town Fairfax, but also modern.”

The top six floors of the building will house the one-, two- and three-bedroom residential units, with the 18,000-square-foot bank and offices on the lower floors, and four levels of below-grade, structured parking (309 spaces) for all the uses. The spacious, high-end condos will have floor-to-ceiling glass doors opening to private balconies or terraces. Starting prices and square footage will be determined later. Groundbreaking is anticipated in March 2024, with project completion expected by spring 2026.

City Centre West will also incorporate sustainable design elements, including EV chargers, a green roof and LEED Silver and WELL certifications – promoting health and wellbeing. Internationally renowned, New York City-based designer, Thomas Juul-Hansen developed plans for the entire building, including the architecture, interior design and furniture, as well as the sleek and modern brick exterior.

The project also includes construction of a connector road and an East-West road. “It provides new connections to Main Street and to the Fairfax County Judicial Complex,” said Brant. In addition, Ox Hill will deliver a 10-foot-wide, landscaped sidewalk on Main Street. However, it’ll have to coordinate with the county, as well, since the proposed road and public plaza will be on county land.

Brant stressed that City Centre West implements the City’s Old Town Fairfax Small Area Plan, which calls for mixed uses. “Truist Bank and Infinite Technologies have already said they’ll move into that building,” he said. “Truist’s relocation from University Drive will retain 100 jobs, plus its tax revenue to the City.”

To build this project on the south side of Main Street, Ox Hill requested a rezoning from the site’s current commercial general and retail designation to commercial urban. It also sought special exceptions from Fairfax to construct a taller and more dense building than is currently approved in that area and for the bank to have a drive-through window.

And instead of including the five, City ordinance-required affordable dwelling units (ADUs) at 60 percent AMI (area median income) within the building, Ox Hill wants to provide them in a future offsite building. But the City ordinance doesn’t allow it.

During the public hearing, Douglas Stewart, with Fairfax City Citizens for Smarter Growth, said the applicant’s plan “provides many benefits to the City – including more residents to make Old Town a more vibrant place. But it also relies on the county’s cooperation, which we don’t know about, for sure, yet. So we’re therefore uncertain that there will be an open-space plaza. And they should build five ADUs in this building, not elsewhere.”

City business-owner Josh Alexander said, “I live, work and play here, and I want others to have this opportunity, too. Can we please move forward.”

However, said resident Matt Baird, “It’ll make traffic a lot worse. It’s a mixed-use monstrosity and completely disrespects the historic nature of Old Town Fairfax.”

But Jennifer Rose, executive director of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, disagreed. “I served on the Old Town Visioning Committee, and the City’s 2020 Small Area Plan had similar goals, as does its Comprehensive Plan, encouraging a vibrant, mixed-use Old Town.”

“What Ox Hill’s proposing is so much better than what’s there today, and more retail is good for the City. Fairfax County plans 10- and 13-story buildings, and this project will provide a good transition to Old Town.”

Tess Rollins, executive director of the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn., said, “We want Old Town to be a destination, not a drive-through. We don’t comment on individual projects, but look forward to working with Ox Hill, should this one be approved.”

Similarly, Stuart James, 38, said he and his family moved to Fairfax in 2019 and “love it here, but the businesses and restaurants need more foot traffic. It’s important to us, the young people, that this City and its downtown continue to grow. There’s a lot of us who want more options here, so I hope you can work through the problems and get this done.”

Noting the site is just a quarter-acre, Councilmember Tom Ross said, “It’s important it’s [developed] right. And the plaza will be a central point to bringing people together.” He also said a building this size will need “quality landscaping.”

Although Councilmember Jeff Greenfield wanted to defer decision on this project because he didn’t like the building’s look, his motion failed. Said Councilmember Jon Stehle: “We may quibble with the design, but it’ll be a huge addition to the City economically and in terms of what we want to see there.”

Council then approved the project and most of the special exceptions, 5-1, with Greenfield the lone “no” vote. However, at Ox Hill’s request, the ADU matter was deferred until Feb. 27, 2024.

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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.

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An Inadvertent Friend-Type Request



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column has nothing to do with Facebook, though the title is a bit of a tease, to encourage you to read further. And what you’re reading about is not exactly a surprise that it happened, it’s more a flashing, neon-type sign that shopping online has matured from a transactional one between a buyer and a seller to something so much more. Not so much more as to make it sinister, but enough to make it more personal. Personal in that your online/website searches/inquiries are in essence, the beginning of a friendship. A friendship whereby the company (the seller) is becoming more like a friend in its willingness (algorithm) to offer opinions, dare I say encouragement to you (the buyer) to spend money on merchandise you’ve recently clicked on as sort of a starting point. But it’s interpreted by the computer/website host (AI, I suppose) to be one which – with some electronic prodding, views this interaction as a potential final sale with only a credit card required to consummate this new/budding relationship.

The problem/reality is, I wasn’t necessarily looking to buy and/or consummate this retail partnership/purchase just yet. This initial process when I’m searching, clicking, perusing, calculating, perhaps even actually contemplating, is my time, honestly. It’s not the company/seller’s time. Just because I’m looking, doesn’t mean I’m ready to be leaping. To my way of thinking, this initial search is simply a consideration, not a calculation per se. Granted, I’m likely doing some math while I’m reading and then writing. But I don’t need the website host hounding/gently nudging (depending on your perspective) me any more than I want to be accosted/offered assistance (again, depending on your perspective) when entering a retail establishment where merchandise can actually be touched and examined while up close so the purchase becomes personal, not merely professional.

What precipitated this most recent rant are the almost daily reminders I receive in my inbox from sites I visited previously. Their intent being to try and consummate our computer relationship by getting me to enter my credit card information/cozying up to me in an increasingly familiar manner, as if we were friends, and that by researching and clicking on their website I have somehow brought us closer together than merely a buyer and a seller, but rather more like friends in the pursuit of wholesale/retail justice.

I guess if I were to be naive and gullible, I would interpret these electronic reminders as I would indeed respect and appreciate a friend’s suggestion/recommendation about whether I should be making a particular purchase. But that’s not how I’m reacting to these many missives. I’m reacting to them as attempts at hostile take-overs – of my money. Moreover, I feel their reach is intrusive and presumptive. Certainly, when I read their heading in the subject box I can press delete and completely ignore their communication. At that point however, the psychological damage has already been done. By simply reading their headline and understanding its lineage, I have already been hooked, so to speak. I know why the email is there. It’s not to ask how I’m adjusting to my late brother’s semi unexpected death or asking if I think the Red Sox will be buyers or sellers at the trade deadline. Oh no. They’re asking for money/commitment. They want to know how and when, not why and where I’ll be otherwise spending my money – or not at all. They’re not understanding. They’re manipulating. And once they’re through with me, they’ll move on to the next site-clicker. I’ll merely be a blip in their artificial computer code. Code that reacts to my computer research in their products/services as an inevitable buy and sell opportunity. It views my soliciting their help/information as a buying signal and the more help they offer/email, the more inevitable the sale becomes as it believes more is more rather than less is more.

But I object to this presumption of facts not yet agreed to. And I further object to presuming a familiarity which absolutely does not exist. I don’t know this caller from Adam. Like my disdain for cold-callers – for whatever solicitation – whether for business, charity or community when the caller addresses me by my first name. That’s a no-no, never a yes-yes. It’s an automatic click. As for these computer emails that remind me of a previous interest/inquiry on their site/for their product or service, we are not in any kind of relationship. If anything, we might be in the middle/the beginning of a transaction. If this ‘relationship’ is about anything, it’s about business, not pleasure.

Transact this!

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

Osprey in Distress Is Rescued

Lorton raptor runs 'afowl' of litter.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Animal Protection Police were called to the former Nike site in Lorton last week for a large bird in trouble high in a tree. After assessing the bird's position, Fairfax County Fire Department's Crosspoint Station 441, located close-by and with the ladder equipment needed to reach the stranded bird, was called in to assist.

Earlier on the morning of July 18 people in the area of a known Osprey platform nest observed an Osprey flying with a long train of material trailing behind it, making on-going distress calls. Other Ospreys were returning the calls. By early afternoon the next day a concerned resident observed the bird entangled in the branches of a tree in the perimeter of the Laurel Hill Golf Course, not far from the nest, Animal Protection Police were called to assist the bird. Responding, the officer determined that assistance from the Fire Department was needed to reach the top of the tree where the bird was entangled.

Firefighter R. Perdomo Cortes, a 17-year veteran of the fire department who has performed other bird rescues, was at the top of the ladder. He held the bird's wings close to its body while the snagging tree branch was broken, then cut loose from the entangling materials. Was the fierce raptor intimidating? Cortes responded, "It was not too scary for me. She seemed to know she was getting help." The bird was eased into a cardboard box to be carried down the ladder to the waiting Animal Protection Officer.

A decision was made on the ground to release the Osprey, identified as a female, to her calling family. It is unknown how long the bird had been entangled in the material alone, or the tree. Unfortunately, after she was released, the bird was not able to sustain flight. She was re-collected and taken to a local veterinarian for treatment.

Ironically, the bird's tree entanglement and later inability to fly away, may have saved her life after her talon was entangled. Osprey can die from entanglements through slow infection. Many entangled birds will not survive without human intervention. Liz Dennison of Secret Garden Birds and Bees, who has worked with birds of prey for over 14 years as a rehabilitator and educator, advises, "No bird that has been entangled should be released without first being seen by a rehabilitator or veterinarian familiar with the species. Many are able to fly away only to die later from their wounds or the stress of being entangled. Any bird that has been struggling with the line for days and ends up hanging from a tree is in need of medical care — no exceptions." Dennison is grateful for everyone who works so hard to save the bird but says the Osprey should be given a medical check after trauma before being released.

Dennison adds, "Sadly this [bird entanglement] happens way too often - and not



PHOTO COURTESY RICK KISLING

Osprey seen flying (lower left) with long train of debris at least 24 hours before her eventual rescue after tree entanglement as her family echoes her call of distress



PHOTO - FAIRFAX PARKS

Firefighter P. Cortes and Station 441 crew members assist entangled Osprey



PHOTO COURTESY RICK KISLING

The female's Osprey's family awaits her return to the nest platform on July 18.



GEORGE GENTRY, USFWS

Ospreys are fish eaters, diving to catch live fish, with males bringing food to the platform for females while nesting and assisting females in feeding chicks when hatched

just to Ospreys." She shares that most Osprey nests have fishing line, hooks, sinkers, and other debris in them. In addition to entanglements, rehabilitators see cases of lead poisoning from fishing tackle. Other birds in the Lorton area have needed rescue after entanglement in kite string left hanging in trees under tension.

Litter, a conspicuous problem nation-wide, is an issue for birds as well as other wildlife. In a Montana study area, polypropylene baling twine was found in 44.2% of Osprey nests annually between 2014 and 2022. The Lorton Osprey was entangled in a ball of or-



Fire Station 441 crew members Technician K. Gorospe, 19 years service; Lt. K. Reakoff, 13 years; Firefighter P. Cortes, 17 years; and Technician J. Beatly, 12 years; responded to the Osprey rescue with their ladder truck on July 19.

ange and black construction materials.

The female Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) rescued in Lorton was a fledged juvenile, one of a brood of two raised by a pair of Osprey that has returned to nest on the same platform for multiple seasons. While not rare, Osprey pair nestings are still notable. This year and last year, the pair successfully raised two chicks.

The injured Osprey was initially taken to Pender Veterinary Centre in Fairfax, and then moved to Wildlife Rescue League in Falls Church for specialized care. Wildlife Rescue League is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to providing care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife with the intent of releasing them back into their native habitat.

A police spokesperson indicated the Osprey is expected to make a full recovery.

Ospreys tend to stay together once mated, returning to the same nest annually, adding to its size. Their diet is mostly live fish which they dive into the water to catch. They choose open nesting areas for an easy approach. With bright white heads, they are

sometimes mistaken for Bald Eagles. A female osprey has a band of dark brownish streaks on her throat and around the neck and upper chest, sometimes referred to as a necklace. A male osprey has a white chest, uniformly pale underwing feathers, and a weaker or non-existent breast band. Eggs are laid in April, with chicks hatching in May or early June. Chicks fledge after 55 days, but will stay on the nest platform until migration in September.

Those seeking help for wildlife in distress can find several wildlife rescue and advice services in northern Virginia by searching online. Wildlife Veterinary Care offers a hotline providing advice for wildlife emergencies (504-664-9494). Wildlife emergencies often occur outside of hours when a veterinarian or rehabilitator can be reached. There is advice by species available at <https://www.blueridgewildlifetr.org/wildlife-emergency>. For for sick or injured wildlife contact Fairfax County Animal Protection Police at 703 691-2131, or for conflicts with wildlife, contact Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources at 855-571-9003.