

# CONNECTION

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

## Teens Play Teens in 'The Trials'

PAGE 11

While Alyce Visioli looks on, (from left) Jack Dudding, Jonah Hilbert and Max Roux illustrate "Speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil" in Woodson High's new play, "The Trials."

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

### Ophelia Passes

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### Who's Running for Soil & Water Board?

PAGE 6

# Ophelia Passes

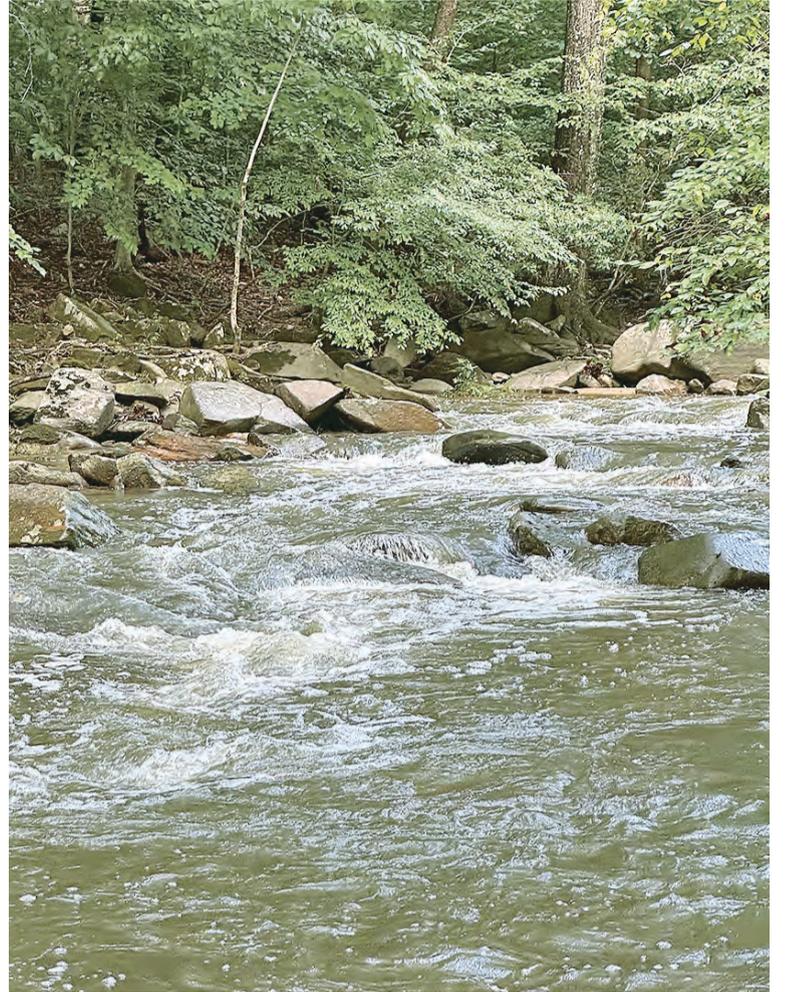
By Susan Laume

Although causing hundreds of precautionary Fall event cancellations, Tropical Storm Ophelia did little damage around the northern Virginia area on Saturday. The storm brought heavy rain and strong wind, and some flooding, but without causing local power outages or serious damage. Ophelia's most significant impacts here were to local creeks, turning August's low volume, quiet streams into 'talking' rushing waters that tested the boundaries of their banks, and exceeded them during the height of the storm.

PHOTOS BY  
SUSAN LAUME



During Ophelia's heavy rain, local streams exceeded the confines of their banks



After Ophelia's passing, local streams, like this one in the Pohick Stream Valley, are filling the confines of their banks after August's low water volumes.

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Another **THE CONNECTION** Community Partnership

# One Dead in Two-Car Crash

An 89-year-old man died from injuries sustained in a two-vehicle crash Saturday morning on Ox Road in West Springfield.

Lloyd South, 89, of Fairfax Station was traveling east from Ox Road in a 2014 Nissan Frontier around 9:40 a.m. South disregarded a stop sign causing his vehicle to collide with a 2018 Volvo XC90. The impact caused the Volvo to spin then collide with a highway sign in the median and into the guardrail.

The driver and passengers of the Volvo remained on the scene and were treated for non-life-threatening injuries at the hospital.

South was taken to the hospital and died one day after the crash. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors in the crash.

This is the 12th non-pedestrian-related fatal crash in the County to date in 2023

# Parktober Fest

Saturday, Oct. 7, noon to 5 p.m., at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park  
The whole family is invited to a celebration at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park that is becoming a community tradition. Join friends to shop local from artists and artisans, makers and bakers. Enjoy delicious food and drink from Ono Brewing Co. and DC Steakholders.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5049 Walney Road, Chantilly. Visit the Ellanor C. Lawrence Park website for more information or call 703-631-0013.

## Farm Harvest Days and Carnival

Oct. 13 - 15, at Frying Pan Farm Park

Have fun on the farm and bring the whole family to Frying Pan Farm Park for the Farm Harvest Days and Carnival. Enjoy Big Truck Night on Oct. 13; watch the cider press in action, milk a cow, shell corn, peel apples and play old-fashion games on Oct. 14-15; and enjoy food, games and rides at the carnival all weekend long! Admission is free; carnival ride tickets are available for purchase.

**PURCHASE CARNIVAL RIDE TICKETS**

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101 for more information.

## Solar Eclipse Extravaganza

Saturday, Oct. 14, at multiple locations

Join our experts to view the partial annular solar eclipse. At noon, watch as the moon partially eclipses the sun as they both travel across the sky. A limited number of eclipse viewing glasses and sun spotting scopes will be available to view the eclipse. As we await the eclipse and after it has passed, enjoy various themed games, activities and demonstrations.

- ❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Burke Lake Park
- ❖ Partial Solar Eclipse Celebration, noon to 2 p.m., at Sully Historic Site
- ❖ Safely See the Partial Eclipse, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Historic Huntley

Visit the Astronomy website for more information.

**REGISTER FOR ECLIPSE VIEWING PROGRAMS**

## Skate the Wake

Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Wakefield Skate Park

Enjoy a day filled with skating, music and all-around fun at Skate the Wake. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and enjoy food, music, vendors, and fun activities. Skateboarders are invited to bring their gear to learn new tricks from the professionals in the Learning Zone and compete in the Best Trick Contest.

Visit Skate the Wake webpage for more information.

Wakefield Skate Park is located at 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. For more information, visit the Wakefield Skate Park website.

Whatever your event "flavor," the Park Authority has you covered this season!

# NEWS

## Students Protest VDOE's Policies

PHOTOS BY KATHRYN ACKERMAN

Flash point awaits as some schools balk at implementing policies.

MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Transgender rights advocate Ranger Balleisen, an alum of McLean High School class of 2023 and organizer of the student-led advocacy group Pride Liberation Project, is taking a stand against a simmering onslaught. Balleisen, who uses the pronouns he/him, and others oppose the Virginia Department of Education 2023 Model Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools (the "2023 Model Policies") finalized Tuesday, July 18, 2023. According to the document, it became effective the next day.

"As queer students in our Commonwealth, we strongly condemn the governor's policies as an attempt to force LGBTQIA+ students back into the closet and urge school districts to reject them," Pride Liberation said in a release the day after Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration finalized the policies.

According to Balleisen, Pride Liberation is launching a new campaign, Students4Trans, against Governor Youngkin's anti-trans guidelines. #Students4Trans will mobilize thousands of Virginia students against Governor Youngkin's Don't Be Trans policies at the state and local levels, Balleisen said.

Balleisen and approximately 45 protesters gathered outside the Virginia Department of Education headquarters in Richmond two days earlier on Friday. The protesters' messages of "Protect trans rights," "We should not have to fight to exist," and "Oppose Youngkin's Model Policies" can be seen on the signs they carried.

The finalized 2023 Model Policies reversed the 2021 trans-affirming guidelines of Youngkin's predecessor, Gov. Ralph Northam



Pride Liberation Project protests against the enacted and finalized 2023 Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students K-12 in Virginia's Public Schools.



Pride Liberation Project protests 2023 Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students K-12 in Virginia's Public Schools.

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 9

# Chief to Present Foot Pursuit Policy to Supervisors

Oct. 3 Public Safety Committee meeting will bring some long awaited responses from FCPD.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**uesday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m., the Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee will meet at the Fairfax County Government Center. FCPD media report that Police Chief Kevin Davis will present the department's foot pursuit policy to the Board. He is also expected to respond to recommendations by the Police Reform Matrix Action Plan Working Group.

Kevin Davis began his tenure as chief of the Fairfax County Police Department on May 3, 2021. In the Final Report June 2021 of the University of Texas at San Antonio Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, An Investigation into the Use of Force by the Fairfax County Police Department, researchers Michael R. Smith, J.D., Ph.D., and Rob Tillyer, Ph.D. recommended that "[FCPD should] consider adopting a foot pursuit policy to help reduce force and injuries to officers and suspects." This research project was supported through an agreement between the Fairfax County Office of the Independent Police Auditor and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

According to a different report, the April 2023 Fairfax County Police Department Review of Issues Surrounding Recent Police-Shooting Incidents by the Performance Executive Review Board (PERF), which Davis requested, the department did not adopt a foot pursuit policy as the University of Texas at San Antonio Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice had recommended. In April 2023, Davis was one month shy of his second anniversary as chief.

PERF researchers said in the report that, at Davis's request, "PERF did not examine reports connected to the last [shooting] incident, which took place on Feb. 22, 2023, since that matter is under active review by the local prosecutor." That incident involved a nighttime foot pursuit by two Fairfax County police officers, one plain-clothed and one uniformed. They shot and killed a shoplifting

suspect outside Tysons Corner Center.

A man was allegedly stealing sunglasses from a store, as reported to the police. The man, later identified as Timothy Johnson, 37, was unarmed and ran out of the store, across the parking lot, and into a wooded area. Having been alerted of the possible shoplifting incident, the officers followed in foot pursuit. Johnson, alive after having been shot once in the chest, was pronounced dead at the hospital.

PERF researchers reported in 2023 that the Fairfax police department only recently began requiring its members to write "foot pursuit" in incident reports if they engaged in such a pursuit. In the past, department members may have described a foot pursuit using less searchable terms, such as "ran after subject" or "chased person."

PERF reported that between July 19, 2021, and April 20, 2023, the Fairfax County Police Department had eight police shooting incidents, three of which were fatal; in the seven years before July 19, 2021, there were eight police shooting incidents. Per Chief Kevin Davis's request, PERF examined all data until April 2023. Since the local prosecutor was conducting an investigation into the Johnson incident, PERF did not review any reports related to it.

## Civilian Oversight and Transparency

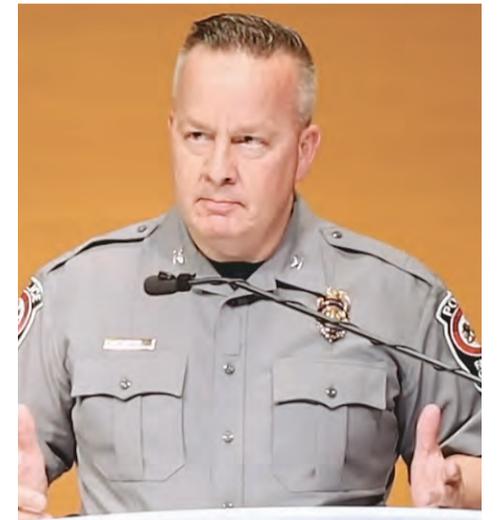
In his 2021 Annual Report, Davis said, "There is always room for improvement." The report adds that the department "routinely ensures our policies and directives are consistent with best policing strategies, practices and reflect community feedback and values."

Multiple civilian groups exist in Fairfax County related to policing, including the Community Advisory Committee | Police (fairfaxcounty.gov), Communities of Trust Committee | Police (fairfaxcounty.gov), police-department-cy-2023-eip.pdf (fairfaxcounty.gov), Police Civilian Review Panel | Police Civilian Review Panel (fairfaxcounty.gov) and the Police Reform Matrix Group.



SCREENSHOT

Supervisor Rodney Lusk



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis



SCREENSHOT

**At the next Board of Supervisors Safety and Security Committee meeting Oct. 3, FCPD Chief Kevin Davis is set to present the department's foot pursuit policy, along with response to recommendations by the Police Reform Matrix Action Plan Working Group.**

FCPD Media responded on Sept. 21 when asked how frequently Chief Davis had met with the Community Advisory Group, Reform Matrix Group, and other relevant civilian police groups over the past two months: "Each month, our district commanders meet with their Community Advisory Committees. Chief Davis also meets with the Chief's Advisory Council bi-monthly too."

So far, the FCPD has made no public response to the Matrix Working Group's recommended action plan. Supervisor Rodney Lusk's office created the matrix in 2020 to make publicly accessible all police reform recommendations made by community members and groups.

The Matrix Working Group met earlier this year and considered the more than 300 recommendations in the matrix, organizing them into eight primary topics with recommendations for an action plan.

Two members of the matrix working group, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and Rev. Vernon Walton, presented the recommendations at the May Public Safety and Security meeting.

The upcoming Safety and Security Meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 3, featuring Davis, is public, as are all supervisor board meetings. The committee focuses on policies, projects, and programs that have the potential to affect the welfare and public safety of all county residents.

## Homes Sold Faster and Prices Jumped More

Median sold price for a home in August reached \$700,000 in Northern Virginia.

**E**ven though sales declined regionally and nationally, inventory was lower and prices grew faster in the Northern Virginia real estate market than nationally in August, according to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors.

"Despite mortgage rate increases, demand for housing is outstripping avail-

able options in our region. Low inventory is much more pronounced in our region than nationally and is driving up prices," said Ryan McLaughlin, NVAR CEO.

Regionally, home sales continued to decline, dropping 12.4% from last August, but this was a smaller decrease than the overall market which fell 15.3%. Homes stayed on

the market only 17 days on average in August 2023 in the Northern Virginia area, two days less than August 2022.

In Northern Virginia, home buying options were significantly less, with only a 1.08 month's supply of inventory, down 1.4% from August 2022.

The tight supply pushed prices even higher as the median sold price for a home in August reached \$700,000 in Northern Virginia, up 11.6% over the previous August. Nationally, the median home price in August also grew reaching \$407,100. However, this was a much

smaller increase at 3.9% from August 2022.

In June, NVAR released a mid-year update to its NVAR Region 2023 Residential Real Estate Market Forecast. The forecast noted that a continued lack of housing inventory, pent-up buyer demand creating a sellers' market, and positive economic conditions peppered with mounting risks may be in store for the Northern Virginia housing market for the remainder of 2023. The update was created in cooperation with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.

NEWS

# Fairfax City Receives \$1 Million Tree Grant

For 36 consecutive years, Fairfax City has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. And now, a \$1 million grant recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service will help the City continue to grow and maintain its urban forest.

The grant money will fund SPROUT, Fairfax's new and aptly named, urban forest stewardship initiative.

The goal is to create healthier, more climate-resilient and equitable trees within the City. Tree equity is defined as having enough trees in an area so that everyone may experience their health, climate and economic benefits.

SPROUT stands for Stewarding, Planting, Restoring Our Urban Trees, and it was one of 400 projects selected from more than 800 applications submitted by communities across the nation. Only six projects were selected from Virginia, and Fairfax City was the sole grant recipient selected from Northern Virginia.

Among the plans for SPROUT are:

- ❖ Implementing Fairfax's first 20-year urban forest management plan, including an integrated invasive species action plan;

- ❖ Investing in invasive vegetation-management services;

- ❖ Planting trees on public property;

- ❖ Identifying and engaging in an urban forest stewardship network; and

- ❖ Providing environmental education and awareness.

"This initiative will be a collaboration among several city departments, George Mason University and the community," said Anna Safford, City of Fairfax urban forester. "SPROUT will connect neighbors to their urban forest and support them in planting and caring for their trees."

The USDA Forest Service awarded more than \$1 billion in competitive grants to plant and maintain trees, combat extreme heat and climate change, and improve access to nature in cities, towns and suburbs. This is the largest USDA investment to date in urban and community forests.

According to the USDA, "Trees make a difference. Studies show that communities with access to trees and green spaces are associated with improved health outcomes, reduced crime, lower average temperatures, and an influx of other kinds of investments and new economic opportunities."

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# Race for Soil & Water Conservation District Board

## Get to know the candidates, and the Board.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

In this year's General Election, Fairfax County voters are asked to elect three directors to sit on the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board. The candidates' campaigns mostly are self funded, without widespread use of campaign literature or advertising. Although on the ballot every four years, voters are often surprised to be faced with making a choice for this little understood seat. While the positions are considered non-partisan, and no party affiliations will appear on the ballot, political parties may, and have, endorsed candidates. The seats also are unusual in that they are elected but unsalaried. Seven contenders have put themselves forward to serve on the Board; three endorsed by the Democrat party, three by the Republican party, and one without party affiliation. Only one candidate is an incumbent.

**WHAT IS THE FUNCTION** of the Soil and Water Conservation Board (NVSWCD)? As with other county boards and commissions, this board is intended to promote two-way communication between citizens and county government. The Northern Virginia Board, one of 47 such boards across the commonwealth, takes direction from a state level board under the Department of Conservation & Recreation. It focuses attention on local land, water, and related natural resource conservation problems, and develops programs to address them. The Board serves as a source for general conservation and natural resource information, and approves soil and water conservation plans. Under their review purview are proposals submitted under the important Chesapeake Bay Act, and Tax Credit Programs; programs for which the Board has approval authority for resource management plans. The board also reviews proposals under The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water. The Board's elected directors are supported by two appointed directors, which they select, and a technical staff. The group is involved in assisting residents with drainage and erosion, conservation, stormwater management, and stream restoration, soil surveys, watershed cleanups, the rain barrel program, and early detection of non-native, invasive plant species. Our District is one of few urban territories within the state; most Soil and Water boards serve rural concerns.

As part of the Connection's continuing election coverage, we asked the seven candidates questions about their related experience, and why they felt suited to the position. Several have experience or education in conservation or engineering; others do

not. We summarize the five responding candidate answers; two candidates, Edward W. Monroe Jr. and Mary Ellen Flynn, did not respond.

### Questions for the Candidates

1. What do you feel best qualifies you for the position?
2. What volunteer experience do you have in conservation?
3. What top two issues require the Board's priority?
4. Describe your campaign outreach efforts and funding?

### Dana H. Baraket (Falls Church)

Age - 32

Education: M.A., Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 2015; B.A. Government & International Relations, George Mason University, 2013

Current Position: Executive Director, National Arab Women's Association; Strategic consultant; Conservation volunteer experience: Fogwater harvesting, Agadir, Morocco, Georgetown University

Baraket says her long residency in the county, and her "extensive work in community building, organizing, and advocacy" qualify her to serve on the board. She also indicates her "passion is educating and assisting underrepresented communities."

Baraket's top priorities for the Board are education and outreach, which she sees as "vital to embracing environmental stewardship." She includes educating citizens on stormwater mitigation as one area of needed concentration. Another is to provide information on grants and programs offered. She says underrepresented communities tend to lack the information and tools to use the resources that could be available to them, though they are in dire need. Further, she sees education needs to go beyond residents; that "developers must be educated and provided the tools to make better choices."

Baraket dedicates her campaign time to "getting the word out to faith and underrepresented communities, and organizing leaders." She says she talks with them about the importance of "being good stewards of the environment," hoping residents will pay as much attention to soil and water as to every other elected position. Baraket is endorsed by the Democratic Party.

### Rhonda J. Bitterli (Annandale)

Age - declined to provide

Education: M.S., Soil & Water Science, University of Arizona; B.A. English, Minor: Computer Science, Mathematics, University of Arizona.

Current Position: Retired, project manager, senior analyst

Conservation volunteer experience:

Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, "Dig It! The Secret of Soils," 2008-2010; Bikes for the World, [diversion from waste stream for reuse], (2014); NVSWCD, annual seedling sale, 2023

Bitterli points to her work experience in "various environmental arenas, including how hazardous waste sites are evaluated, domestic and international agriculture, municipal solid waste, and geothermal energy" as her qualifications to serve on the board, along with her educational background in soil and water science, and chemistry.

Bitterli's top priorities: "One priority issue is stormwater management, and erosion and sediment control ... especially as storms become more intense and flooding has become more frequent. A second priority is encouraging residents to take a more active role in addressing drainage and erosion problems on their residential property." She says this takes "enhancing outreach efforts so that residents know about all the NVSWCD resources available to them." She gives the example of the available website information on rain barrels, rain gardens, and use of native plant species, along with available technical guidance.

Bitterli's campaign is self funded and does not accept donations. Her outreach includes attending events where candidates are invited to speak, including an upcoming forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Oct. 11. She has a website and is on social media. She developed a single page flyer which she asks people to photograph or scan the included QR code for more information "in keeping with my desire to be environmentally responsible." She is endorsed by the Democratic Party. See [rb-soilandwater.com](http://rb-soilandwater.com)

### Christopher E. Koerner (Oakton) - Incumbent

Age - 69

Education: B.S. Civil Engineering, Hydrology, University of Connecticut (1980); B.A. Chemistry, Biology, Colby College (1976)

Current Position: Registered engineer; retired, environmental engineer; retired Diplomat, American Academy of Environmental Engineers

Conservation volunteer experience: Director/Treasurer, NVSWCD, 2019-2023; NVSWCD Associate Director/Secretary, 2017-2019; Sierra Club, since 1988, Executive Committee Chair, 2009-2012; Fairfax County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exemption Review Committee Chair, 2016-2020; Vice-President HOA, 1996-present



Rhonda Bitterli



Dana Baraket



Christopher Koerner



Deborah Maddrell

ent [with county award for community lake restoration]; Fairfax Master Naturalist, 2017-present.

Koerner, a retired environmental engineer with over 40 years experience "as a technical expert developing and implementing strategies to clean up toxic waste sites; particularly difficult groundwater contamination challenges" in the U.S., Europe, and South America. He includes in his experience, leading and participating in engineering teams on high-visibility projects at Fort Detrick, Md., and with anthrax contamination. He shares that his experience here and abroad "has strengthened my belief in environmental stewardship, and clarified the recognition that we all must do everything we can to preserve our beautiful, but fragile planet."

For Koerner, his top priorities are "obtaining visibility and adequate financing to support our talented staff." He cites areas in need of funding to include: stormwater damage with increasing impervious surfaces and more intense rainfall events; grants for homeowners, HOAs, and places of worship to adopt conservation practices; community gardens in underserved communities; and protecting our drinking water supply; among others. He considers it a priority to work on "continually improving community education and growing our diverse network of citizen, county, state, and federal environmental group partnerships."

Koerner indicates his campaign outreach effort "is networking with environmental groups, speaking at public meetings to educate citizens on what the Board is and does, and helping HOAs and individual property owners solve environmental challenges." His campaign is self-funded, with minimal paper handouts and signs, "in order to reduce the environmental impact of the campaign." He is endorsed by the Democratic Party.

### Debra O. Maddrell (Vienna)

Age - declined to provide

Education: M. Sc., National Security Strategy, National Defense University; B. A., History, French, Capital University

Current Position: Retired, U.S. Naval Officer

Conservation volunteer experience: None  
Maddrell, a retired naval officer, points to experience in positions she held within the service in which she had responsibility for assuring naval vessels complied with federal and state regulations, to protect the St. John River and Mayport Harbor Basin, as qualifying experience. Also, that in Japan, her responsibility as installation head required compliance with Japanese land use and conservation regulations. She would rely on the "appointed members who bring the needed technical expertise to the table." She sees her role as "representing the interests and concerns of the taxpayers and citizens."

SEE GET TO KNOW, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## COMMUNITY

# High Side and Mara Holding Pinktoberfest

Fun event to raise money to fight breast cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Two Old Town Fairfax businesses, High Side and Mara Hair and Mode Studio, are joining together for the third consecutive year to fight breast cancer with a community-centered event. Sponsored by Ox Hill Cos. and called Pinktoberfest, it's set for Sunday, Oct. 8, from noon-5 p.m., in Mara's backyard at 4011 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax City.

"Pinktoberfest is more than just an event," explained Jana Klavina, owner of Mara Hair and Mode Studio. "It's a community coming together – dancing, laughing and celebrating life – all while supporting a noble cause."

"With each ticket sold, we move a step closer to a future where breast cancer is a thing of the past," she continued. "So we invite people to join us in this mission and revel in the festivities – and let's make a difference, one sip, one dance, one smile at a time."

The fun includes a "Craft Beer Experience," featuring more than 40 unique IPA-less craft beers, as well as games, live music and a mar-

ketplace of local businesses. There'll also be an "Asian Street Food Adventure," courtesy of High Side owner Jinson Chan.

On tap, too, is a "Chop for a Cause" transformation, during which attendees may watch live, haircut challenges with Mara's stylists. Those interested in participating may contact [star@marahairandmode.com](mailto:star@marahairandmode.com). Rounding out the activities will be a pink wig/hair contest for all ages, with prizes awarded to the winners.

Beyond its entertainment core, Pinktoberfest is part of Mara Hair and Mode Studio's larger "Pink Wave Campaign," targeting extensive donations for VBCF throughout October. Other associated events include headshot sessions, a cut-a-thon and a fitness class by CorFit. Regarding Pinktoberfest, said Klavina, "It promises a dynamic, eclectic experience that marries festivity with purpose."

Mara's Breast Cancer Fundraiser raised \$18,000 last year for the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation (VBCF), with \$8,000 of that total raised in one day, with High Side's help, during Pinktoberfest 2022. This year's goal is \$20,000, and a VBCF representative will be on hand at this event to offer insights and resources to anyone interested.

"Our collaboration with High Side isn't just about business; it's about fostering community and championing awareness," said Klavina. "Together, we're making an impactful difference."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SETAREH SABTI

Jana Klavina and Jinson Chan are hosting the upcoming Pinktoberfest.

Tickets for Pinktoberfest range from \$45 (pre-order) to \$55 (at the door). Designated-driver tickets are \$5, with proceeds going to VBCF. Guests under 18 enter free. Purchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pinktoberfest-2023-tickets-696133523107>.

For more information about Mara's Pink Wave Campaign and to participate in other events, go to: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2023communityevent/account/1583264/>.

com/event/2023communityevent/account/1583264/.

"Mara isn't just about hair; it's our platform for change," added Klavina. She said that, thanks to her staff's leadership, Pinktoberfest has evolved into "a grand community event. And I'm confident this year will unite more people than ever in our mission for breast cancer awareness."

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



The El Salvador flag in the window is a new touch.



Even though it says pizza, they no longer have pizza on the menu. But the pupusas are popular.

# Change Comes in the Form of an El Salvador Flag and Pupusas in Rose Hill

## New owners and new menu attract fans at Mama Mia's.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Slowly change is coming to the old pizza favorite in the Rose Hill Shopping Center in Franconia. The Mama Mia's sign is still on the façade, the steak and cheese sub is still on the menu, and area diners are still coming on a regular basis but the new owners have added their El Salvador flair so it's old and new at the same time.

The new name is "El Guanaquito," but there are a few places around the restaurant that still have the Mama Mia's label.

A diner named Troy lives nearby and always got his pizza at Mama Mia's but is now getting the baleadas, which is a Honduran breakfast wrap.

"I like the new place," he said. For pizza, he goes to other places nearby but noted that "the pupusas are really good too," at the former Mama Mia's, he said.

A few years ago, the original owners, Sami and Omaima, stepped down after 39 years behind the grill. A new generation is making their mark on this beloved Rose Hill diner that still has the old booths and counter from 1983, and maybe all the way back to the early 1961 when it opened to Sami's relatives, the original owners. They're not too worried about tradition now.

"We do it a little bit different," said Oneyda, the manager.

She mentioned the increasing popularity of the new menu, including jalapenos in the pupusas.

"They love the jalapeno pupusas," she said. "Plenty of customers, maybe too much," she added.



The credit card machine still has the old name.



Previous owners, husband and wife team Sami and Omaima, were proud of their 39 years at Mama Mia's.

NEWS BRIEFS

## Out of the Darkness Walk to Prevent Suicide

City of Fairfax, Oct. 1, 2023

Location: Fairfax City Hall, Fairfax, VA

Event Timeline:

- ❖ Check-in Time: 11 a.m.
- ❖ Opening Ceremony Time: 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Walk Start Time: 1 p.m.
- ❖ Event Ends: 2 p.m.

Register now <https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=9056>

Walk Chair: Andrea "Hobbit" Brown, Chair.FairfaxWalk@gmail.com

Deputy Walk Chair: Sydney Will DeputyChair.FairfaxWalk@gmail.com

The Out of the Darkness Community Walk is a journey of remembrance, hope, and support. It unites communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.

Register here.

If you're looking for support and/or resources, please visit [www.afsp.org/get-help](http://www.afsp.org/get-help) and [www.afsp.org/resources](http://www.afsp.org/resources)

## Suicide Prevention for Public Safety

Fairfax County has taken significant steps to establish a comprehensive suicide prevention program and provide invaluable resources for its public safety staff. At the heart of the county's commitment to suicide prevention is the establishment of a cutting-edge center, Fairfax County Public Safety Wellness Center. This center serves as a designated space where police, fire and rescue department personnel as well as supporting other public safety partners from the Department of Public Safety Communication, Department of Animal Services and the Health Department can seek help from professionals who are specially trained in addressing mental health concerns. By creating an accessible and confidential environment, the center aims to remove barriers and promote open dialogue about mental well-being.

What sets the Public Safety Wellness Center apart from other resources within the community is the tailored approach it offers to police and fire department personnel. The professionals at the center possess an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by law enforcement and fire department staff, are able to build credibility and rapport to ensure a more empathetic and effective support system.

the center provides a wide range of services including individual counseling, group therapy sessions, stress management techniques, AcuDetox, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, and workshops on mental health awareness.

The impact of these resources lies in the personal stories and testimonials shared by public safety personnel who have used the services provided by the Wellness division or the new center.

FCPD's and FCFRD's dedication to ongoing support and wellness initiatives demonstrate their commitment to ensuring the overall health and well-being of police and fire department personnel. By fostering an environment where mental health is prioritized, the departments are creating a safer and more resilient workforce resulting in safer communities.

Fairfax County's focus on suicide prevention and the establishment of a center lets police and fire department personnel know they are not alone in their struggles. By providing access to compassionate professionals and tailored resources, the department aims to enhance the mental well-being of its staff and create a culture of openness and support.

# Students Protest VDOE's Policies

FROM PAGE 3

(D), and fulfilled a version of Youngkin's campaign promise of strengthening parents' rights.

Under the enacted 2023 policies, trans students are called by teachers and students by their name and pronoun at birth. That is unless the parents have agreed in writing otherwise. Schools must inform parents about their children's nicknames, pronouns, or social transitions that may occur at school.

Parents control the counseling of students while at school. The guidelines prevent trans students from participating in sports teams or using restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identities.

Balleisen said that although he has graduated from a public high school and the 2023 Model Policies do not apply to him, other younger transgender students he knows are still in Virginia public schools, which does matter to him.

Around the same time last fall, on Sept. 27, tens of thousands of Virginia students, including those at Balleisen's alma mater, McLean High School, walked out to protest the governor's proposed anti-trans policies.

The Pride Liberation Project, which organized the walkouts, said on Twitter, "We're walking out today to make it clear to @GovernorVA that students can't learn if we're worried about abuse, harassment, depression, and our rights. All we want is to be able to learn in an inclusive school that lets us thrive like every other student."

The finalized Model Policies present a Sample Policy in Appendix 1. It includes definitions for consideration "for use by local school boards as they develop and implement their policies in compliance with the Act." According to policies, "transgender student" means "a public school student whose parent has stated in writing that the student's gender differs from the student's sex, or an eligible student who states in writing that his or her gender differs from his or her sex."

"These policies provide families the opportunity to weigh in on their child's decisions and be a partner in their education," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Lisa Coons in a statement announcing the release of the Model Policies on July 18. "We encourage all school divisions to review the policies and implement them into their local policies in collaboration with their school boards and community stakeholders."



FILE PHOTO 2021 BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
During his campaign for governor, "parents' rights" became a key slogan for Glenn Youngkin.



PHOTO BY VDOE  
Lisa Coons, the superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia Department of Education

## Some School Districts Balk at Revised Policies

Attorney General Jason Miyares (R) responded to Youngkin's request in an opinion dated Aug. 23, 2023, confirming that the Virginia Department of Education's "Model Policies on Ensuring Privacy, Dignity, and Respect for All Students and Parents in Virginia's Public Schools" complies with federal and state anti-discrimination laws.

"It is my opinion that the model policies comply with the Equal Protection Clause, Title IX, and the VHRA, and that pursuant to § 22.1-23.3, local school boards are required to adopt policies that are consistent with them," Miyares wrote.

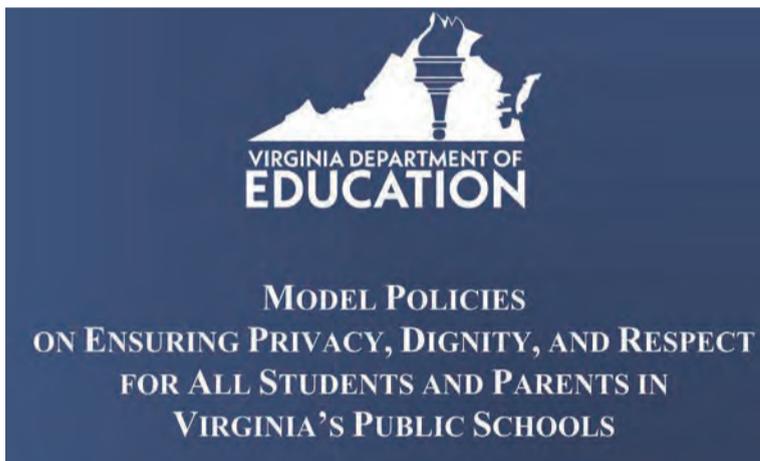
However, questions remain about how much power the state has to enforce compliance, and if there is room for individual school boards to interpret the model policies and the legal issues.

Spotsylvania County Public Schools became the first division in Virginia to adopt the new guidelines on the treatment of transgender students in an Aug. 15 school board vote. On Aug. 17, Roanoke County Public Schools was close behind.

At least four school districts have rejected the policies: Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties. Richmond Public Schools superintendent recommended the school board retain current policies.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
Protest at a Fairfax County public school a year ago at Herndon High, Sept. 27, 2022, against the Model Policies.



SCREENSHOT  
Cover of the enacted Model Policies.

## Gender Dysphoria, Protected Disability in Virginia

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that gender dysphoria is a protected disability in Virginia and three other states.

On Aug. 16, 2022, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit ruled that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Rehabilitation Act protect individuals with gender dysphoria from discrimination.

Plaintiff Kesha Williams, a transgender woman with gender dysphoria whose gender identity as female differs from the male gender she was assigned at birth, brought suit against the sheriff of Fairfax County, a prison deputy, and a nurse.

She alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the United States Constitution, and state common law.

The case challenged the placement of Williams in a men's prison and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office denial of care related to her gender dysphoria.

The court's decision cited the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, which states that gender dysphoria is distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth.

Gender dysphoria can present debilitating symptoms, including depression, substance abuse, self-mutilation, and self-harm.

The court used this understanding to rule that the Americans With Disabilities Act applies to gender dysphoria.

On June 30, 2023, the United States Supreme Court upheld the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals by declining to review the case. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., dissenting the denial to review, wrote as part of his argument, "The Fourth Circuit's decision makes an important provision of a federal law inoperative and, given the broad reach of the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, will have far-reaching and important effects across much of civil society in that Circuit."

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Many are attracted to the beauty of Lake Accotink Park.



Volunteers regularly participate in clean-up activities for litter that pollutes Lake Accotink.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

## Soil & Water Candidates Weigh In on Lake Accotink

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**E**arlier this year, continuing discussion around sediment and flooding problems, including a recommendation to let Lake Accotink fill in and become a wetland, raised concern among some area residents.

Lake Accotink Park in the Braddock District attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually with its stunning trails, picturesque picnic areas and engaging waterfront

activities. The 55-acre man made reservoir, which was built by the U.S. Army, has required regular dredging due to sedimentation. However, extensive analysis by Fairfax County staff has led to the recommendation against further dredging due to the significant costs, \$395 million over the next 25 years; environmental impacts; and difficulties in processing and disposing of sediment. Instead, they recommend allowing the lake to fill up with sediment and return to a wetland park environment.

The idea of restarting the Park's

Master Planning process, with a focus on fostering a sustainable future for the lake area and park, was recommended by county staff, raising opposition from many residents of the area opposed to losing the lake.

A 27-member task force, chaired by former Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova held meetings to consider the proposal through the summer. Subcommittees of the task force reviewed the value of Lake Accotink Park to the county, impacts of and issues with the staff recommendation to end

dredging, and possible options to consider, other than full dredging. As Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw said, "This task force will enable community members to be at the table to ensure that options are thoroughly explored, and that questions from the public are answered." The next meeting of the task force is scheduled for Oct. 2; with their final report due to the Board on Dec. 5.

Given the controversy of this conservation issue, The Connection asked candidates for director seats on the Northern Virginia

Soil and Water Conservation District Board for their position on the lake's future. Here's what they said. Two candidates, Mell Flynn and Ed Monroe, did not respond.

### Dana Barakat

"Lake Accotink is an example of why it's important to act immediately rather than wait and see. The very high concentration of impervious surfaces in the lake watershed has created a situation where far too much sediment flows into the lake every time it rains. For those

SEE SOIL & WATER, PAGE 16

## Get to Know the Candidates, and the Board

PHOTO COURTESY CAMPAIGNS

FROM PAGE 6

Top issues: Maddrell sees "mitigating the destructive impact of utility scale solar farms on forests and green spaces," as her highest priority. She wants to work with State legislators to address solar farm impacts, by forcing utility compliance with State environmental quality regulations. She favors use of rooftop solar energy installations on commercial buildings, and would urge the Board of Supervisors to amend building codes to encourage them. Her second priority is to counter the effects of road runoff. She favors use of permeable cool road technologies, which she says would "improve stormwater management, reflect more solar energy, reducing ambient heat on urban roadways by 10 to 15 degrees."

Maddrell describes her campaign as "self-funded. My primary outreach effort is at the community level and through social media." She is endorsed by the Republican Party.

### Mary E. Strayhorne (Falls Church)

Age: 43

Education: Master of Law (L.L.M.), American University (2014);

J. D., Law, Faulkner University (2011);

B.A., American Studies, Queen's University (2007);

Associate of Science (A.S.), Multimedia & Web Design, Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale (2002).

Current career position: Consultant, management, contracting, public interest.

Conservation volunteer experience: None  
Strayhorne says "There is more to conser-



Mary Strayhorne

vation than just having technical knowledge in the science behind conservation efforts — it is also important to effectively communicate the soil and water needs to stakeholders ... Without the money and support from stakeholders to implement the advice of the Board, sustainable maintenance is a plan without action or results."

Strayhorne says her top priorities are to "Expand education outreach to inform the public on best practices, relating to over fertilizing and yard management, to effectively mitigate their impact on our environment that has led to a rampant increase in invasive species. And to help the board obtain additional funding from various sources, including from our new partners in commerce, to support conservation efforts ..." She points to current issues with invasive species and the need to "bring our community green spaces into a healthy, sustainable state of maintenance ..."

Strayhorne indicates the majority of her campaign time is spent "connecting with constituents and members of our community who have the expertise and understanding of what the issues facing soil and water are at present, and constituent concerns." In coming weeks, she expects to participate in forums, attend local events, such as back-to-school nights and football games, and reach out to women's voting and Latino community groups. She is working with other Republican candidates for Board of Supervisors and school board on conservation planning and education outreach. She is endorsed by the Republican Party. See [strayhornefornova@aol.com](mailto:strayhornefornova@aol.com)

*Editor's Note: The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will host a virtual NVSWCD candidate forum on Oct. 11, 7 p.m.; to register go to <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>. Find other League candidate forums held Oct 2 to Oct 16 at the same site.*

# THEATRE

## Woodson High Presents New Play, 'The Trials'

Poses serious questions about climate-change responsibility.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**oodson High's new play, "The Trials," is set in the near future, when the climate emergency is worsening and all adults who've adversely impacted the climate are put on trial. The jurors deciding their fates are ages 12-17 and must make difficult decisions. But are they delivering justice or taking revenge?

The curtain rises Friday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 7, at 2 and 7; Sunday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m.; and Thursday-Friday, Oct. 12-13, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and up, pay what you can, at the door or via [wtwdrama.org](http://wtwdrama.org). Recommended for ages 13 and above due to strong language. A free community discussion and Q&A session will follow the Oct. 8 show.

The play features a cast and crew of 60, and Woodson is the first high school in Fairfax County to bring it to the stage. "I'm always reading plays written for young people by the National Theatre in London," said Director Chris Rushing. "I had my students read scenes from this one, and they were excited about it.

"We have a really diverse group of actors,



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Surrounded by fellow jurors, Jonah Hilbert and Alyce Visioli (as Noah and Ren, center) have a confrontation.

from freshmen to seniors, and it's an emotionally hard play. It's straightforward and has heavy themes that we want to do really well. And I love it when students can play students written to be complex and nuanced characters their own age."

Furthermore, said Rushing, "I'm incredibly impressed with how hardworking these actors are – and how far they've come in such a short time since school started. They came ready and prepared, and everything's going smoothly. I'm so grateful

seeing how they've grown and how well they're doing."

He said his students can handle complex and tough questions that don't have obvious answers, such as individual vs. corporate accountability, justice vs. revenge, and the value of art and its place in society. "But this play doesn't give the answers," said Rushing. "It leaves it to the audience to figure them out. Ultimately, this show is about how do we treat each other – and I hope people leave thinking and talking about it."

Senior Jonah Hilbert portrays juror Noah, 16, during the play's three trials. "Noah has a predisposition to finding the adults guilty because of something that happened in his past, and it makes him angry," explained Hilbert. "But people who are convicted will be executed – so the stakes are high."

"It's an interesting experience playing him because I get to tap into more negative emotions and be able to feel why he's so upset about the situation he finds himself in," said Hilbert. "The audience will like that this show asks really thought-provoking questions about justice vs. revenge and how much a human life is worth. And as they see all the different personalities of the jurors, maybe they'll be able to see themselves in some of them."

SEE 'THE TRIALS', PAGE 15

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU NOV 10

**Into the Hothouse Exhibit.** At Gillespie Gallery of Art, GMU's Art and Design Building, 4515 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Mason Exhibitions presents Into the Hothouse, an immersive site-specific installation by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. The exhibit is a category-defying constellation of dozens of gathered, printed, and handmade works that explore botanical and environmental subject matter. Natural forms, technological interventions, and laborious craft techniques abound. The gallery is free and open to the public from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## FUNDAY MONDAY

**"Funday Monday is open to children of all ages, however is best suited for the preschool set!** Funday Monday runs from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and — unless otherwise noted — is held at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There are plenty of free parking lots/garages in Old Town Fairfax. Stroller access is available at the side entrance Old Town Hall facing Route 236/Main Street. For more information visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts)."

## SCHEDULE

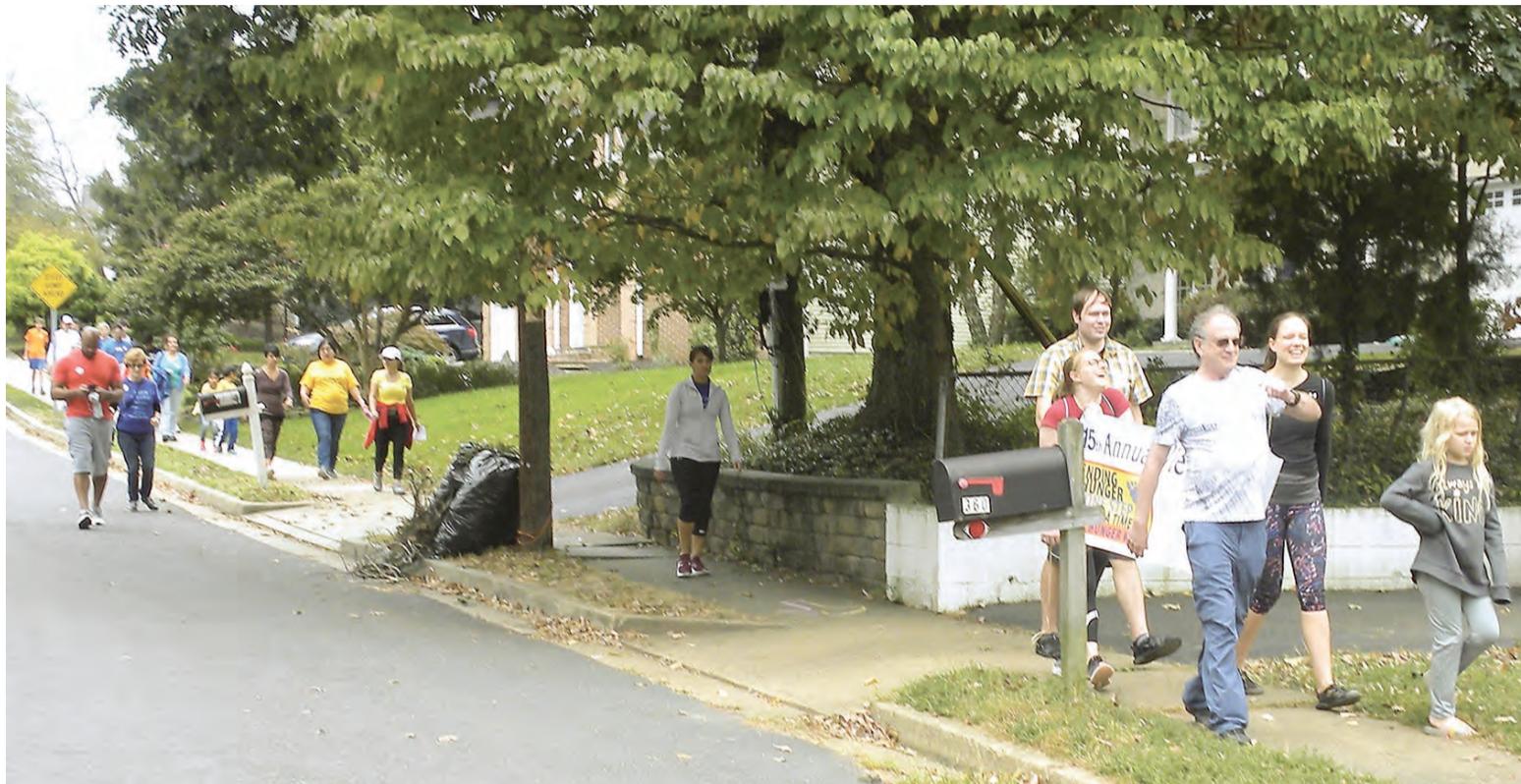
Oct. 2 -- Irish Dance w/McGrath Morgan  
 Oct. 9 -- No Program  
 Oct. 16 -- Music together Sing and Groove  
 Oct. 23 -- My Gym  
 Oct. 30 -- Kids Nature Puppet Show "Creepy Creatures"  
 Nov 6 -- Miss Mollie's Musical Fun  
 Nov. 13 -- No Program  
 Nov. 20 -- My Gym  
 Nov. 27 -- Drew Blue Shoes Magic  
 Dec. 4 -- Music Together Sing and Groove  
 Dec. 11 -- My Gym  
 Dec. 18 -- TBD

## SATURDAYS THRU NOVEMBER

**Reston Museum.** See how Reston's founding principles were implemented by joining the upcoming walking tour. Tour will be held 10 a.m. every Saturday through November. Sign up at: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/guided-walking-tour-restons-founding-2023-09-09-10-00>

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

**Spooky Fall Festivities.** At Go Ape Zipline & Adventure Park, South Run RECenter, Springfield. This ground-based experience will take guests on a hike through the park, navigating various creatures from your deepest, darkest nightmares.



The Vienna CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 in Vienna.

Participants will be immersed in the natural environment, never knowing what might be waiting around the next curve in the path. Is that just the wind through the branches? Definitely not! This guided, anxiety-filled adventure will take 20-30 minutes with a cost of \$14.95 per person. Go Ape is also expanding the Frights at Height experience! Launched in 2022, this autumnal aerial activity is now available on select evenings in both September and October. Guests will find zombies, ghosts, and ghouls hiding in creepy corners under the Treetop Journey zipline and ropes course. Only \$39.95 per person for this 1-hour gravity defying, scream-filled adventure after dark...if you dare. Visit [www.goape.com](http://www.goape.com).

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

**Cox Farms Fall Festival 2023.** At Cox Farms, corner of Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road, Centreville. The Fall Festival is filled with family-friendly entertainment and attractions including slides, swings, animals, hayrides and more. From the world-famous hayride to our corny Cornundrum and giant slides, our Fall Festival has something for the whole family. The Fall Festival is open Sept. 16-17, and then Thursday through Monday Sept. 23-Nov. 6, plus Tuesday, Nov. 7. Hours Sept. 16 - 17; Thursdays through Mondays Sept. 23 - Oct. 30: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Nov. 2 - 7: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last entry one hour before closing). Market is open daily through Nov. 7.

The Fields of Fear Hours: Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 22 - Nov. 4 (plus Sunday, Oct. 8) 7:30-11 p.m. (last entry 10 p.m.) Featuring more than 20 acres of fear and spooky attractions.

## NOW THRU OCT. 29

**Fall Fest 2023.** At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston. Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Fall Fest schedule spans weekends from September 23rd to October 29th, with the Colum-

bus Day special on October 9th, operating from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per child and \$5 per parent, while children aged two and under enter for free. The festival offers a variety of activities, including inflatables such as a corn maze, two 20' slides, two pumpkin bounce houses, and a basketball game. There's also a charming petting zoo, the Reston Farm Garden Market Express Train, and live music for entertainment. The market features seasonal items like chrysanthemums, pansies, fresh produce, natural jams, local organic honey, farm-fresh products, pumpkins, seasonal decor, and our famous Apple Cider Donuts. You can also savor offerings from local food trucks throughout the weekend. Book your tickets on our website: <https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest>.

## SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 15

**"The Chosen."** At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Chosen by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potok, directed by Alex Levy. Tickets: \$25-\$50 general admission, \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

**George Mason's Gunston Hall Opens Historic Riverside Garden.** 5:30-8 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. After many years of archeological investigation, scholarship and construction, Gunston Hall will be hosting a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of its 1-acre historic garden. Executive Director of Gunston Hall Scott M. Stroh III and Gunston Hall's First Regent Virginia Nicholson will be making brief remarks. The garden opening is the culmination of decades of work by Gunston Hall. The garden was designed based on the 18th-century garden conventions that emphasized geometry and communicated

George Mason's wealth and refinement to his peers. It also highlights the contradictions between George Mason's values and his dependence on enslaved labor.

## SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 1

**25th Annual Oktoberfest.** At Fort Belvoir's Fremont Field (beside Wells Field House), 2104-6028 Goethals Road, Fort Belvoir. Oktoberfest is a four-day festival that highlights authentic German cuisine, beverages, music, and dancing. Enjoy an exciting carnival, Volksmarch 5K/10K Walk and much more. Hours: Thursday 6-10 p.m.; Friday 4-11 p.m.; Saturday 12-11 p.m.; and Sunday 12-8 p.m.

## ARTSCREEN: A FREE FILM SERIES CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Join in a free film series on Friday evenings in the City of Fairfax at the **Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center**, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Films begin at 7:30 p.m. Free popcorn, candy, refreshments and door prizes, too!  
 September 29: The King's Speech. (2010) R - The story of King George VI, his unexpected ascension to the throne of the British Empire in 1936, and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch overcome his stammer.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Arts by George!** 5 p.m. At GMU Harris Theatre; 8 p.m. at Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The philanthropic event, headlined by Renée Elise Goldsberry, raises vital support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, game design, film, and arts management. At 8 p.m., guests will transition to the Center for the Arts for a live Fund-a-Student Auction, leading up to the performance by Goldsberry. In this concert, Goldsberry will perform a dazzling concert featuring Broadway hits and American songbook classics. Tickets are \$100, \$75, \$50.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Oak Hill Mansion Open House.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Oak Hill Mansion, 4716 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Travel back in time with a captivating visit to the historic Oak Hill mansion in Annandale. Step into history during an annual open house event at this private residence on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note that this year's event will exclusively feature indoor and garden tours, with no satellite parking, shuttles, speaking program or food provided. Guided indoor and garden tours will be offered at 15-minute intervals.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Children's Consignment Sale.** Grace Weekday Preschool at 7434 Bath Street, Springfield is holding a children's consignment sale on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Cash only and all sales final.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**A Conversation with Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody.** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. At CenterStage, located at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston. \$40 Reston/\$60 Non-Reston. Mandy Patinkin and Kathryn Grody share family stories, professional anecdotes and glimpses into their 40-plus years of (mostly) marital bliss. Details are available at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Author David Baldacci.** At Chantilly Regional Library. 9:30 a.m. V.I.P. meet and greet; 11 a.m. featured speaker. Hosted by Fairfax Library Foundation. 50 tickets available. Baldacci, the author of nearly 50 bestsellers—including his latest novels, The 6:20 Man, Long Shadows, and Simply Lies—will discuss his work and answer questions from the Festival audience. A book sale and signing will follow his presentation. Tickets for the morning V.I.P. event can be purchased online for \$75 each at [www.fairfaxlibrary-foundation.org/events](http://www.fairfaxlibrary-foundation.org/events).



The MPAartfest takes place Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 in McLean Central Park, McLean.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**RA's Yard Sale.** 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Association's Parking Lot, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Eighty families will be selling a variety of items, so this is a great opportunity to find bargains on children's clothes, toys, things for a new home or a college dorm, etc. Vendor spaces is sold out.

## SEPT. 30 TO OCT. 1

**21st Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Visitors will see thousands of handmade-in-the-USA, exquisite pieces of art from every medium. Presented by the nation's top art festival producer, Howard Alan Events (HAE), the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Visit [www.ArtFestival.com](http://www.ArtFestival.com).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 1

**MPAartfest.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Central Park, McLean. Now in its 17th year, MPAartfest 2023 offers enjoyment for guests of all ages. This year's festival features the work of more than 35 visual artists, some of DC's most talented music performers, local food vendors, and a variety of children's activities to engage creative minds and captivate art-lovers of all ages. A one-day juried fine art show and sale, MPAartfest transforms McLean Central Park into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. MPAartfest will again offer a full day of lively and varied musical performances. Sponsored by Mars and curated by Music Director Ken Avis, radio host of Antidote WERA 96.7 FM and a performing musician with the award-winning band Veronneau, this year's performers include: Blues Alley Youth Jazz Orchestra (10am), Alison Crockett (11am), Bobby Thompson (12pm), Little Red and the Renegades (1pm), The Honey Larks (2pm), and Taisha Estrada (3pm). On the food front, MPAartfest will once again feature the much-loved Café Beret (sponsored by The Mather) where guests can enjoy wine and beer provided by The Wine Outlet. The event will also offer food from a variety of

food trucks and eateries, including Rocklands BBQ, Pikoteo, Timber Pizza, Kona Ice, and MooThru.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 1

**Vienna CROP Walk.** 12:30 p.m. The Walk supports local and international hunger relief efforts. It is approximately 2.4 miles and takes about an hour. A shorter 1.2-mile walk is also available. Registration/check-in starts at 12:15 p.m., at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Avenue, Vienna. To register, donate, or for more information, go to Vienna CROP Hunger Walk. There is no fee to walk, but walkers are encouraged to donate or to find sponsors who will make donations to support their efforts. You can even form your own team. Three-quarters of the funds raised go to Church World Service (a hunger relief nonprofit), and for the Vienna walk, one-fourth will go to the Committee for Helping Others (CHO), which provides a food pantry and other emergency assistance to local residents.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 1

**EV Owners Show Their Electric Vehicles.** 1-5 p.m. At GMU, 4400 University Drive Parking Lot L (Roanoke River Lane and Po river Lane, Fairfax. Electric vehicles (EVs) will take the stage during the 13th annual National Drive Electric Week. Attendees will have the opportunity to test drive various models of EVs, talk to EV owners, see cars, trucks and buses on display, and learn about the latest in EV technology and financial incentives. The event is co-sponsored by Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Sierra Club Potomac River Group, and Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.

## MONDAY/OCT. 2

**Cultivating 21st Century Audiences.** 4-6 p.m. At GMU's Center for the Arts, (Monson Grand Tier, located on the third floor), 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Presented by GMU's School of Theater and College of Visual and Performing Arts Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The panelists include Adrienne Bryant Godwin, director of programming for Mason Arts' Center for the Arts and Hylton Performing Arts Center; Maria Mañuela Goyanes, artistic director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company; Naysan Mojgani, associate artistic

director at Round House Theatre; and Serge Seiden, managing director of Mosaic Theater Company. The discussion will be moderated by Djola Branner, professor of theater and director of Mason's School of Theater, and is co-organized by Shá T. Norman, CVPA's director of diversity and inclusion. The event is designed specifically to engage artists and enthusiasts of the performing arts industry, foster relationships within our arts community, and invite robust conversations to strategize and question efforts in place to build the next generation of arts supporters. The event is free and open to members of the public but registration is required.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

### Panel Discussion on Book Banning.

10 a.m. At the Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Hosted by the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, the panelists will be Matt Callahan, senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, and Lisa Varga, Executive Director of the Virginia Library Association. The panelists will discuss the law and policy applicable to banning books in libraries, both public and in schools, and in bookstores, and whether certain books should be restricted to certain readers based on age or removed from library shelves entirely. For further information, contact David Drachsler at [drachslerd@gmail.com](mailto:drachslerd@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown".** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. (Spain; Directed by Pedro Almodóvar); Shown in Spanish with English subtitles. In Almodóvar's breakout dark comedy, a television actress encounters a variety of eccentric characters after embarking on a journey to discover why her lover abruptly left her.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**Fall Free Concert in the Park.** 6:45 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Local favorites The Magic Trio, three Rock 'N' Roll veterans from Northern Virginia, will play all your classic rock favorites! Also 2 Silos will be available for food and drink purchases. As always, the atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic dinner, blankets, lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

## OCT. 5-9

**Disney on Ice. At Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax.** This newest Disney On Ice spectacular features the most Disney characters in one show, including the on-ice debuts of Frozen 2 and Raya and the Last Dragon. Audiences will take a journey across the night sky with Mickey, Minnie, and all their friends from Encanto, The Princess and the Frog, Toy Story, Moana, Cars, Aladdin, and more. Tickets now available for purchase online at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or visit the venue Box Office.

Dates and Times:  
Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 PM  
Friday, October 6 at 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM  
Saturday, October 7 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM  
Sunday, October 8 at 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM & 6:30 PM  
Monday, October 9 at 1:00 PM

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, BUILDING DIPOSITION REPORT, AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF UNACCOMPANIED ENLISTED PERSONNEL HOUSING AT JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the Environmental Assessment (EA), Building Disposition Report (BDR), and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the construction of two Unaccompanied Enlisted Personnel Housing (UEPH) barracks and associated habitat restoration at Fort Myer which is part of JBM-HH. The Proposed Action involves the construction of two equal size, new UEPH barrack buildings and the restoration of approximately two acres of existing grass and scattered tree landscape to natural habitat. The Proposed Action would also include the construction of a parking lot with capacity for 65 vehicles. Additionally, the Proposed Action would include the realignment of Schoolhouse Road; extension of the pedestrian corridor; construction of new access roads, fire lanes, equipment pads, and walkways; new utilities; and landscaping. Construction of the proposed barrack buildings and the parking lot would require demolition of seven existing Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) duplexes, two residential garages, one swimming pool (abandoned/not operational), and one swimming pool house (abandoned/not operational). The existing seven NCO duplexes are family units that are in failed or poor condition, contain hazardous materials (lead-based paint and asbestos), and do not meet Army Standards or base programming needs.

The new UEPH barracks will provide additional, updated housing for Fort Myer. Currently, existing historic barracks are in failed and failing condition, are insufficient to support active-duty military, and do not meet Army Standards. Fort Myer has a current deficit of 200 beds needed for personnel. The consolidated housing on the Installation would support a more cohesive Army unit for training, mission readiness, and mobilization. Additionally, many of the personnel that would move into these barracks are currently housed off-base, competing for space within the local housing market. This EA has been prepared to identify, evaluate, and consider the environmental consequences of the proposed demolition of seven existing NCO duplexes, two residential garages, swimming pool, and one swimming pool house; construction of the UEPH barracks and habitat restoration in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations.

JBM-HH is located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and composed of Fort Myer, Henderson Hall, and Fort McNair. JBM-HH was created from the administrative reorganization of the Fort Myer Military Community (Fort Myer and Fort McNair) and the Marine Corps installation at Henderson Hall as part of the Congressionally mandated DoD Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005. Fort Myer and Henderson Hall are contiguous and located in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Fort McNair is located in southwest Washington, D.C., on the peninsula of Greenleaf Point (in the neighborhood known as Buzzard Point), at the confluence of the Washington Channel of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River. JBM-HH encompasses approximately 380 acres (152 hectares) including Fort Myer at 243 acres (97 hectares), Henderson Hall at 29 acres (12 hectares), and Fort McNair at 107 acres (43 hectares). Installation management responsibilities for all three sites is the responsibility of U.S. Army Garrison JBM-HH headquartered in Building 59 on Fort Myer, and integration of functions and services between all three sites has occurred to provide more efficient support of the on-installation and regional populations.

The EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions).

The NCO duplexes, swimming pool/pool house, and residential parking garages proposed for demolition fall under the recently executed Program Comment: Department of the Army Program Comment for Inter-War Era Housing, Buildings and Structures, and Landscape Features 1919-1940 (Program Comment/PC, enacted September 2020). The BDR has been completed in accordance with and as defined in the Program Comment's Appendix A Design Guidelines for Army Inter-War Era Housing (1919-1940). A BDR is prepared when it is determined that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives to demolition. Comments received from the public during the public comment period should identify if the commenter believes there is a major deficiency in following the Program Comment Demolition Procedures.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation on the appearance of the new replacement UEPH barracks and the habitat restoration area is ongoing with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office and other consulting parties.

The Draft EA and BDR are available to view in printed form at the Arlington Central Public Library and the D.C. Southwest Neighborhood Library. It can be viewed/downloaded electronically at <https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/teamJBMHH/about/Base/environmental-management-division-website>. Comments or questions on the Draft EA/FNSI and BDR may be directed in writing to: Directorate of Public Works - Environmental Division, 111 Stewart Road, Building 321, Fort Myer, VA 22211 or by email to: [JBMHH\\_NEPA@usace.army.mil](mailto:JBMHH_NEPA@usace.army.mil). Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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## Obituary



### Rhea Boswell

December 18, 1935 - September 18, 2023

Rhea Marcia Epstein Cohen Tessel Boswell, 87, of Springfield, VA, our beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to all, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2023, surrounded by her family.

Her daughter, Bonnie and son, Scott, invite you to a Celebration of Life to be held in memory of Rhea on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 1 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church, Springfield, VA. We invite Rhea's friends and loved ones to join us in celebrating her beautiful life.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests tribute donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Rhea Boswell at <https://act.alz.org/site/donate>

## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

Play Ball USA LLC trading as Glory Days Grill, 9526 Old Keene Mill Rd., Burke, Fairfax County, VA. 22015-4270. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jesse Steven McPherson, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## Legals

### ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Dr, Chantilly, VA 20152 703-327-6660.

Grady White, 20 ft, 1988, white color, registration number VA 7868 BK, HID number NTLBG614G788

Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources with questions.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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# THEATRE



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

While Alyce Visioli looks on, (from left) Jack Dudding, Jonah Hilbert and Max Roux illustrate “Speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil.”

## Woodson High Presents New Play, ‘The Trials’

FROM PAGE 11

Playing Ren is senior Alyce Visioli. “At 17, she’s one of the oldest and wisest jurors,” said Visioli. “She’s also the jury foreman, orchestrating the debates between those who think the defendant is guilty and those who think he isn’t. She’s soft-spoken but realizes that the ones with the loudest voices aren’t always the most unbiased, so she has to take the lead.”

Visioli likes her role because “Ren’s kind of the voice of reason, and she does her best to guide the group, keep their emotions in check and de-escalate the arguing among them. She can also be the voice of the audience because she’s the impartial vote. And when others lean toward one side or the other, she stays in the middle.”

She said audience members will enjoy “exploring the dynamic between these young people as they’re faced with such difficult, life-and-death decisions. And I hope they’ll think more about the future and how our actions now could affect it.”

Senior Jack Dudding portrays juror Xander, also 17. “He’s a theater kid, loves poetry and is a high-school dropout,” said Dudding. “But he and the others are trying to save the world before it’s too late. And that’s the whole point – they’re just kids deciding whether adults should live or die.”

He said Xander is also a member of the volunteer Climate Defense Force, helping

at refugee centers and doing flood rescues after the ice caps have melted. “I love playing him,” said Dudding. “He’s a bit stoic, has a crush on Ren and is giddy that she likes his poetry. So he finds happiness and believes that adults who can bring joy to life are worth saving and that we live for beauty and the arts. So that’s why Xander’s such a blast to portray up there – and he’s also got a really cool name.”

Dudding is also thrilled that “we get to put on such a high-concept play, like this, with the state of the world right now. The audience will appreciate how bold this show is. We have a diverse cast and a strong message telling people that this could be the way it is in the future.”

As for the set, junior Nico Loomis is the person in charge. “We’re going for something more skeletal because we want people to focus on what the actors are saying,” explained Loomis. “We have two doorways, some columns and a stained-glass window as the jury-deliberation room. The defendants give their statements on a platform in a different room, and they’re projected to the jurors via Zoom to show that everything’s virtual now.”

“I liked working with everyone on the set; they’re all really nice,” continued Loomis. “And this play’s really important because it shows people an idea of what their future could be like if they don’t change the way the world’s going, right now.”

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## Stanley Herwitz



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

He was once a close friend of mine: in 9th grade. Then, in high school we veered off in different directions, apparently (I can't remember exactly what happened). Besides, his home was on the other side of Newton Centre (where I grew up) in a section known as Waban so we rarely would bump into each other to facilitate any kind of relationship. Why I am writing about him now is that my long-standing best friend from high school Cary called me from his home in Needham, Ma. the other day to tell me that Stanley had died. As my closest friend, Cary was familiar with the occurrence/dynamic I'm about to share – and had been present at its occurrence, and thought I'd want to know about Stanley's passing, especially since Stanley and I lived 500 miles apart and hadn't spoken in 40+ years. As such, my likelihood of having seen or spoken to Stanley since was almost zero. In fact, Cary would have more than likely than I, since he still lived in the area, to have heard something about Stanley. (And since 1969 when we first met and instantly became best friends, and from 1972 on when I attended college in Maryland, he's been my eyes and ears up there. He has always been well connected and full of lots of local who, what and where's.)

Stanley was a big part of my life in junior high school. I can't recall if we attended one another's Bar Mitzvahs, but 1967 was a long time ago. What I do remember, generally, are the many nights a group of us teenagers would spend playing pick-up basketball (keeping stats as well: rebounds, points, et cetera) at Stanley's house and then afterward sit in his room and listen to music. And it's the music he introduced me to, years ahead of its generally accepted time, as it so happened, that ultimately became the basis and foundation of my musical awareness and interest. In 1969-ish, Stanley introduced me – musically, to Frank Zappa, Steve Miller, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers featuring Eric Clapton and one other band, The Allman Brothers Band, who specifically, became the center of my musical universe forever more. (Previously my musical taste had included bands like The Beatles, The Turtles and The Association.) And who, by the way, were the performers at the first rock concert I ever attended. It was at “The Boston Tea Party” in Kenmore Square near Fenway Park in Boston, Ma.

And what precipitated this literary journey down memory lane was news of Stanley's death and a reminder of the last time I saw him. It occurred in the fall of 1982 at the Newton South High School's 10-year class reunion, the first such occasion since we all had graduated. It was held in Copley Square at some hotel I can't recall, and we were all assembled in an appropriate-type ball room for the gathering. I can sort of remember standing around talking to some friends when I first saw Stanley as he slowly walked in my direction. I smiled when I saw him, and as we soon got close enough to engage verbally, Stanley spoke up. He was rather aggressive - and unpleasant, accusing me of something or other I had said or done to him in the past (high school presumably). He was openly hostile over the incident, an incident for which I had no clue or recollection - or context even. Whatever little we talked after his initial salvo, my sense was the damage – whatever it was, was irreparable, and we didn't talk anymore that evening. I was and have remained totally perplexed about Stanley's anger. That's the extent of the last interaction I had with him. And over the ensuing years, during the ongoing bi-weekly phone calls – and occasional visits, I had with Cary, I don't really remember Stanley's name ever coming up too much, and now it's too late.

I was then and now bewildered, disappointed and a bit despondent over the perceived slight that I had, unbeknownst to me, inflicted upon Stanley. Who knew Stanley had such intense feelings that the first thing he says/does when he sees me after 10 years is to mention/refer to some hurt I had caused him. Moreover, being that he still lived in Newton, Ma. and I lived in Bethesda, Md., eight hours away by car, it's not as if I could have transgressed much in the subsequent 10 years. If I had committed some figurative crime against Stanley while I was living in Maryland, I didn't exactly have means or opportunity to “faux pas.” Still, Stanley was mad about something.

And now it's unlikely I'll ever know. I would however, like to reach out to someone who knew Stanley and hear how he lived his life, whether he had family, children, career, success, and so forth. It might lesson my guilt – about what I don't know.

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



Urban forester, Jim McGlone is honored for his career work with Fairfax Master Naturalists.



Forester Jim McGlone gets a few lessons in felling trees from historic figure Aldo Leopold, a naturalist who lived from 1887 - 1948 and authored "Sand County Almanac".

# Long Time Career Forester Retires

## Master Naturalists honor Jim McGlone.

BY SUSAN LAUME

Fairfax Master Naturalists celebrated Jim McGlone for his career and recent retirement from the Virginia Department of Forestry in June. McGlone, an urban forest conservationist and

forester, established the popular nature volunteer group chapter in Fairfax County in 2007. He served as the chapter advisor and instructed the learning certification classes over the years that have graduated hundreds of citizen scientists. Master Naturalist volunteers actively work on con-

servations projects across the county with service hours and continuing education credits required to maintain their certification. McGlone is noted with graduates of the program for teaching dendrology; the 'ology' class most frequently requiring look-up (the science and study of woody plants, specifically, their taxonomic classifications). He was recognized in 2017 with Fairfax County's Environmental Excellence

Award.

On Sept. 24, the chapter said goodbye with an event at Frying Pan Park. Joining current chapter president Sarah Mayhew on stage with other past presidents was historic figure Aldo Leopold. The American writer, naturalist, and environmentalist, who is well known for his "Sand County Almanac," among the readings shared by Fairfax County Naturalists.

# Soil & Water Candidates Weigh In on Lake Accotink

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who struggle with the technical aspects: pollution, over use of household products, over use of fertilizer, not picking up our animals' feces, etc, cause these minerals to go into the lake watershed. While this may not seem catastrophic, it is to the ecosystem and the future of the lake. With that said, it is not under the purview of NVSWCD, so while formally we are not the ones to decide, we respect our partners and will continue to work with them to do our part. Moreover, the amount of funding needed is not feasible at the current moment.

### Rhonda Bitterli

"Even if cost were not an issue, there are environmental impacts associated with restoration activities. Area residents would be impacted for years by the presence of dredging equipment, by the noise associated with dredging operations, and by increased traffic in the surrounding community as truckloads of sediment are removed — and by the emissions produced by the trucks. Because of this, Fairfax County staff have recommended that the lake not be dredged, that it be allowed to turn

into a wetland. This is the option that seems the most viable. The park and wetland would still offer recreational opportunities and would provide a habitat for wildlife. ... The Board of Supervisors will review the findings of the Task Force and will make the decision regarding how to proceed. Unless there are some major developments related to dredging, letting the lake turn into a wetland is likely to remain the most viable option. I see an educational opportunity here to let visitors to the park know about the history of Lake Accotink and the factors that are contributing to its degradation. Visitors could also learn about what Fairfax County does to help control runoff and erosion in the county as well as what we as residents can do to control runoff and erosion in our yards so that we can all play a part in protecting the streams and lakes in Fairfax County."

### Debra Maddrell

"The root cause of this crisis is a failure on the part of the county either to mitigate the effects of urban over-development, or to hold the developers accountable for making sure comprehensive storm-wa-

ter controls and anti-erosion infrastructure are in place before beginning construction. Priority must be given to conserving forests, farmland, and green spaces. Letting Lake Accotink "be returned to a wetland area and park" does nothing to address the cause of the problem, and is an abdication of responsibility by the Board of Supervisors, and other government entities who have been kicking this can down the road for decades."

### Christopher Koerner

"The extensive siltation of Lake Accotink presents a very difficult challenge, over which the lake-side landowners have little control. The extensive siltation is caused by the high percentage of impervious surfaces in the heavily urbanized (greater than 29% impervious surfaces) watershed that continually causes unmanageable amounts of upstream sediment and debris to wash into the lake with every storm event. The runoff, nutrient loading, and associated stream bank erosion is exacerbated by the higher intensity rain events that we experience due to the effects of climate change. The District leads a volunteer stream-monitoring

program with 7 locations within the lake Accotink watershed; all have been rated unacceptable. The NVSWCD does not have the millions of dollars of funding or the authority to repeatedly dredge the lake or to make a decision on the future use of the Lake, but I believe that the Lake area is a valuable community and environmental habitat, and will advocate for the District to assist the County and community in any way we can to support the final decision. Some of the issues that our staff has expertise in include: Implementation of Best Management Practices, Low Impact Development, stormwater control structures, reduced nutrient loading, wetlands buffers, and community education."

### Mary Strayhorne

"We cannot allow Lake Accotink to become a wetland and lose local control of our county and state resource. Mismanagement of Lake Accotink will exacerbate the floodplain conditions if not properly maintained. Furthermore, if we fail to show a competency in managing our own natural resources, they become wards of federal control and will remain within federal

control. We should not allow our federal government to come into Fairfax County and tell our homeowners and citizens what they can and cannot do with the land and resources within our own county. Now is the time to draw a line in the sand, choose to control our own resources or lose control to federal environmental mandates. Lake Accotink is a beloved source of natural beauty, recreation, and memories for generations of Fairfax County residents. It is part of our home, it is ours — let's keep it that way. I'm confident we can find an abundance of funding and support opportunities within our community of new friends with commercial interests in the area who want to demonstrate their commitment to our community beyond the promise of limited tax revenue. After all, they came to our beautiful, prosperous state and county not only as entrepreneurs, but as neighbors and friends. Let's find a way to come together to keep Fairfax County a home of beauty and prosperity through collaborative, common sense approaches to conserving it. We're in this county together — let's make a deal that everyone can live with and sustain."