

CONNECTION

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Ari Acosta, 4, of Springfield, and her mom fight for a different future, at the 2023 Northern Virginia's Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13 ♦ PIZZA, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION

What Housing Do We Need?
PAGE 3

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Small-Business Incubator Coming to Fairfax City

Wander In will guide, support and help artisans thrive.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A new, retail incubator store is coming to Old Town Fairfax City. Called Wander In, it'll be in Fairfax Plaza between Mackenzie's Tunes & Tonics and The Wine House, at 3950 University Drive, Suite 211.

This creative venture is a partnership between Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED) and the Old Town Fairfax Business Association (OTFBA). Featuring local makers and entrepreneurs offering a variety of products and art, it's slated to open this winter.

"Establishing Wander In as a business incubator in our historic downtown plaza is

an important step in building Fairfax City's small-business retail," said Mayor Catherine Read. "It's a path for our local artisans to go from online sales and festival participation to a brick-and-mortar presence. Located in close proximity to a free parking garage and three very busy restaurants with outdoor dining, this multi-vendor retail offers residents and visitors a reason to wander in."

Via a partnership with Kimco Realty, this

curated, retail incubator will provide vendors with the opportunity to establish themselves in a highly visible retail space with low startup costs. By removing the usual high costs of entry into the retail market, the OTFBA and FCED hope to support the development of small-business skills through training and mentorship, with the goal of growing each business there.

SEE SMALL-BUSINESS, PAGE 7

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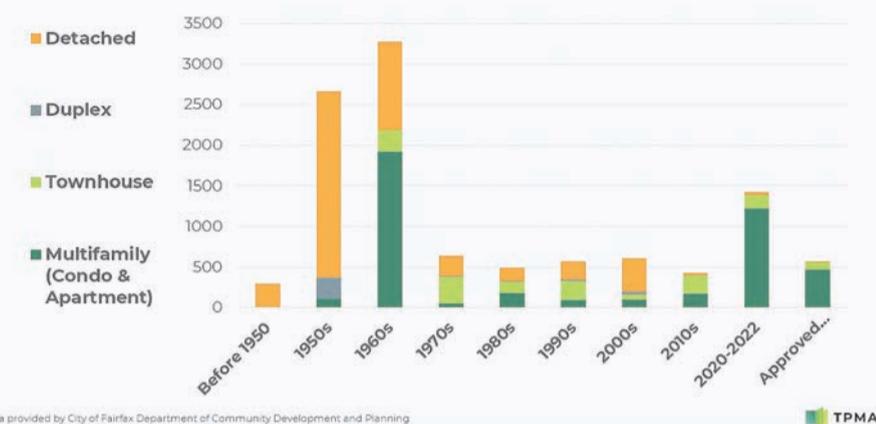
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Housing Developments Over Time

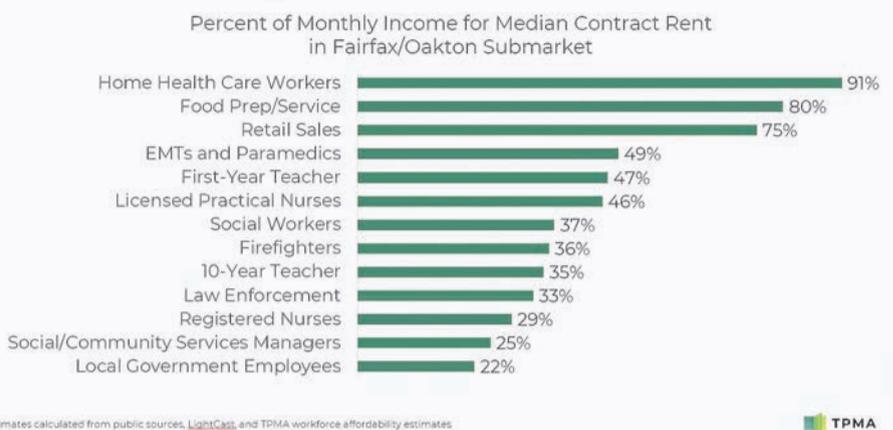


Data provided by City of Fairfax Department of Community Development and Planning

TPMA

More multifamily homes, than single-family, have been built in the City in recent years.

Affordability for Essential Workers



Estimates calculated from public sources, LightCast, and TPMA workforce affordability estimates

TPMA

Households spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing are considered "cost-burdened."

Fairfax City Examines Its Housing Supply and Types

Smaller, more accessible and affordable homes are needed.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City needs more affordable homes for working people with lower incomes, downsizing/accessible options for seniors, and a variety of home sizes for residents' different stages of life. Those were among the main recommendations of a citywide housing assessment done by consulting firm TPMA (Thomas P. Miller and Associates).

The goal was to determine the types of homes most in demand in the City for a full range of incomes, and which housing types would most support growing sectors of Fairfax's economy. TPMA performed the assessment in January-February via research, outreach, a citywide survey and City needs analyses.

The results will help Fairfax decide how best to plan for its residents' future housing needs. And during a recent City Council work session, TPMA's Aaron Finley revealed the information learned, along with recommendations for the City to consider as it moves forward with its housing strategy.

"There's been a recent surge in economic development here, and we project an estimated demand for 4,000 new housing units – split equally between rental and for sale – over the next 10 years," he said. "The City is already diversifying its housing stock to meet a variety of needs and income levels, and we continue to see an increase in demand for new, residential development."

However, said Finley, "The existing housing mix has some gaps and makes aging in place difficult because of the lack of downsizing options. So more diversification of the housing mix is needed."

Regarding for-sale homes, he said Fairfax needs smaller, more-affordable units. "We have lots of townhomes, but many are the same kinds and costs," said Finley. "We don't have a lot of variety in the types of for-sale housing here. And a lot of the new units are approaching and sometimes surpassing the million-dollar price tag."

He also noted that attached, two-unit condos and duplexes are the same type of home, but vastly different from each other in size and cost. "The residents don't support

eliminating single-family zoning, and they want more detached homes built. However, adjustments to increase housing density haven't resulted in affordability."

Recommendations to improve the housing mix include expanding permission for homes to add accessory dwelling units. "This can increase affordability," said Finley. "But infrastructure, parking and traffic needs also have to be figured in."

In addition, he said, Fairfax should continue promoting residential development within its designated Activity Centers, while maintaining a variety of uses within them. The City should also find areas to replace existing commercial development with residential and make sure new developments have an equal mix of sale and rental units.

Finley said Fairfax should encourage development of various home sizes to fill gaps in "housing life-cycle stages" and consider revising its policy/standards to accommodate cottage communities and smaller, detached homes. "There's an opportunity to create these units that can fit into neighborhoods," he added.

He further stressed that housing affordability is a major concern in Fairfax City. Noting that housing costs have jumped dramatically in the past five years, Finley said, "Median house prices [during that time] have increased \$150,000 – a 25-percent increase." They rose from \$573,500 in June 2018 to \$721,000 in June 2023. Finley attributed it to limited housing supply and the selling prices of new homes.

The rental situation is also a problem. "The average, three-bedroom unit is renting for nearly \$3,000/month," said Finley. "Almost 29 percent of households are cost-burdened – spending 30 percent of their income on housing. And many are severely cost-burdened, with 50 percent of their income going toward housing."

In Fairfax City, market-rate, or naturally affordable homes, are the oldest ones – built between 1959-1964. Finley said the City's ADU (affordable dwelling unit) ordinance has helped, with some dedicated ADUs included in new building projects. But, he said, "Since 2016, nearly 150 affordable housing units have been lost to new development."

For example, in March 2022, City Council

approved Pulte Home Co.'s plan to demolish the old Breezeway Motel on Fairfax Boulevard and the Fairfax Gardens Apartments on Cedar Avenue. In their place will go 40 townhouses, 20 two-over-two condos and a commercial building. But the project also ejected more than 100 low-income people from their homes.

During Council discussions on that project, then Councilwoman Janice Miller said, "The issue that keeps me awake at night is the reduction in public housing – and not just the Fairfax Gardens Apartments. Between 75-90 people at the Breezeway will have a tough time finding another place to live. Pulte provides a good product, but it's a lot of what we already have. Affordable housing, we don't have."

"A lot of new units are approaching and sometimes surpassing the million-dollar price tag."

— Aaron Finley, TPMA

It's no wonder then that TPMA emphasized housing affordability in its report. As of March, average Fairfax City rents were \$2,109 for a one-bedroom apartment; \$2,375 for two bedrooms and \$2,845 for three bedrooms. These prices make things tough for employees in fields such as home health care, food prep/service, retail sales, teaching (1-10 years' experience), law-enforcement and social work, as well as for nurses, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics. (See chart).

"Some of these essential workers will be important to the community's residents as they age," said Finley. "But we'll lose them to other areas if they can't afford to live here. To really make a dent in affordability, the City needs to identify or create a dedicated, annual, funding source devoted to the creation of affordable-housing programs. And it should also work with Fairfax County's Housing Authority."

Other recommendations include preserv-

ing existing affordable housing and trying to replace such options lost to redevelopment, exploring using publicly owned lands through Community Land Trusts to develop affordable housing, and continuing to seek public-private partnerships to develop housing for very low-income households.

Regarding senior/accessible housing, Finley said one in five City residents will be over age 65 by 2030, so options are needed to enable them to age in place. And accessibility features should be available in homes here, including affordable ones. According to the resident survey, the top four things needed by aging seniors are one-level homes, accessory dwelling units, universal design features (easily to use, regardless of physical abilities) and affordable options for downsizing.

Finley said steps the City's already taking include allowing permission for Accessory Dwelling Units for family members and those with disabilities, as well as approving senior housing units as part of Northfax West and in Fairfax's adopted Small Area Plans.

In addition, he said the City needs to "think of the market it wants to tap into" to attract new residents. For instance, identifying Northfax for mixed-use development, said Finley, is "a good opportunity for offering shared, communal spaces and attracting young people."

Following his presentation, Councilmember Jon Stehle said he doesn't want to wait five or 10 years to do something. "There's no reason we can't try accessory units now in one of our neighborhoods," he said. "Publicly owning the land that a house sits on is a new, creative idea. We need to take action, and I'm eager to move forward."

Councilmember Tom Ross said Council should discuss the recommendations they heard, possibly during a joint work session with the Planning Commission. And Councilmember Billy Bates wondered if adding more housing in commercial areas should be limited to the Activity Centers or be built throughout the City's commercial corridors.

Finley replied that, "As the demand for offices declines, we should look at commercial areas throughout the City, while not losing commercial revenue." Mayor Catherine Read then thanked City staff and TPMA for their work on this project, saying, "This has been very enlightening, and we appreciate the level of work and detail you accomplished."



Ari Acosta, 4, of Springfield, and her mom fight for a different future, at the 2023 Northern Virginia's Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's.



"Every day more of her brain goes away." Maureen Kaleigh of Herndon has frontotemporal dementia, a devastating progressive disease with no cure.



Denise Erbe of Fairfax and Shivansh Sharma monitor the table to distribute the blue flower, a symbol for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related dementias.

2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Northern Virginia's Alzheimer's Association provides support, help, research and more.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As the population ages, Alzheimer's disease is more prevalent. An estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2023; and of the total U.S. population, about 1 in 9 people, or 10.8 percent, age 65 and older, has Alzheimer's dementia, according to Alzheimer's Association 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are defined as a loss of cognitive functioning that includes memory loss, reasoning skills, and the ability to perform simple tasks to the extent that it significantly impacts the person's daily life.

On Sunday, Oct. 22, participants in the 2023 Northern Virginia Walk to End Alzheimer's gathered at Reston Town Center. Many wore purple, the organization's signature color, which combines the calm stability of blue with the fiery energy of red. Judy Misbin, the local volunteer coordinator, walked up to the stage wearing her purple tee shirt and addressed the near-standing-room-only crowd.

"There are now multiple FDA-approved treatments that can change the course of Alzheimer's ...and more potential treatments [are] in the pipeline," Misbin said. She added that 150,000 people in Virginia are living with Alzheimer's, and 354,000 people serve as unpaid caregivers. She urged those attending the walk to visit alz.org to learn more about the disease and to



"We walk to ensure that precious memories are remembered by all. Looking forward to a world without Alzheimer's." The Derrick family, Kelly, Jocelyn, 5, Jane, and James, 11.

get involved.

Navigating Alzheimer's disease and other dementias challenges everyone. It begins with fear by those who are afflicted and might aware they are losing cognition. Family and friends provide support and accommodations, but they grieve; the person they love is on a frightening journey, a progression of atrophy that generally accelerates over the course of the disease, even with initial inter-

vening treatments. The progression of the disease may slow down, but it still progresses. There is still no cure for Alzheimer's.

There is a pressing need to speak out in favor of new treatments as well as the requirements and rights of those impacted by the condition and other dementias. "Dementia is one of the most costly conditions to society," Misbin said. According to the Alzheimer's Association, in 2023, Alzheimer's and



2023 Northern Virginia's Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, Reston Town Center

other dementias will cost the United States \$345 billion. This number is projected to rise to nearly \$1 trillion in 2050.

Nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The event encourages people of all ages and abilities to take part in the fight against the disease. According to the

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION



Judy Misbin of Herndon gives remarks.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA-11) tells of how his family lost their matriarch to Alzheimer's.

FROM PAGE 4

Reston event website, nearly 1,000 people registered as participants.

They walked with purple flowers in memory of their loved ones and for all those who have died as a result of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. They carried orange flowers to show their support for the Alzheimer's Association. They walked with yellow flowers because they were caregivers for someone who had Alzheimer's or dementia, and they wanted to raise awareness for caregivers who work tirelessly and are often unpaid. They walked with blue flowers because they themselves have dementia.

As of Oct. 22, the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia raised \$250,980, 88 percent of their goal of \$285,000, through the support of 957 participants in 174 teams. The fundraiser remains open until the end of the year. Visit https://act.alz.org/site/TR?sid=23932&type=fr_informational&pg=informational&fr_id=16450 for more information.

While there was no registration fee for the Reston walk, all participants were encouraged to raise critical funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support as well as advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment, and, eventually, cure. A white flower represents this goal of a cure. No one has yet to walk with a white flower.

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Candidates Debate in Springfield District Supervisor Race

**Incumbent Pat Herrity (R);
Corazon Foley, Independent Green;
Albert Vega (D), address voter questions.**

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Candidates running to represent the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors met to debate questions posed by residents on Monday evening, Oct. 23. The debate, sponsored by Springfield District Council, was held in the historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse which previously educated children in grades 1- 8, from 1928 until 1939. As a bit of nostalgia, for the debate an old style hand-held school bell marked the end of each candidates' allotted time, clocked by modern cell phone.

A large crowd filled the small schoolhouse. Politely responsive at times; boisterously loud on questions of political controversy, such as gun rights and panhandling. Herrity was targeted by both of his opponents, with Foley attacking his voting and support record, and Vega saying the District's problems are not being solved correctly. Herrity talked about his accomplishments, and twice mentioned his endorsement by the Washington Post editorial board.

In opening statements the candidates described themselves. Herrity called himself "a minority member of the board" with "a long list of common sense accomplishments," including, pension reform, stopping the meals tax, moving over \$600 million of transportation projects. "I bring balance to the nine-to-one board so we can get better answers for our residents." He cited work on senior programs, reducing the machinery and tools tax, and protecting the Occoquan watershed. Foley described herself as "the first Filipino American, Asian American and only woman candidate." She promotes integrity by not accepting campaign donations so as not to be " beholden" to any group. She said failed promises for a Springfield senior center led her to run for office. She says "seniors are being stripped of our assets and I want to change that." As a supporter of the Fairfax One policy, she underscored, tongue in cheek, that her election, as a woman, would create equity.

Vega described himself as "a different type of candidate. I'm an electrical engineer and small business founder and I've been solving some of the world's toughest problems for most of my life." He spoke of working multiple jobs while pursuing his education, and earning his doctorate although only a small percentage of Hispanics attain that level. He described his life-saving work in Afghanistan and following that, establishing his small business in Virginia training service members to be better problem solvers. "We can't solve modern problems when we keep on thinking as business as usual. So I'm going to put a fresh perspective on the board."

Council chairman and moderator Jim Kirkpatrick read questions from the audience related to several issues. A few of the questions

and responses are summarized here.

Q- Support for data centers?

Vega: "The bottom line is I oppose them especially as right now they're huge energy hogs, a waste of water, until we actually use renewable energy and do rainwater collection systems. ... I'm going to call proffers to make sure that they do serve our communities and are designed very well. But right now they're not showing a connectivity to our community and they're not showing a representation that protects our environment. So I'm opposed to them."

Foley: "I know there are some people who would prefer data centers rather than development houses. It has to have a certain distance from where people live. I recognize the need to get the people involved in that community to discuss the issues, the pros and cons, and then we make a decision as a community."

Herrity: "Probably the environmental issue of our decade. We've got 12 of them already. But they need to be properly sited; not in the Occoquan watershed. Not up against residential, where they loom over residential buildings." He said he led the Board effort to write to Prince William to protect the watershed. Also, "We need to look at the other electrical infrastructure so we don't end up shorting ourselves ..."

Q- Property taxes?

Herrity: "I think people know that I'm a fiscal conservative on the board. Not only do I vote 'no' when there are significant tax increases, I actually put on the table ... an alternative budget that shows how I would balance the budget without significant impact on our residents, keeping the services that are a priority with our residents." He says, "we are taxing everyone out. Our seniors are leaving because their tax bill is higher than their mortgage used to be." He says the Board took the first step on senior tax relief in the shape of the future of aging plan, and made a commitment to look at homesteading.

Foley: "I am one of those angry about this. One of the major costs for us, that the property taxes fund, is our schools. We need to work with the State of Virginia to provide more funding for Fairfax because we are being treated very unfairly. We need to get other sources of revenue added to property taxes. In other states, specifically Georgia, [they] actually cut property taxes for seniors on the basis of age, without income as a qualification."

Vega: "I don't like paying taxes, but when they're used efficiently, I don't mind them. I want to look at the modernization of our tax system. Right now we're operating on a tax system, about 50 to 100 years old." He wants to work with all levels of government on taxing authority to keep more of our tax money here, working for the county, instead of going somewhere else in the State. He mentioned disappointment that his opponent's



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Springfield District Supervisor candidates Albert Vega, Corazon Foley, and Pat Herrity debate.

campaign statements inaccurately portrayed him as in favor of a meal tax, when he has not made such a recommendation preferring to gather facts. He said looking at other funding sources is necessary to provide relief from taxes and alternate budgets "which keep pulling money from schools, to balance the budget." He says the Springfield District "has been the least financially conservative office in the county, it returns the least amount of money back to the county."

Q. Will you support new taxes?

Vega: "I'd like to see taxes that actually benefit our community. I'm not looking to try and raise the burden on people and that's the reason why I'm having conversations with people at the state level so that we can actually try to modernize what our tax systems look like. I want to apply technology so that we can make sure that whatever our tax dollars, they are going as far as possible." He favors bringing people from the community, small business and teachers together to have conversations. He acknowledges difficulty with aging in place due to high property taxes and a likely need to shift from property taxes. Concluding he would favor new taxes, if they are smarter and replace those not working.

Foley said she is following Delegate Vivian Watts discussion of our rising share of property taxes for housing and suggestions for alternatives if we can afford to live there; alternatives such as income or meal taxes. Foley summarized that perhaps new taxes should be considered, "but only as a grand bargain. Cut our taxes."

Herrity says, "Fairfax County has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. The budget doesn't have to go up by 50 percent over ten years; your taxes don't have to go up by 50 percent over 10 years." Instead of supporting new taxes, he favors a "hard look at the budget for efficiencies." He is critical of the current board for tasking a budget review by the county executive instead of the supervisors and for increasing the district's budgets by a million dollars across the board.

Q. Eliminate the car tax?

Herrity sees a need to work with the State to eliminate the tax without creating a revenue hole. He acknowledged that people avoid the tax by registering their vehicles in other states.

Foley touted her ability, as a third party candidate, to work with both Democrats and Republicans at the State level to eliminate

the tax. Vega called the tax regressive, but said it couldn't be dropped without a revenue safety net. He repeated his call for more modern, smart tax systems which keep dollars in the county.

Q. Would you vote to repeal prohibition of guns in parks and government facilities?

Vega - "No." Foley - "No." She cited frequent comments from seniors about their nervousness in seeing open gun carry. Herrity: "Yes," to loud applause from supporters. Herrity said police shortages could mean police would not be there for women who may need protection when in parks.

The candidates also addressed senior programs, reducing the carbon footprint, panhandling solutions, public safety, housing shortages, and loss of tree canopy.

In closing statements, Vega highlighted bringing a different approach to the Board to use technology and science solutions to modern problems. He spoke of the need to consider that guns were a leading cause of death in children; and the need for LGBTQ+ kids to have a voice. He wants to foster communication with small businesses and veterans to give more "brain power" to county issues. Foley acknowledged her campaign was triggered by the Board's refusal to honor her husband's military and civilian service and work on creating a senior center. She spoke of the importance of centers for combating senior social isolation and the importance of tapping the "treasure trove" of seniors. She suggested Herrity's acceptance of large donations, particularly from casino developers, made him susceptible to their lobby, while pledging to donate her own supervisor salary increase portion to the senior center. Herrity described his "honor to serve" and his "many glowing endorsements," which he attributed to his willingness to listen to constituents. Referring also to his response to The Connection's candidate profile (see pages 8-9). He named accomplishments and goals to include: addressing crime, including panhandling and fentanyl; keeping politics out of schools; controlling taxes; supporting affordable housing, such as with a 400 unit market rate development in Fair Lakes; seeking athletic revenues and pickleball courts; and working for funding of high-way improvements to Chapel Road.

With just 14 days until General Election Day, and with early voting underway since Sept. 22, final decision time is approaching.

Small-Business Incubator Coming to Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 2

GMU's Small Business Development Center is also a key partner in this project, providing valuable resources and retail business-development training to vendors at Wander In. And if all goes well, it'll leverage downtown Fairfax itself as a prime destination in Northern Virginia for small businesses and entrepreneurship.

"It is anticipated that Wander In will become a welcome addition to the Old Town Fairfax neighborhood," said Michelle Smith with FCED. "This collaboration will contribute to the retail environment in Old Town, promote walkable shopping for residents and visitors, and increase the visibility of small businesses within the district."

Wander In will also offer "Meet the Maker" events, as well as hands-on classes to provide memorable and creative activities to enhance customers' shopping experience. OTFBA's office will also be relocating to the Wander In space, creating a more accessible location for Old Town businesses.

"Old Town Fairfax is comprised of a neighborhood of small-business owners who provide a diversity of products and services for the City of Fairfax and surrounding areas," explained OTFBA President Josh Alexander. "The OTFBA looks forward to providing opportunities to educate and foster a retail space for

makers, artists and creatives to help them grow and make their dreams a reality."

Fairfax City Economic Development Director Chris Bruno is excited about Wander In, as well. "We look forward to supporting the activation of prime retail space in the heart of our city," he said. "We are glad to continue supporting the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. in its work promoting Old Town as a destination for visitors and shoppers. I would also like to thank our partners at Kimco Realty for supporting this initiative and acknowledging the benefits of a growing, small-business economy."

Kim Wheeler, Kimco's director of specialty leasing is pleased, as well. "Kimco is thrilled to collaborate with the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. in this exciting venture," said Wheeler. "By fostering a dynamic space for local businesses and artisans, we can amplify the unique character of Old Town while also strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit that forms the backbone of our communities. We're proud to be part of an initiative that fosters deeper connections within our community, promotes growth and ensures a lasting local impact."

Businesses wanting to learn more about becoming a vendor at Wander In, or fill out an application for it, may go to wanderinfairfax.com for information or follow @wanderinfairfax on Instagram and Facebook.

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CANDIDATE CONNECTION

District Members, Board of Supervisors

Braddock, Franconia, Mount Vernon, Providence & Springfield Districts.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Nov. 7 election includes the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Nine members are elected by voters in local districts to serve four-year terms. Twenty-one district candidates are in the race, with seven incumbents.

The Springfield District incumbent is the sole Republican serving on the Board of Supervisors.

Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and share a story of their interaction with a voter that led them to a commitment to take action, with a tight word limit. Candidate responses are printed in the order they appear on the ballot.

For information on how and where to vote, including voting early, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

More than 30,900 Fairfax County voters have already voted, out of more than 714,000 active voters on the rolls. More than 680,000 voters have yet to vote.

Braddock District

James R. Walkinshaw (D)

James R. Walkinshaw (D), candidate for Board of Supervisors, Braddock District, was born and raised in Northern Virginia and devoted his career to ensuring that our community



James R. Walkinshaw (D)

remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Before being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2019, James served as the Chief of Staff to Congressman Gerry Connolly for more than a decade. He is 40 years old and lives in the Truro neighborhood of Annandale with his wife, Yvette, and their son, Mateo. He is dedicated to listening, being responsive, and solving problems.

Response: Not long after I was sworn into office in 2020, I attended a local neighborhood civic association meeting. At that meeting, a group of Girl Scouts with a passion for the environment presented me with a petition to install a glass recycling bin at nearby Wakefield Park. They had researched the locations of Fairfax County's glass recycling bins and concluded that there was a geographic gap and that the existing locations were not well serving their community.

I promised them that I would look into it and see what could be done. After the meeting, I met with our Public Works staff, reviewed the existing locations, and learned that the Girl Scouts were absolutely right. It took some time due to the pandemic, but the glass recycling bin at Wakefield Park has been a huge success — all thanks to the Girl Scouts. <https://jameswalkinshaw.org/>

Carey C. Campbell (Independent Green)

Carey C. Campbell, Independent Green, did not respond.



Carey C. Campbell, Independent Green

Franconia District

Paul F. Beran (R)

I'm Paul Beran, 69 years young, and a candidate for Supervisor, Franconia District. I'm a home-loving family man whose entire life has been dedicated to serving God, family, and community. My campaign strategy is "Beran Good News!" That is, I wish to be the "Bearer of Good News" for the people of Franconia that provides viable solutions to important issues without condemning those who may have caused, exacerbated, or perpetuated the problems and without raising taxes.



Paul F. Beran (R)

Professionally, I had a half-century career in marketing, supporting thousands of businesses, large and small, and understanding their concerns, desires, and needs. My campaign strategy is to work with others as I worked with entrepreneurs, identifying with them.

Response: Cost of living — Shortly after filing, I started receiving calls from constituents complaining they could no longer afford to live here despite already paying off their home. Property and vehicle taxes are too high; utilities and the overall cost of living have grown unmanageable. They asked me to do something and provide viable solutions to important issues without raising taxes.

Lower taxes — I've discovered "There's a Marketing Solution to Virtually Every Problem." Someone is willing to help financially, provided a benefit is built for them. You just need to be a little creative. That's what I do. I will always explore all other revenue sources first. My idea of "affordable housing" is to keep the cost of living in our district low enough that people don't feel the need to move away.

A safer place to live — We're down by 200 officers; police officers left their jobs during the current supervisor's watch. My job as supervisor will be to get those numbers back where they need to be without raising taxes. One way is to convince HOA's to lower or eliminate HOA fees for active duty law enforcement. This immediately raises their income and adds 24-hour security to our most densely populated communities. We need

a prosecutor who prosecutes, not criminals who go to repeat their crimes. Prosecutors who do not do their job will pay me a political price. I'll call them out every time. www.beranoodnews.com

Rodney L. Lusk (D)

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk was sworn in as Fairfax County Franconia District Supervisor in January 2020 and is the first African American male elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



Rodney L. Lusk (D)

He currently serves as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Vice Chairman of the Personnel and Reorganization Committee, member of the Audit Committee, member of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team, and Secretary Treasurer for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Prior to being elected as Franconia District Supervisor, Rodney served 32 years as a Fairfax County employee, which included roles delivering human services along the Historic Richmond Highway Corridor, serving on the staff of two former Board of Supervisors, and as National Marketing Director for the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. Additionally, Rodney served as a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Lusk's priorities while in office include opening a workforce development center on Route One, reforming police policy, addressing the county's affordable housing crisis, improving our pedestrian and bicycle safety network, and implementing a bus rapid transit project on Richmond Highway. In addition, his office coordinated with Fairfax County government agencies, local nonprofits, and Franconia District residents to organize food distributions across the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, over three million pounds of food and supplies were distributed to residents in need.

Rodney is a native Virginian, a Franconia District resident for 22 years, and a graduate of the University of Virginia. Rodney and his wife Jacquelyn are proud parents to their two daughters, Addison and Sheridan.

Response: One of the efforts that I've undertaken as Chairman of the Board's Public Safety Committee has been to organize a series of public safety listening sessions where members of the community could come forward in a public forum and share directly with me any public safety concerns that they have.

One piece of testimony that I heard during the first session had a particular impact on me. A community member who represented an advocacy group comprised of first responders spouses shared with me her frustration with the lack of responses she had received to her previous outreach to the county.

In response, I met with her personally the following week, and as a result of our subse-

quent conversations, I led an effort to launch a new public safety transparency website (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/police-updates>), which includes a community input matrix where members of the public and first responders can submit publicly viewable policy questions and recommendations.

In my next term, I plan to continue to move forward with generating responses to every item submitted to the matrix, as well as implementing many of those that will make our public safety infrastructure more effective and transparent.

Mark T. Welch (I)

Mark T. Welch (I) 62, is a candidate for Board of Supervisors, Franconia District. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from GMU.



Mark T. Welch (I)

I retired from the Senior Executive Service after more than 30 years with the Federal Government. My professional background was primarily in the budgeting and finance areas. At my last job, I was responsible for developing the agency's budget, which was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and then defending the budget to both OMB and Congressional staff. I also worked at the Department of Transportation (DOT), receiving the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award for helping set up the Transportation Security Administration from scratch after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. I started my government career with the Department of the Navy, where I analyzed and negotiated multimillion-dollar Harpoon missile production contracts.

Highlights of volunteerism in the community include serving as vice president and treasurer for ten years in civic associations and tax preparation with the AARP Tax-Aide program at the Financial Empowerment Center. He has been a county resident for 30 years with his wife and three FCPS children, all graduates of Virginia public universities.

Response: I recently met a local business proprietor who complained about panhandling in the county and how "something had to be done about it." He insisted panhandlers were not truly in need but instead part of an organized "ring" to solicit money under false pretenses. Having also encountered panhandlers and being curious about his assertion, I began researching the issue.

Having also encountered panhandlers and being curious about his assertion, I began researching the issue. The county website indicated that some panhandlers come from outside the county to solicit money but also that many do not and are experiencing hardship.

Upon further research, I learned that Loudoun County has adopted an ordinance that prohibits curb-to-curb exchanges between pedestrians and motorists on public roadways, a violation of which results in a traffic ticket.

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CANDIDATE CONNECTION

District Members, Board of Supervisors

FROM PAGE 8

However, they rarely initially issue tickets to violators; instead, they issue warnings and refer people in need to county social services. The result is that the ordinance has significantly reduced panhandling by imposing a financial disincentive on those who panhandle to solicit money with no real need while enabling people experiencing financial or other difficulty to obtain appropriate social services.

I plan to introduce a similar ordinance and would inform any opposing elected officials of the experience and benefits seen in Loudoun County. marktwech21@outlook.com

Mount Vernon District

Richard T. Hayden (R)

Richard T. Hayden (R) Candidate for Member of Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District. I have lived in Mount Vernon with my wife and family since 1986. I'm 65 years old, a real estate



Richard T. Hayden (R)

attorney, and a tireless volunteer. I currently serve on the board of the nonprofit

Columbus Club, Inc., part of my Knights of Columbus Council 5998.

Response: I was knocking on doors on a Sunday afternoon, and a homeowner and voter, sitting in his front yard, asked me about the lane widening project on Route One, initially known as the Richmond Highway BRT, now named The One. He was upset, as were many in the community, at the closing of the Hybla Valley Veterinary Hospital after 75 years. He wanted to know the status and scope of the program and whether it was necessary. We both agreed that Route One needed some improvements, but at what cost and for whose benefit?

I researched the closure of the hospital and found that it was designated as a whole property acquisition to be used as a storm-water management area. The BRT will affect 209 parcels in total or in part, down from 225 originally. The projected ridership of 18,000 by 2040 is for residents not currently living along Route One. The project has a price tag of about \$1 billion and will urbanize Route One.

The pandemic changed work patterns, creating opportunities to work from home, thus altering the need for mass transit. I will persuade my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to revisit and examine the BRT project and the new workforce transportation needs, protect businesses and residents as much as possible, and minimize disturbance areas and overall disruption. www.hayden4mv.com

Daniel Storck (D)

Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D) is running for reelection as Member of Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District. I bring a voice of experience, thousands of community connections, and a proven track record for getting things done in Mount Vernon District. I am running again because I have the right values and decades of experience working with you, from the Huntington community to Lorton. I will continue fully investing in our children, education, and public safety, revitalizing Lorton and Richmond Highway, implementing a BRT system to relieve congestion and extend Metro, supporting and empowering our seniors to remain independent in their homes, requiring smart, green land use policies and development, and growing more jobs. As a decades-long business entrepreneur, leader of community non-profit organizations, twelve-year school board member, three-term chairman, and now two-term supervisor, I have more than three decades of living in and serving our community. I look forward to continuing to be a leader and a strong advocate for you, delivering on the needs of the Mount Vernon District.



Daniel Storck (D)

Response: During my first days in office in 2016, it was brought to my attention that our community had no area domestic violence support or center. I immediately challenged county staff to do more to protect these predominantly women and children from their abusers.

Domestic violence support was soon added in 2017 at the Gerry Hyland (South County) Government Center, but it was advised that no centers could be available for many years. At about that time, I happened to have individual conversations with three strong community women, Mattie Palmore, Lisa Sales and Karen Stone, who, because of their own personal experiences, were deeply committed to righting this wrong and quickly addressing this need. They were fierce advocates, calling themselves the 'three musketeers,' working tirelessly with county staff and me, proposing a variety of creative solutions, funding options, and locations to get a local area facility opened quickly.

We all proudly opened Artemis House Region 1 in 2019, and they have since gone on to raise donations that have helped provide furniture, supplies, and support for the families residing there. Their energy and drive were crucial to supporting our residents during their time of greatest need. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month to bring attention to this family, community, and public health issue and available resources. <https://danstorck.org/>

Christopher T. Morgan (I)

Christopher T. Morgan (I), - Candidate for Member of Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District is 41, lives in Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, with his wife Sumrall and 5-year-old son. A former U.S. Army officer, he works in the tech sector. Morgan chaired the Mount Vernon Council's Environment and Recreation Committee for two years and serves as Stratford Landing Citizens' Association president. He has a B.S. in business and economics from Lehigh University.



Christopher T. Morgan (I)

Morgan is a former small business owner as well as a former Business Improvement District and Maintenance Assessment District board member, where he managed \$2.5 million in community funds. He coaches T-ball with Fort Hunt Little League and participates in numerous wetland cleanups. He is a member of the Izaak Walton League's Arlington-Fairfax Chapter and the Basilica of St. Mary's in Old Town Alexandria.

Morgan plans to work toward increasing safety, reducing crime, especially along Route 1, and increasing school safety, including stopping the proposed homeless shelter next to West Potomac High School and within a 1.3-mile radius of nine other schools. The shelter facility [could house ex-offenders] and this is the wrong location.

He intends to work toward saving old-growth trees, regulating infill development, and mandating practical transportation projects that prioritize private car travel.

Morgan will advocate for a strict guidance policy to remove politics and bias from the county budget. This will cut wasteful programs and excess spending. He will also advocate for a 3-1-1 Citizen Request Portal and App for County Services to improve citizen interaction.

Response: As president of my community, I remember a call I received earlier in the year from a retired woman in tears who had received her property tax assessment. She lives in the same home where she grew up and was terrified that she could no longer afford the county taxes on it.

I acted then as I would in my job in the tech industry. I researched the issue. I found the facts. I learned that, on average, property taxes in our area were up 50 percent in the past three years. I read every page of the county budget and researched the process by which it is passed. I traveled to the county center to testify in front of our Board of Supervisors. I wrote about my experiences and posted them on social media for my neighbors to read.

I knew I could not sit on the sidelines when people needed my help and perspective. Taxes and spending weren't my only motivation. I was concerned with several environmental issues, transportation, school policies, and rising street crime. I entered the race for Mount Vernon Supervisors as an independent to fix problems, not play

politics. As a supervisor, I will be a steward of my neighbor's money, and I'll work backward from a maximum spending amount and be completely transparent about where each dollar is spent. I'm running for my family and all our neighbors who are struggling and know that we can do better. Votechristophermorgan.com

Providence District

Brian R. Murphy (R)

Brian R. Murphy (R) Candidate Board of Supervisors, Providence District. My professional career is in real estate finance and investments. I was the Chief Financial Officer of Triangle Development Company. I expanded my expertise into the home building industry's acquisition, development, and construction sides to become a general partner in the building and development of my subdivisions.



Brian R. Murphy (R)

I've been a Realtor for over thirty years, using my experience to help new and move-up homeowners navigate the ups and downs of the real estate market while focusing on raising healthy and happy families.

Response: While canvassing at Oak Marr Farmers Market, a senior citizen approached me and expressed concern about her fixed income and the recent assessment change on her condominium, threatening her ability to pay the new tax. Eviction and dissatisfaction with what "they" were doing with all the money worried her.

This year, the county changed real estate assessment procedures. They shifted real estate taxes from a property tax to a tax on unrealized capital gains.

This was done by taking all of last year's market sales, calculating a factor based on capital gains in those sales, and applying that factor to last year's assessed value to get to everyone's bill this year.

Their justification for the change was a misinterpretation of the Code that says real property in Virginia shall be assessed at fair market value. A property tax is levied based on the cost to Fairfax County to provide the goods and services mandated under their charter from Richmond prorated to your parcel.

The fair market value clause protects the little guy from government eminent domain. The 'highest and best' valuation practices ensure fairness for the little guy. It is, at best, an unhealthy mix of public facility and a competitive real estate market.

Traditional assessments considered lot size, improvement value, type of use, zoning designation, and county budget. Thus, the assessed value and asking price of a property in the real estate market differ greatly.

If elected, I will petition the Attorney General to issue a 'cease and desist' writ against

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CANDIDATE CONNECTION

District Members, Board of Supervisors

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Fairfax County for violating the Dillon Rule, which requires General Assembly approval before any local government can levy a new tax. I urge Fairfax County residents to support Republican district candidates to restore a Republican majority on the Board of Supervisors. www.brianmurphy4supervisor.com/home

Dalia Palchik (D)

Dalia Palchik (D), running for reelection for member, Board of Supervisors, Providence District. Palchik, 40, was born in Argentina, moved to Fairfax County at age six. She worked in international microfinance, as a medical interpreter, and as a classroom world language teacher. She is the first Latina to serve on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and offers a fresh and thoughtful perspective on issues, big or small. She looks forward to continuing the work towards bringing intentional transit-oriented development to Fairfax, finding creative ways to increase affordable housing, and expanding quality and affordable childcare and early childhood programs.

Response: In early 2021, a resident from a vulnerable community reached out to my office about the difficulties they were facing in receiving financial assistance for public water and sewer services. With the well on the property no longer being a viable source of water, the family has been struggling to find an affordable option to access clean water. After engaging with several county agencies and learning that there are no ready options to provide assistance to families needing access to public water services, I presented a board matter directing staff to work with Fairfax Water to explore options to help families like this. Access to clean water is a right that no family should struggle to achieve. I am happy to share that we were successful in helping them get access to public water and sewer services.

Although this issue relates to one particular family, we know there are challenges across the county with water or sewer connections. In order to help address that, I worked with the county agencies and budget staff to help create a targeted pilot program to help address the issues here and for those in need across the county.

Dalia currently serves as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Chair. Additionally, she serves on the State Executive Council for Children's Services, the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team, the Council to End Domestic Violence, the Fairfax Food Council, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. www.daliaforsupervisor.com



Dalia Palchik (D)

Springfield District

Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R)

Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R), running for reelection for Board of Supervisors, Springfield District. A lifelong resident of the Springfield District, I graduated from West Springfield High School and received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Virginia Tech. I became a CPA and worked for a big-eight public accounting firm before beginning an award-winning career as a senior financial executive for fast-growing government contractors and technology companies.

I channeled my early public service into business, sports, and civic communities and earned leadership awards from organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Technology Association, and the Southwestern Youth Association.

Shortly after my dad passed away in 2006, I took my public service to a new level and ran for Springfield District Supervisor because I did not like the direction the county was headed as taxes doubled in eight short years. I have served as Springfield District Supervisor since 2008, bringing balance and common sense to the board.

I am Chair of the Board's Older Adults Committee, where I led the development of the award-winning 50+ Community Action Plan and founded and chaired the Board's Sports Tourism Task Force.

I have been named the Best Public Servant in Fairfax in the Gazette Leader's Best of the Best for the last 7 years. I am the only supervisor to ever receive the President's Award from the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers. I led efforts to reduce the tax burden on residents, address increasing crime rates and panhandling, and focusing education resources on teachers and classrooms instead of administrators and political agendas.

Response: Most of my best ideas and common-sense solutions come from listening to concerned residents. For example, responding to a constituent who asked why Route 123 was constantly being paved, and the Fairfax County Parkway was full of potholes, I worked with my colleagues to get the designation for the parkway changed from a secondary road to a primary road to get it additional maintenance and construction funding from the state. Responding to a request from a constituent about the illegal signs in medians, I worked with Delegate David Albo and the Board to change state legislation and allow the county to remove illegal signs from the medians to address this public safety issue.

Concerned about panhandling, a constituent sent me an article about the Albuquerque, New Mexico, program called "There's a Better Way." After researching the program, I brought it to the Board and worked with our Stormwater Division to create Opera-



Patrick S. "Pat" Herrity (R)

tion Stream Shield, which provides panhandlers and homeless residents with paid jobs helping clean up our streams. The dignity of work brings them into services, and helps them get back on their feet. It is a cost-effective way to clean our streams, and we have graduated over 100 participants into full-time employment.

The most recent example is working with the community and a bipartisan group of state and local leaders, VDOT and FCDOT, to implement short- and long-term solutions to the dangerous hills on Lee Chapel Road after two teens were tragically killed. The short-term solutions were rapidly implemented, and we have the project to remove the two hills moving forward at a record pace thanks to the bipartisan effort. PatHerrity.org

Albert Vega (D)

Albert Vega (D), 46, candidate for Board of Supervisors, Springfield District, is an electrical engineer and small business founder. He received his bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso and his master's and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Purdue University. A proven problem solver for over 20 years, Albert wants to ensure logic and problem-solving drive county government.

Response: While knocking on doors, I encountered a young couple just starting their family. Currently living in a townhome, they were concerned about growing their family and where that growth could occur. Even though they are dual-income, moving to a larger home in Springfield was out of their budget. The Springfield District is in the county's last place for housing affordability, and inaction has led us to this point.

Continued inaction will have adverse impacts on our working families. We need to seek practical solutions to ensure residents can buy their first home, live and work in the same community, and ensure senior residents can age in place. We need to identify inefficient development for improvements, engage community-minded and nonprofit developers, work to close the housing supply deficit and work closely with the zoning and housing departments to create solutions that benefit our community. I will also promote incorporating the development of affordable and workforce housing on county-owned property, with the exception of school grounds.

As a scientist, I understand that we can only address a housing challenge with accurate data for a path toward success. I will support efforts to monitor and correctly track affordable housing in the Springfield District. www.albertvega.com



Albert Vega (D)

Corazon Sandoval Foley (Independent Green)

Corazon Sandoval Foley, 72, the Independent Green candidate for Board of Supervisors, Springfield District, is the first Filipino American, the first

Asian American, and the only female Springfield Supervisor candidate. Foley was a State Department Diplomat Intelligence Officer for 30 years and resided in the Springfield District with her family for 44 years. She has two children from her 49-year marriage to Michael Daniel Foley, who died in 2022. Foley was named Lady Fairfax 2009 and runner-up for the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year award. She received the Library of Virginia Award for Virginia Women in History and the AARP Andrus Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Response: I drove my friend, Filipino American Pacita Aguas, 81, from Burke to Lorton Senior Center for her senior fitness programs. Pacita often wondered why our Springfield District did not have a senior center despite the fact that we paid taxes like other districts. She convinced me to work for equity for seniors and families in our underserved Springfield District.

I thought the project would not be difficult to complete, but our Springfield supervisor (2015) was not helpful, and we had to grow the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls, inch by inch, with facility donations from churches and nonprofits. Pacita was steadfast in her support for our petitions and demonstrations and was the first to encourage me to run for Springfield Supervisor in 2015 to make progress for our center.

Thanks to Sharon Bulova, I negotiated the county pledge to include our center in the 2020 bond referendum in 2016, but then the Springfield supervisor delayed the referendum to 2024. While my friend Pacita Aguas has since died, I remain inspired by her wisdom as well as the remembered support of my husband to complete this important community project. www.facebook.com/people/Corazon-Foley/100008952457139/



Corazon Sandoval Foley (Independent Green)

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

Member School Board by District

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In November, Fairfax County voters will choose 12 school board members to serve four-year terms starting Jan. 1, 2024. Nineteen candidates are running for the nine magisterial district seats. There are also three at-large seats in the November election. Virginia's School board elections are nonpartisan, meaning that party affiliations can not appear on the ballots for school board candidates. Nevertheless, parties may publicly endorse their candidates.

Candidates were asked to provide a short bio and share a story of their interaction with a voter that led them to a commitment to take action, with a tight word limit. Candidate responses are printed in the order they appear on the ballot.

For information on how and where to vote, including voting early, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

More than 30,900 Fairfax County voters have already voted, out of more than 714,000 active voters on the rolls. More than 680,000 voters have yet to vote.

Braddock District

Rachna Sizemore Heizer

Rachna Sizemore Heizer, 52, Candidate for Member of School Board, Braddock District. I am an at-large school board member and served as board chair and vice chair. I'm currently the chair of the Public Engagement Committee.



Rachna Sizemore Heizer

Professionally, I am a lawyer, a professor, and the assistant director overseeing a human resource development program at Texas Tech University (online). I received my Bachelor of Arts in political economy and law degree from the University of California at Berkeley. I am also an appointed member of the Virginia State Social Services Board.

As the child of immigrants, I understand the immigrant experience and what it means to be a citizen of our great democracy. As a college professor, I see firsthand the skills students need to be successful in college. As a disability justice advocate, I know how to fight for those who most need it. Since I began advocating for my children in FCPS, I've spent over a decade as a community leader, serving on several boards and working with state, local, and federal leaders.

Response: After I was appointed to the Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities, people spoke to me about the challenges for twice-exceptional students, also known as "2E." They are students with a disability who excel academically. They told me that a lack of understanding and support for bright students with disabilities led to mental health issues and school avoidance. They were often in tears, describing their bright children struggling.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

I researched 2E students. I learned that a lack of appropriate programs and training could cause twice exceptional students to choose between challenging academics and disability-related support, leading to depression and dropping out of school. Once on the school board, I shared my research and built consensus to fund hiring a twice-exceptional Coordinator and Neurodiversity Specialist, focused partly on 2E students and on meeting all student needs while fostering their strengths. These are groundbreaking positions for K-12, the first in Virginia and the nation. <https://www.electrachna.com/>

Priscilla M. DeStefano

Priscilla M. DeStefano, Candidate for Member of School Board, Braddock District, did not reply.

Endorsed by Fairfax County GOP



Priscilla M. DeStefano

Franconia District

Marcia St. John-Cunning

Marcia St. John-Cunning, Candidate for Member of School Board, Franconia District. Marcia's career highlights include legislative aide for Congressman Ronald Coleman and Congressional Border Caucus staff coordinator; administrative assistant to the Hispanic Magazine publisher when it launched; Fairfax County Public Schools family liaison; Spanish interpreter; and Family Engagement Region 3 Representative. John-Cunning was the on-site Community School Coordinator (CSC) at Mt. Vernon Woods Elementary.



Marcia St. John-Cunning

As a community advocate, Marcia spearheaded converting the parent liaison role from an hourly to a contracted, unified pay scale position with the inclusion of full benefits. She worked with the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team to create the Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) community school model template. Marcia most recently represented the Hispanic Education Association Hispanic Leadership Alliance on the FCPS Core Strategic Planning Committee.

Response: As a parent/family liaison in FCPS, I worked hourly without health or retirement benefits for years. My husband covered all my benefits, so this arrangement did not affect me. However, many colleagues often reminded me they were not as fortunate. I realized how hard it was for them to work without a safety net. I organized with three other parent/family liaisons to bring the issue to the school board. We received community and parent support, including testimonials about the profound impact the parent/family liaison had on families, stu-

dents, and communities.

The role was converted to a contracted, unified pay scale position with the inclusion of full benefits. Ironically, I was promoted to an hourly supervisory position without any benefits the year after the battle was won. However, the advocacy was not for me but for the parent/family liaisons who needed the benefits. Since then, the family/parent liaison position has been elevated to a more secure status. As a result, the family-school partnership bond continues to be strengthened, elevating student success.

marcia@marcia4schools.com Marcia 4 Schools

Kevin R. Pinkney

Kevin R. Pinkney, Candidate for Member of School Board, Franconia District. In 2003, Kevin and his wife moved to Washington, DC, and settled in Franconia. They are proud parents of two current FCPS students and three FCPS graduates.



Kevin R. Pinkney

Kevin is a Harvard Law School graduate and a 20-year private practice lawyer. He prioritizes listening to the needs of others, communicating ideas respectfully, achieving shared goals, and providing practical solutions to complex issues. He represents boards, general counsels, owners, and legal departments of various companies, from household names to venture-backed startups. He advises organizations with tens of thousands of employees and budgets in the tens of billions of dollars.

Highlights of Kevin's many service activities include PTA and PTSA in elementary, middle, and high schools; the Parent Advisory Council at Clermont Elementary; coaching LMVSC soccer; teaching high school students early morning religious education; and advising Boy Scout Troop 1183.

Response: School safety is a top priority. Some parents report that their children cannot use school restrooms due to drug use, vaping, or violence risks. Students may be concerned about behavior in hallways, buses, and classrooms. New FCPS policies require principals to consider group identity in matters of discipline. FCPS instructs: "Student discipline must be implemented in ways that are equitable" (FCPS P.2601.37P).

FCPS's "equitable" policies encourage leniency for attackers who are members of groups that are perceived to be "overrepresented" in disciplinary proceedings. This means that discipline for the same offense will be different for students depending on their race, ethnicity, or gender.

The first step in addressing the breakdown in classroom order is to restore equal treatment for all students. Teachers are entitled to the support of school administrators in maintaining safety and order. Principals must have confidence that the equal and dispassionate application of discipline, consistent with the disciplinary matrix in the district's Student Rights and Responsibilities

policy,

Equal treatment under law has been a shared aspiration in America for generations. It is the only discipline policy that will maintain the broad-based support necessary for public education to flourish.

<https://pinkney4schoolboard.com/>
Endorsed by Fairfax County GOP

Mount Vernon

Mateo Dunne

Mateo Dunne, Candidate for Member of School Board, Mt. Vernon District. I am an attorney with the U.S. Government and former vice president of advocacy for the Fairfax County Council PTA, advocating on behalf of 170+ PTAs and 40,000 members at the state and local levels for increased funding and resources. I earned my degree at Georgetown University Law Center (2003).



Mateo Dunne

My wife and I moved to Fairfax County 20 years ago so our children could attend the best public schools. Our three children received an outstanding education.

Ten years ago, the superintendent decided to eliminate high school sports, performing arts, and language immersion to close a \$100 million budget deficit. I organized and led a coalition of advocacy groups, PTAs, and teacher unions. We persuaded the Board of Supervisors to allocate \$88 million to preserve these programs for current and future students.

I have led multiple school bond campaigns to fund our district's renovation of public schools and helped guide West Potomac High School's renovation, which eliminated 18 trailers and enhanced campus security.

Response: Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, yet children in our community suffer from hunger because they do not have sufficient food at home in the evenings, on the weekends, and during the summer. Many children suffer from the cold because they do not have winter clothing, or they may suffer indignity because they do not have access to menstrual hygiene products.

I believe a child suffering from hunger, cold, or indignity can't learn. I will work to ensure FCPS establishes and leverages its purchasing power to provide food, clothing, and a menstrual hygiene pantry at every school in need and to promote partnerships between FCPS and nonprofits to ensure the regular distribution of meals to families in need. <https://www.mateodunne.com/> Endorsed by Fairfax County Democrats

Stori M. Zimmerman

Stori M. Zimmerman, Candidate for Member of School Board, Mt. Vernon District. I am a mom, educator, and military spouse with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Ed-

SEE CANDIDATE CONNECTION, PAGE 12

CANDIDATE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 11

education and Biology and a Master of Arts in Teaching. During my 25 years of educational expertise as a public school teacher, I taught grade levels K-12.

Highlights of my responsibilities as a program manager include annual operating budgets, educational evaluations and assessments, data reporting, human relations management, and staff development. Beyond my professional roles, I've dedicated countless hours to volunteering in the communities I've lived in, contributing to military family readiness groups and events, and military children's awareness campaigns and fundraising initiatives.

Response: I have knocked on many doors and listened to concerned parents and constituents alike, and their biggest concern always comes back to learning. Many people that I have spoken with want to see a school board and central office administrators who prioritize students and learning over politics in the classroom so that our teachers and administrators have the autonomy to foster school atmospheres that are conducive to effective learning environments for all. It is my goal to make certain that FCPS reprioritizes its focus on teaching our students the foundational educational elements of reading, writing, and math that will underpin the rest of their education and positively impact them throughout their lives.

Literacy must be our number one priority and is the fundamental cornerstone of my platform. Despite consistent budget increases, FCPS has invested significant resources in initiatives rooted in the flawed "balanced literacy" model, lacking systematic, cumulative, phonics-based reading instruction in early elementary classrooms. Given the critical role of strong reading skills in life success, the shocking statistics on illiteracy, especially among juveniles in the courts and adults in the prison population, underscore the urgency.

The US Department of Justice states, "The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure." To tackle this issue, I will champion the adoption of a division-wide evidence-based structured literacy methodology, implemented with fidelity, commencing in kindergarten. This instructional approach will be firmly grounded in the five pillars of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. <https://www.stori4students.org/>
Endorsed by Fairfax County GOP



Stori M. Zimmerman

Providence District

Karl V. Frisch

Karl Frisch, candidate and incumbent for School Board Providence District, a 45-year-old accomplished non-profit executive and award-winning public policy expert, who previously worked for the Rules Committee in Congress, most recently served as the director of a consumer protection group that assisted underprivileged Americans who were victims of predatory lenders, dishonest student loan processors, and other financial con artists. On the County School Board, he has delivered for parents, teachers, and students, championing efforts to address learning loss, close achievement and opportunity gaps, attract and retain world-class educators with increased pay, and ensuring all students have safe and inclusive schools.

Response: While knocking on doors early in my 2019 school board campaign, I met a mother in Mantua who told me how worried she was about school shootings and how it seemed our leaders were not doing enough to address the issue.

As we talked, I became convinced that every level of government plays a role in gun violence prevention. Before leaving, I committed to her that if I were elected, I would do everything I could to ensure our school system aggressively addressed this threat.

Over the past four years, I have worked hard with my colleagues to keep that promise. Here are two examples: I co-sponsored the measure to notify parents annually about their legal obligation to securely store their guns, which is important since many gun owners do not securely store their firearms, and school shooters usually get their weapons from family members' homes.

Until 2021, Virginia law did not allow gun bans at non-instructional school system buildings—places like Gatehouse, where no formal instruction occurs but is filled with educators and frequented by students and parents. After the law changed, I sponsored the policy that successfully extended our school gun ban to all school system properties. <https://www.karlfrisch.com/>

Anthony A. "Tony" Sabio

Anthony A. "Tony" Sabio, - Candidate for Member of School



Karl Frisch



Anthony A. "Tony" Sabio

Board, Providence District. No reply.

Sabio4fairfax.com Endorsed by Fairfax County GOP

Springfield District

Debra Anne Tisler

Debra Anne Tisler, Candidate for School Board, Springfield District, is an advocate and former special education teacher at FCPS. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in History with a certification in General Education and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Special Education.

I have an extensive history of engaging with all the diverse members of the community when addressing issues that are important to us. In my experience, our families share their concerns with community leaders they trust to advocate.

I have had the unique opportunity to impact the quality of education throughout the Commonwealth. Through my collaborations with federal legi-

slators, the State Conference NAACP's Education Committee, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC), and the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. (COPAA), I have elevated the voices of our families to create meaningful change.

[JLARC Study: JLARC | K-12 Special Education in Virginia OCR Determination: OCR: Virginia district violated rights of students with disabilities K-12 Dive (k12dive.com) SB 1288: Richmond Sunlight » SB1288: Special education; Department of and the Board of Education to develop new policies and procedures.]

Response: Recently, I contributed to the landmark study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission regarding special education, resulting in 27 recommendations to improve special education for all families throughout the Commonwealth. Through my advocacy for families via the Office of Civil Rights, a monumental finding resulted for over 28,000 students, restoring their right to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Finally, I assisted in authoring legislation that transformed the systems of accountability and preparation for individuals who develop special education programming.

I'm running for Fairfax County School Board, Springfield District seat to ensure the



Debra Anne Tisler

voices of our parents, children, taxpayers, and teachers of Fairfax County, Virginia, are heard. Debraforschoolboard.com

Endorsed by Fairfax County GOP

Sandy B. Anderson

Sandy B. Anderson, 46, Candidate for Member of School Board, Springfield District. I am an FCPS graduate, FCPS mom, Parent Teacher Organization leader, military spouse, former higher-ed educator, and federal contractor supporting two Department of Defense youth programs.

These experiences all make me uniquely qualified to represent and serve the families of the Springfield District. My experience lends itself to this work. This is my hometown, and I am ready to serve.

Response: "SAT math scores dropped 27 points. FCPS is failing their students." When I heard this statistic for the first time, I knew there had to be more to the story, so I dug into the data and asked why this happened. I got curious.

There are a myriad of reasons why scores have adjusted over the last few years, including fewer kids taking the SAT and fewer colleges requiring it for admission. Even so, we still exceed the average SAT math scores for the state.

The part that makes me proud of FCPS is that last year, every 12th grader in Fairfax County had the opportunity to take the SAT during the school day and will again this year.

That is a significant difference from when I took the SAT my senior year at Lake Braddock, when my mother paid for the expensive test and provided my transportation. Even with all our students taking the test, we still exceed the state average for math. This story showed me that FCPS needs to do a better job with clarity of information so the public and community better understand the reasons for and impact of initiatives. That is where I can help. www.anderson4schools.com

Peter J. Bixby-Eberhardt

Peter J. Bixby-Eberhardt, Candidate for Member of School Board, Springfield District. No reply www.peterbixby.co



Sandy B. Anderson



Peter J. Bixby-Eberhardt

NEWS BRIEFS

Drug Take-Back Day is this Saturday

National Drug Take-Back Day is set for this Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Fairfax City Police Department, 3730 Blenheim Blvd., in Fairfax. People may drop off their unused or expired medications; however, Epipens and needles will not be accepted.

Fairfax City Diaper Drive, Nov. 6-17

The City of Fairfax Commission for Women is holding a diaper drive, Nov. 6-17, collecting new, unopened packages of diapers of all sizes at two drop-off locations:

♦ Fairfax City Hall Atrium, 10455 Armstrong St., Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

♦ Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

In addition, on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 5:30-7 p.m., Commission for Women members will be at City Hall accepting cash donations for the drive.

The need for disposable diapers is acute. According to the nonprofit National Diaper Bank Network, a healthy infant wears as many as 12 diapers/day, nearly half of all local families struggle with diaper insecurity, and government safety-net programs like WIC and SNAP do not cover the cost of diapers. Furthermore, working parents miss, on average, more than five days of work/month because they lack enough diapers to send their children to school or daycare.

ENTERTAINMENT



"WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR: A JAZZ TRIBUTE TO 100 YEARS OF DISNEY"

"When You Wish Upon a Star: A Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney" will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023 at the McLean Community Center.

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 hand-made 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
 SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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Obituary

Obituary



In Loving Memory of **Scott Tyson Boiles, 65** of Wirtz, VA who passed away October 3, 2023 after an enduring and valiant battle with several major health issues. Throughout his life, he exhibited a spirit that never wavered and a love for life. He was born in Orlando, FL November 15, 1957 to Jane Boiles and the late Billy Boiles.

Scott lived in the Northern VA area where he graduated from Marshall HS (1976) and went on to get his BS in Marketing from Virginia Tech (1980). After a few different jobs he found his calling at Northwest Federal Credit Union in 1994 as a Teller working his way up to Vice President of Finance, retiring in 2015. In 2017, Scott and his wife, of 39 years, embarked on a new chapter when they moved to the peaceful embrace of Smith Mountain Lake. Here he found immense joy and love for "lake life" living and beautiful sunsets on the water.

Scott's love for life stemmed from his passions in sports, music, cooking, traveling, and breweries. He loved playing basketball, softball, and pickleball as well as RV tailgating at VT Football games and attending GMU basketball games for over 30 years. Scott was an avid guitarist and an audiophile who reveled in being the DJ at his own grand parties as well as for weddings and office parties. He was known to whip up culinary delights be it grilling and smoking up meats or cooking up spicy dishes. Not one to sit still, Scott was either building something or traveling cross country on his motorcycle, cruising the Virgin Islands, parachuting out of an airplane in Australia, drinking beers in Germany, or enjoying many relaxing RV road trips be it to beaches, concerts, visiting friends, or road games.

Of all the things he saw and did, what he cherished most was doing things for and spending time with family, friends and his beloved Rottweiler's, creating memories that last forever. Scott lived "his life like a song", just like an avid Parrothead would. His circle of friends remained deep and strong throughout the years. His memory will live on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing him, leaving an indelible mark of love, joy, and friendship.

Scott is survived by his mom, Jane Boiles of Annapolis, MD; Wife Wendy Boiles of Wirtz, VA; Sister Kathy (Dwight) Moxness of Annapolis, MD; and a host of loving cousins, in-laws, god-children, and long-time friends. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to CarilionFoundation.org/Patient-Care, The American Cancer Society, or Give.VT.edu (Hokie Scholarship or Pamplin College of Business).

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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

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

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Forgive Me As I Wax Poetic



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

If you are of the "Jewish persuasion" ("who persuaded you"?), as asked by Hawkeye Pierce in a long-ago M*A*S*H episode, you've been lighting a memorial candle known as Yahrzeit candles (evidence suggests as long as 2,000 years ago) to honor the deceased your whole life – or your parents have, particularly for family members. The candles are lit at sundown on Yom Kippur ("Day of Atonement") and as well on the deceased's date of death on the Jewish calendar (presently year 5,784) cross-referenced to a corresponding date on the Gregorian calendar – with which we're all familiar.

And for 14 years this Yom Kippur's eve, I have been lighting two candles, one each for my father (deceased Dec. 2006) and mother (deceased Dec. 2008). This year I will be lighting three candles: father, mother and new this year: for my recently deceased brother Richard. (I still can't get used to writing it, let alone saying it; he died Dec. 3rd last year, a few months after Yom Kippur.) And when the real-time anniversary date of his actual death occurs, (Dec. 3) it's not exactly candle-appropriate to light the memorial candle on that date; as it happens, the proper date I'll be lighting candles for Richard and for my mother (she also died on Dec. 3rd) will be Nov. 21.

I can remember growing up in my parents' house with the Yahrzeit candles being lit every year on Yom Kippur and watching them flicker all night long and for the next 24 hours as they sat on the kitchen stove remembering/honoring their parents/my grandparents. But I can't remember lighting my first Yahrzeit candle on the Yom Kippur following my father's death in early Dec. 2006. I do imagine however, it was weighty, as he was my first parent to die. And likewise, when my widowed mother succumbed on Dec 3rd, 2008, in effect, making Richard and myself orphans. I imagine lighting two candles then is like how I feel lighting three today, except as I said last week, I have no backstop anymore. Moreover, being alive still without my older brother's wit and wisdom is a position I never thought I'd be in – given my diagnosis, as I've described in previous columns. I'm alone now (Dina notwithstanding) and it makes the finality and inevitability of my own mortality even more obvious. I only wish there was someone close with whom I could share my feelings and anxieties. Oh, yeah, there used to be, but there isn't anymore. That's the problem. Damn. This makes you readers, like it or not, a resource for me. I talk/write, you listen. It could work. In fact, it probably already has worked for me for years; I was just too fortunate elsewhere to realize it. Not anymore. And it will be painfully obvious to me as I say the prayer, and then light three candles, one each for my mother, father and brother, all deceased – for the first time together. I don't exactly have survivor's guilt, but I have something, and it's something I never thought I'd have, survivor's remorse.

To me, survivor's remorse' means being sorry about surviving – without a hint of guilt. But rather with a generous heaping of being sorry to find yourself in a predicament you had never anticipated, but of course did nothing to cause. Nevertheless, the problem exists. It's sort of like outkicking your punt coverage. The players get to where they're going before all parties intended. Oddly enough, there are negative consequences to being first on the scene; just as there are unintended consequences to being last on the scene. And I'm last, and I'm running into unintended consequences every day. My go-to person is gone. My best friend is gone. My business advisor is gone. My hand-me-down giver is gone, and I'm left, to my wife Dina's chagrin, with a very tired wardrobe with little chance of an upgrade. And as important as all these losses, I've learned that life indeed goes on. It may not mean that much to you, but if I ever thought about what my life would be like if my brother died before me; now I know. As Shakespeare would say: "It sucketh." But as any lifelong member of Red Sox Nation knows there's no time like the present when you're down and out. There may be challenges ahead but there's no going back.

This is just the kind of talk I could have with my brother if I was in any kind of funk. And invariably, with his encouragement and positive reinforcement, I would see the error of my ways and once again, take advantage of my opportunities. I feel better already. Thanks for listening.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

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.”

SCHEDULE

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>

MONTH OF 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. 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 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.

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 Columbus 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,



Still Life with Artist Anna Katalina takes place on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 at the McLean Community Center.



Don’t miss the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra with Christian McBride on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023 at GMU’s Center for the Arts in Fairfax.

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>.

OCT. 6 TO OCT. 31

The Haunted Trail. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night starting at 6:30 p.m. At The Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center celebrates its 10th annual Haunted Trail by bringing scares and laughs to the Halloween season. Haunt: Game Over immerses guests through a highly themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups via



“9 to 5 The Musical” takes place Oct. 27-29, 2023 at GMU’s Harris Theatre in Fairfax.

a timed entry for a frightening experience that brings them next to abandoned, historic buildings where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. The spirits will get loud with live music on Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween night, with a rotating schedule of band performances in the Rizer Pavilion, which also serves as the check-in area and ‘virtual line’ for Haunt entry. Food trucks, soft drinks, snacks, wine, beer, and themed-specialty drinks will be available for purchase on campus. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.; Final groups will be dispatched by 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 9:30 p.m. on Sundays.

BONITA LESTINA OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Enjoy an evening of music showcasing a variety of genres in the elegant interior of historic Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive) in the heart of Fairfax City. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and performances begin at 8 p.m. and run from October to April. Admission is free. Visit: www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts.

SCHEDULE

November 3: Swingology - Jazz Bossa Nova, Manouche and Swing
 November 17: Graham Breedlove – Blues
 December 8: Marcolivia – Classical String Duo
 January 5: Baltimore Composers Forum – Modern
 January 19: Navy Band Wind Quintet – Classical
 February 2: Kadencia – Puerto Rican Orchestra (part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival!)
 February 16: Matt Trkula – Classical Guitar
 March 8: Mandoleers – Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra
 March 22: James & Victor – Jazz Duo/Steel Pan
 April 5: Francesca Hurst – Solo Piano
 April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

Tea & Talk. 11 a.m. At McLean Project for the Arts Emerson and Atrium Galleries; 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. MPA Curator and Artistic Director Nancy Sausser will host a Tea & Talk, presented by the Rotary Club of McLean. Guests are invited to enjoy a cup of tea and discuss (Not) Strictly Painting 14 with the MPA team. Tea & Talk RSVP – <https://tinyurl.com/notstrictlypaintingteaaandtalk>

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Fall Festival. 5-8 p.m. At Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Join the Whitman PTSA for the annual Fall Festival, featuring a Haunted House and Trunk-or-Treat event. Tickets for food and games will be available onsite.

“ON GOLDEN POND”

Oct. 27, 28; Nov. 3, 4 at 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Presented by the Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. Directed by Terri Ritchey; Produced by Reece Smyth and Pete Storck. Visit www.viennatheatercompany.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Djembe Drumming Family Workshop Featuring Master Artist Kofi Dennis. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. No experience necessary. Kofi Dennis will teach participants basic drumming skills and the workshop will end with a group drum circle. Families with children (age 8+) can participate together. Drums will be provided for use. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Still Life Artist Anna Katalina. 11 a.m. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society is honored to present Anna Katalina, giving a demonstration of how to transfer a drawing or image from paper to canvas, the first step in creating her distinctly realistic and luminous paintings. Katalina has been called “a modern Dutch Master,” influenced by the 17th century small Dutch paintings. Her work draws from European travel, music, literature, and the performing arts, while striking a balance between traditional and modern and exploring both serious and lighthearted themes.

OCT. 27-28

Halloween on the Farm. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Celebrate Halloween and trick-or-treat on the farm! Enjoy farm animals, play games and make crafts. The program runs in one-hour time slots and costs \$10 per person. For more information, visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101.

“PROOF”

Oct. 27-29. Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Also at The Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Nov. 10-12; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit www.mcleanplayers.org.