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Eclipse: We All Shared

PAGE 3

Minutes before the 3:20 p.m. moment of greatest coverage, the staff of Fairfax County Circuit Court Records Office gathered outside the courthouse for a chance to view the eclipse with office head, Chris Falcon (right).



No Charges in Police Shooting Incident

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Musicals Coming!

PAGES 12 & 14

Lack of Affordable Housing Causes Homelessness

PAGE 10 & 11

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15-17 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



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Area Sky Watchers See Rare Solar Eclipse

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Weather cooperates for shared view of the celestial phenomenon.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

If you expected to see a Chinese celestial dragon devour it, a boy named Tcikabis catch it in a snare, a black squirrel gnawing on it, a demon named Rahu swallow it, a sign of displeasure, or a human like fight going on in the sky, you may have been disappointed in Monday's celestial spectacle.

But if not holding to the vision of one of the many legends, such as those from ancient China, Togo, Benin, the Hindus or In-

SEE AREA SKY WATCHERS, PAGE 19



Minutes before the 3:20 p.m. moment of greatest coverage, the staff of Fairfax County Circuit Court Records Office gathered outside the courthouse for a chance to view the eclipse with office head, Chris Falcon (right).



Clerk of the Circuit Court Chris Falcon expresses his awe at the eclipse.



Clouds during portions of the eclipse on April 8, 2024 made it possible to photograph with an iPhone.



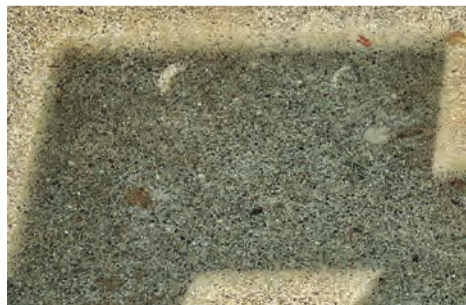
PHOTO BY COLIN DIXON

PHOTO BY COLIN DIXON

Anna Dixon with daughter Ada, 6, view the eclipse in Cabin John.



Leonard Tango of Vienna selected a spot for comfortable viewing, later rising to share his viewing glasses with others.



A pinhole projection view of the eclipse on the sidewalk was safe, but perhaps not as dramatic as viewing with solar glasses.

More photos on Page 19

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Santiago Navarro of Springfield watched every 15 minutes or so from 2 p.m. on, and was impressed. Watching with him was 10-month-old Zoey.



PHOTO BY LEONARD TANGO

Connection reporter Susan Laume taking in the eclipse. When covering celestial events, even a reporter can't resist getting caught up in viewing.



Elizabeth Siles of Springfield helps Jia Liu of Centerville shield her phone camera to capture the sun's disappearance.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pat and Kathy Lynch, parents of Jasper Aaron Lynch, right, (1996-2022), released a statement following the decision of Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano not to charge Officer George in the fatal shooting of Jasper.



SCREENSHOT

A Fairfax County police officer shot Jasper Aaron Lynch four times, killing him.

Descano Declines To Charge Officer in Fatal Shooting

Parents assert Commonwealth's Attorney's narrative of the police shooting incident is incorrect.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The source of the following content is from Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve T. Descano's Report on July 7, 2022, Officer Involved Shooting.

Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve T. Descano reviewed the police shooting incident in McLean on July 7, 2022, and concluded that none of the three officers, all of whom used some degree of force, violated criminal law. Descano, who shared the report online on April 5, declined to charge Officers Pak, Kirsch, or George with a crime. The police shooting incident was that of Jasper Aaron Lynch, 26, who died at the scene.

A footnote in the report states, "The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is responsible for determining whether criminal charges are legally appropriate in officer-involved shootings. The report, its inferences, legal standards used, and conclusions are all limited to that question."

Officers responded to Lynch at his family's McLean home after receiving calls that Lynch was having a mental health issue. FCPD received its first 911 call on July 7 at 6:52 p.m. for what the department described as an "emotionally disturbed person." Later that night, at 8:34 p.m., FCPD received another similar call.

According to the report, Lynch's sister informed the officers that Lynch had instructed her to call 911; she said her brother told her that he "was scared and terrified, and there were people aftr him." She told the officers that she understood their presence at the scene was a last resort but hoped her brother would cooperate voluntarily. Officer Pak was the first to enter the home's unlocked foyer but only went a few feet into it. Officer Kirsch entered second but did not get as far as Officer Pak and Officer George barely crossed the threshold.

According to the report, body worn camera footage shows the foyer lights turned off, with some illumination from the adjacent room and residual dusk sunlight. The officers make their presence known to Lynch, who appears in the foyer from an adjacent room. Lynch is holding a wine bottle with the base pointed downward in his right hand and a long wooden mask above his shoulder in his left hand. The officers ask, "Can you put that down, Mr. Lynch?" He smashes the mask into the table, producing a "loud thud" and the "sound of glass breaking."

Officers Pak and Kirsch unholster their tasers and Officer George his firearm but do not point them at Lynch. Lynch paces back and forth as officers instruct him to drop what he is holding. They assure Lynch that he "is not in trouble" and remind him that he requested 911 to be called.

Lynch flips the wine bottle, holding it like a club, and flings the mask at the officers. Officer Pak deploys his taser to no avail. Lynch yells something indistinct and lunges at Officers Kirsch and George, repeatedly "chopping the wine bottle like a hatchet." Officer Kirsch deploys his taser, but it has no effect as Lynch lowers his shoulder and sprints toward Officer Kirsch.

Officer George deploys four rounds from his firearm, but they fail to stop Lynch, who slams into Kirsch, "propelling both of them backward nearly into the doorway," according to the report. Lynch ends up on top of Officer Kirsch, and as they struggle, Officer George fires again, striking Kirsch in the neck. The three officers attempt to render aid, but Lynch bites and kicks them. The officers' attempts to render aid continue but are unsuccessful, and Lynch dies on the scene. The officer fired the fatal shots less than 30 seconds after entering the house.

According to repeated video views, Lynch dropped the bottle right before colliding with Kirsch. As the situation unfolded in seconds, Officer George "could reasonably assume,"

Descano writes, that Lynch was still controlling the bottle on top of Officer Kirsch. Lynch crashed

into Officer Kirsch in the darkest foyer area. Before viewing the body-worn camera videos, none of the three officers said that they were aware Mr. Lynch had dropped the bottle before colliding with Kirsch.

Descano's investigation included reviewing dispatch records, radio communication, FCPD reports, interviews with the officers involved, an independent medical examiner, and an independent use-of-force expert.

"My investigation revealed that all the officers involved in this case acted in an objectively reasonable manner based upon the totality of the circumstances," Descano wrote. He added that when Officer George discharged his firearm for the fifth time, it was objectively reasonable for him to believe Mr. Lynch was still armed with the glass bottle and in a position to bludgeon Officer Kirsch, and Officer Kirsch was in danger of serious injury.

Another footnote in the report states, "Although all three officers were CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) trained, none was assigned to the Co-Responder Unit and therefore none of the officers were accompanied by a CSB (Community Service Board) Crisis Intervention Specialist." at the time of the shooting.

To view the body camera footage from the July 7 officer-involved shooting at McLean home, visit <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2022/07/08/officer-involved-shooting-at-mclean-home/>

STATEMENT FROM PAT AND KATHY LYNCH, PARENTS OF JASPER AARON LYNCH

"We are saddened and devastated by the Commonwealth Attorney's decision not to press charges against Officer George, the police officer who shot and killed our son, Aaron Lynch, on July 7, 2022. We have carefully reviewed the footage from the body cameras and believe the Commonwealth Attorney's description of important parts of how this tragedy unfolded is incorrect. We cannot



SCREENSHOT McLEAN OIS FOR PUBLIC RELEASE (UPDATED)

Steve T. Descano

fathom how Aaron's shooting could in any way be viewed as anything but unjustified and an excessive use of force. Aaron was on the ground after being tackled by another officer and was completely unarmed when Officer George fired the lethal final bullet in Aaron's neck. This came after Officer George had fired at Aaron four times. Why was it necessary to shoot again?

"The long period of time the Commonwealth Attorney took to make this decision has only increased the pain and uncertainty for our family. We are deeply disappointed and mystified as to why it took more than 18 months. The facts all point in the other direction of this report's findings. Our son was experiencing a severe mental health crisis that day. He was scared and had asked for us to call 911. We believe that the three police officers who answered the call could have handled this far differently. To respond to Aaron's mental health crisis by shooting him at all, let alone five times, cannot be justified. How could our son, who was about 5' 6", slightly built, holding a bottle and a decorative mask be of a serious threat to three officers?"

"This is an injustice that no family should have to endure. We will continue to press for accountability from the FCPD and Fairfax County, both for Aaron and our family and in the hope that this will help prevent such tragic outcomes for other families in the future."

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NEWS

Earth Month Events Around the County

Fairfax County is joining communities around the world in celebrating Earth Month, to highlight the need for environmental stewardship and sustainability for a healthier planet. Make plans now to participate in county events throughout April that will provide awareness, education and opportunities for positive actions:

- ❖ Providence District Earth Day Celebration, April 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kingsley Commons
 - ❖ Green Reston, April 13, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Reston Community Center
 - ❖ Town of Vienna Green Expo, April 18, 7 to 9 p.m., Vienna Community Center
 - ❖ Earth Day Fairfax 2024, April 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sully Historic Site
 - ❖ 6th Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo, April 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fort Hunt Park
 - ❖ Eileen Garnett Civic Space Earth Day Celebration, April 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Annandale Pop-Up Park
 - ❖ Earth Daze Event, April 28, Aslin Beer Co., Herndon
- Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) will have a table at most of these events providing information on our programs. Come say hello.

10 Ways to Take Climate Action

Source: Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is a global event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. You can join the effort to protect our planet – and support a healthier and more resilient Fairfax County – by taking these 10 climate actions.

1. Estimate your current carbon footprint using an online calculator. Many daily activities like driving a car, disposing of waste and using electricity cause greenhouse gas emissions. It's an increase in these greenhouse gas emissions and their ability to trap heat that is leading to hotter temperatures worldwide and causing issues such as the melting of the polar ice caps, rising sea levels, weirder and more violent weather, and more. A carbon footprint calculator like the one from the Environmental Protection Agency will help you esti-

SEE 10 WAYS TO TAKE, PAGE 13
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STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP



Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 6-10, 2024, inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information scan the QR Code.



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Presidential Bank and must be from an external source of funds

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Founder's Day in Reston

Partnering with the Reston Museum, Public Art Reston, Volunteer Reston, and Lake Anne Plaza Reston Community Center (RCC) presented the annual Founder's Day event honoring Reston founder Robert E. Simon Jr. (April 10, 1914 – Sept. 21, 2015).

"What began as [the 90th] birthday party for Bob Simon has blossomed into a community celebration of how special Reston is," said Beverly Cosham, RCC Board of Governors chair.

For Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn, Founder's Day celebrates Reston's commitment to its community as an inclusive place to live, work, and play. "These values attract residents and businesses, helping to drive Reston's ongoing and future growth and vitality," he said.

— MERCIA HOBSON

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The DiLoreto family of Reston came to "live, work, and play Bob Simon's way." at the 2023 Founder's Day in Reston at Lake Anne presented by Reston Museum and Reston Community Center with support from Public Art Reston and hosted by Lake Anne Plaza. The day celebrated the event's 20th anniversary and Reston's 60th anniversary.



Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra (D-7), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D), and Chairman Jeff McKay (D) squeeze together moments before the Founder's Day 20th anniversary celebration in Reston on April 6. They want to be near 'Bronze Bob' by Zachary Oxman on Lake Anne Plaza. "Bronze Bob," whose official name is "Untold Stories," honors Reston's founder, Robert E. Simon (April 10, 1914–September 21, 2015).

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EARTH DAY



Brothers Parker, left, and Chase Mulholland, pet baby bunny Fern held by Frying Pan Park's Paul Nicholson at a past Earth Day.



Brynn Farley plants a leaf clipping in a pot of mud during a previous Earth Day.

Earth Day 2024

Fairfax County's Earth Day Festival is Saturday, April 20.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Earth Day 2024 logo.

Spring has finally sprung, and that means it's almost time for Fairfax County's largest, family-friendly Earth Day celebration. It's set for Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, off Route 28, near the Air and Space Museum annex.

A full slate of live entertainment is planned, including musical performances, children's crafts and games, a touch-a-truck exhibit, petting zoo, food trucks and a craft beer garden. The event happens rain or shine, and admission is free, but it'll cost \$10/vehicle to park.

People will learn how the county supports environmental sustainability and what they can do to help. Several special guests will be there, including WUSA-TV (channel 9) chief meteorologist Topper Shutt and the National Wildlife Federation's Ranger Rick.

Attendees will see the Eco9 hybrid TV-production truck and learn how to report their own weather forecasts. They can also enjoy petting animals from Frying Pan Farm Park and learn about local plants, wildlife and the ecosystem. Or for more physical activities, they may tackle an obstacle course, try their hand at Nerf archery and ax throwing, and even go ice skating on an outdoor synthetic rink.

There'll be fitness demonstrations from yoga to bootcamps, and people may learn to connect with nature via camping and fishing. They can also view insects under a microscope and learn about both their positive and negative impacts on farming. In addition, fun experiments will increase children's understanding of the water cycle and other natural processes happening all around them.

Children may play games and activities for prizes. Or they may participate in crafts such as painting birdhouses, practicing origami, pressing flowers, or making sustainable play dough from grain milled at Colvin Run Mill. And for those wanting a calmer and

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more relaxed way of celebrating the day, or just needing to take a break from the excitement, there'll be a sensory tent with toys, fidgets and crafts.

Meanwhile, parents may learn about summer-camp opportunities in the county, plus water-recreation spots and golf options. They'll also receive tips on growing bigger and better plants, identifying and eliminating invasive plants, and composting. And they can learn about local, natural and cultural history, too.

And when people get hungry and thirsty, there'll be vendors, including Taha Production (ice cream); Taste of DC (American and Mediterranean food); The Roaming Coyote (Tex-Mex); Two Smooth Dudes (gourmet tater tots, wraps and salads); Tysons Creamery (ice cream); Bunnymen Brewing Co. (craft beer); and a water bar provided by Fairfax Water. Guests are encouraged to help the county reduce waste by bringing reusable water bottles that may be filled at the water bar.

Entertainment Schedule

10 a.m. – Topper Shutt will welcome everyone.

10:15 a.m. – Meet Ranger Rick and enjoy a drawing presentation with children's author John Gallagher.

11 a.m. – Recycling Pirates.

Noon – Earth Day proclamation and unveiling of the Wonder Wagon, the county Park Authority's brand-new, mobile nature center filled with nature-oriented activities.

1 p.m. – Music by Kevin Elam and Friends.

2:30 p.m. – Music by Sonic Boom.

The festival is made possible by partnerships with the nonprofit Fairfax County Park Foundation, WUSA-9, the National Wildlife Foundation and USA Synthetic Rinks. For more <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/earth-day-festival>.



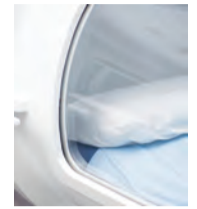
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Absentee Voting

Wednesday, March 27 – Monday, May 13

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are encouraged to vote for members of the MCC Governing Board.

TWO WAYS TO VOTE: 1. in person (fill out a ballot at McLean Community Center) or 2. by mail. If you prefer to vote by mail, simply phone or send an e-mail to request ballots for members of your household. The requested ballots will be mailed to your home.

DEADLINE: Completed Absentee Voting ballots must be received in the ballot box at MCC by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 13.

TO REQUEST A BALLOT:

CALL: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711

E-MAIL: elections@mcleancenter.org

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 // mcleancenter.org





From left are Lorraine Koury, Catherine Read and Kelly O'Brien.



Commission for Women members pose with the mayor and the honorees. Back row, from left are Mary Baker-Mezlo, Lisa Whetzel, Teresa Byrne, Taylor Geaghan, Simmy King, Mena Crawford and Lesley Abashian, Fairfax Human Services director. Front row, from left are Lorraine Koury, Catherine Read and Kelly O'Brien.

Honoring Fairfax City Women Making a Difference

Kelly O'Brien and Lorraine Koury are 'Women of Influence.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 2020, Fairfax City's Commission for Women established the Women of Influence Award: Celebrating Women Making a Difference in the City. Now in its fifth year, it recognizes outstanding women who live here and have made a significant impact on the lives of their fellow City residents.

And this year's selections are no exception. Last Tuesday, April 2, before their families and friends in City Council chambers, Kelly O'Brien and Lorraine Koury were honored as the 2024 Women of Influence. Each received a crystal statuette presented by Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read.

O'Brien, a 13-year City resident, is an active volunteer for her neighborhood and the wider City community. She serves on the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Old Town Fairfax Business Association Board of Directors.

She also volunteers at City events and administers a Facebook page clearly explaining the issues and projects Fairfax City officials are considering. She's currently employed as the Town of Vienna's deputy director of Planning and Zoning.

Koury, a City resident for 16 years, has worked diligently to maintain the integrity of Fairfax City's elections and also volunteered as a poll watcher. And from April 2018 through December 2020, she was the first woman in 19 years to serve on Fairfax's Electoral Board.

An attorney, Koury has specialized in divorce law and also provided pro bono services in the case United States v. Commonwealth of Virginia, which dealt with discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities.

At the outset of last week's ceremony, Commission member Mena Crawford said, "We're appreciative of the community for supporting this award – and even more appreciative of the two deserving winners. They're nominated for their inspiring leadership, active and ongoing community engagement and high level of positive impact within the City. And it's even more special because people in the community nominate them."

Crawford also acknowledged the past winners: Susan Barborek and Janet Jaworski, 2020; Jennifer Passey, 2021; Hildie Carney and Carolyn Sutterfield, 2022; and Janice Miller and Katy Malesky, 2023. Then, referring to one of the City's mottos, Crawford said all these women model what it means to "Live Life Connected."

Kelly O'Brien

Taylor Geaghan, the Commission's student representative, told the audience about O'Brien's many achievements on behalf of the City. "Her impact on the City of Fairfax is transformative," said Geaghan. "With a career spanning over a decade, she's left an indelible mark on every aspect of our community, from business development to civic engagement."

As secretary of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association and a key organizer of the City's annual Asian Festival on Main, said Geaghan, "O'Brien has been instrumental in fostering economic growth and cultural vibrancy within our City. Her strategic vision and tireless efforts have propelled initiatives that celebrate diversity and promote local entrepreneurship."

Geaghan further called O'Brien's former tenure as a Fairfax City planner "a testament to her foresight and commitment to sustainable urban development." While in that position, she played a pivotal role in the creation of the "Mason to Metro" bicycle plan. A joint effort among the City, Fairfax County and GMU, it dealt with the issue of bike transportation between the university,



Commission for Women Logo

the City and the Vienna Metro Station.

However, said Geaghan, "It's O'Brien's dedication to grassroots community engagement that truly sets her apart. Recognizing the need for accessible information and transparent governance, she pioneered the creation of the Fairfax City 411 Facebook group – a platform that serves as a beacon of knowledge and empowerment for hundreds of residents. Through this initiative, she's bridged the gap between government and citizens, inspiring active participation in civic life."

But her efforts go beyond the computer. The quintessential volunteer, O'Brien is a constant presence at City events – often, the first one there to help with set-up – cheerfully giving her time, talents and energy to ensure their success.

"Whether promoting local businesses or fostering connections among residents, her passion for our community shines through in everything she does," said Geaghan. "In recognition of her outstanding contributions and commitment to the betterment of our City, we're excited to award Kelly O'Brien this evening as a Woman of Influence."

Before presenting her award, Read – Fairfax's first woman mayor – said women have been influential since the dawn of time, so it's "great to have an award recog-

nizing officially the things women have always invested in, in this community." She also congratulated the Commission on its 40th anniversary.

"It's a testament to our community that people step up – not because they're elected or have a title – but because they care about this community and want to make it a better place," said Read. "They don't do it for the recognition or the pay – because there isn't any. And they're sometimes criticized, but it doesn't stop them from doing the bold things that make a difference. And in my opinion, no one embodies that more than Kelly O'Brien."

With her husband, son, brother and friends in the audience, O'Brien thanked the Commission for honoring her. Gesturing toward some of the previous honorees there, too, she said, "I know I'm in a great group of women." O'Brien said that when people ask, "Why do you do it?" she replies, "It's about the connection and wanting to help and to make the community better."

"Sometimes, it's something as small as cleaning up a park or some bases [on a ballfield] – a one-time thing, but you meet somebody who has a similar interest," she explained. "And you don't know who's watching." Eyes shining with tears, she added, "Kids are hugely important to me; that's why we do it – for them. Thank you all."

Lorraine Koury

Commission Secretary Simmy King then spoke about Lorraine Koury's accomplishments and addressed her directly. "Congratulations on your recognition," said King. "You truly are a woman of influence."

"When I related your work to the Women's History Month theme of 'Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion,' it was clear to me that everything you've done through your career and for this community exemplifies that. Your work is truly aligned with this theme."

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In Tents Not by Choice, But Lack of Choices

Problems with data; police encounters; shelter and housing.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The current U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time Count (PIT), a snapshot of people experiencing actual homelessness on one day, has limitations. Nationwide, including in Fairfax and Arlington counties and the City of Alexandria, challenges with the annual HUD-administered PIT in January underestimate the extent of the crisis, especially for unsheltered homeless people.

The National Homeless Law Center says in a report the true scale of homelessness falls between 2.5 and 10.2 times what the PIT count suggests. To count people experiencing homelessness, volunteers from local organizations and staff must have their eyes on them, according to HUD.

Unsheltered homeless people often become invisible and are undercounted. They can be transient and opt to sleep in areas “not designed for human habitation,” wooded areas, cars, parks, campgrounds, abandoned buildings, for example. They might risk violating codes but are unwilling to enter a shelter. Shelters can cause concerns about their health and safety. They desire autonomy and privacy and, from past experiences, may harbor a protective distrust of the system.

But first and foremost, unsheltered homeless people opt to sleep in areas not designated for human habitation because of a lack of affordable housing, especially for those whose income is below 30 percent of the Area Median Income. They struggle to find affordable and available units for which they qualify.

HUD Funding to Serve the Homeless Is Data-Driven

To better understand homelessness, HUD mandates the Point In Time count “to serve the homeless population through its Continuum of Care program.”

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that CoCs conduct an annual count of people experienc-



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Experiencing homelessness in the rain, Fairfax County.

ing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. CoCs also must conduct a count of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

The PIT Count offers insight on unsheltered homelessness in local jurisdictions. It helps determine the need for housing and supportive services and the level of awards from HUD. According to HUD, the Continuum of Care is “a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”

In 2023, HUD announced \$3.2 billion in CoC Competition Awards for thousands of local homeless service and housing programs across the United States. Locally, for example, Arlington County’s Pathforward, Inc. Turning Keys received \$683,202 from HUD in 2023 to provide direct services to homeless people in their communities, according to the FY 2023 CoC Awards.

Arlington County’s COC Pathforward, Inc. Turning Keys received \$683,202 from HUD in 2023 under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide direct services to homeless people in their communities, according to the FY 2023 CoC Awards.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty asserts that one must see people to count them. Current PIT methodologies miss some unsheltered people

who sleep in areas not visible on the night of the count. People who shift from one locality to another to evade laws that criminalize public activities like sleeping and living in vehicles could lead to inaccurate community records. Yet, while “complete, accurate, real-time data is vital to prevent and end homelessness, even with the limitations, ... we know many people are suffering,” states the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Police Encounters with Unsheltered Homeless People

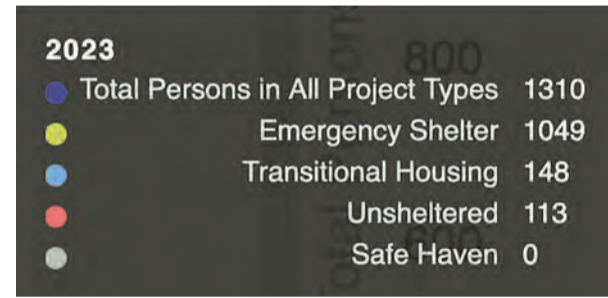
Data on the manner and how frequently local law enforcement agencies interact with the unsheltered homeless population matters,



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

A volunteer waves her flashlight into an open door frame in an abandoned structure to check for unsheltered homeless individuals during Arlington County’s Point in Time (PIT) count.

Shelters are not housing.



HUD’s Point-in-Time Count, 2023 for Fairfax County.

especially given the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court is poised to hear opening arguments in Johnson v. Grants Pass on the criminalization of homelessness on April 22.

For example, when Arlington County park rangers or police officers encounter unsheltered individuals violating Arlington County Park Rules and Regulations, sleeping in tents or encampments, Ryan Hudson, spokesperson for the Arlington County Manager’s Office, says that their goal is to connect the unsheltered people experiencing homelessness “to available support services in the county, typically the Homeless Services Center and/or the Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST).”

When asked about enforcement, Hudson replied, “When we encounter individuals sleeping in tents or encampments, we request

Arlington County CoC	PATHFORWARD, INC.	Turning Keys	\$683,202
Arlington County CoC	PATHFORWARD, INC.	Westover	\$594,477
Fairfax County CoC	Abused and Homeless Ch	Rapid Rehousing for Tra	\$227,216
Fairfax County CoC	FACETS	Linda’s Gateway	\$462,206

SCREENSHOT HUD FY2023 CONTINUUM OF CARE NOTICE AND FUNDING REPORT

Some of the HUD funding awards for Arlington and Fairfax counties are based on their applications citing the jurisdictions’ most recently released Point in Time counts of people experiencing homelessness.

Number of Hyperthermia and Hypothermia-Related Deaths in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County by Year, 2020-2023*					
Cause of Death	Event Locality	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Hyperthermia-Related (exposure to heat)	Alexandria City	0	1	1	0
	Arlington County	0	0	0	0
	Fairfax County	0	3	0	0
	Subtotal	0	4	1	0
Hypothermia-Related (exposure to cold)	Alexandria City	0	2	0	0
	Arlington County	1	0	0	0
	Fairfax County	1	5	0	0
	Subtotal	2	7	0	0
Total	Alexandria City	0	3	1	0
	Arlington County	1	0	0	0
	Fairfax County	1	8	0	0
	Total	2	11	1	0

Data among all persons, both housed and unhoused in the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County, provided on request by The Connection Newspapers to Kathrin “Rosie” Hobron, Statewide Forensic Epidemiologist Virginia Department of Health Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Richmond, VA.

People experiencing homelessness opt to sleep in areas ‘not designated for human habitation’ because of a lack of affordable housing, especially for those earning below 30 percent of the Area Median Income.

that they move off park property; we will revisit the area until the individual(s) moves on.”

All Virginia municipal codes derive their authority from the state code.

Virginia Code, § 18.2-119. Trespass after having been forbidden to do so; penalties
County Code, Section 82-5-42 Habitation in vehicles parked in public right-of-way

County Code, Section 82-1-32 Supplemental enforcement of parking
County Code, Section 5-4-1 Trespassing after having been forbidden to do

Fairfax County Park Authority Manual, Appendix 6, Section 1.03 Camping

The Code of Virginia defines penalties for all class 1 Misdemeanors, such as trespassing, as up to a \$2,500 fine and up to one year in jail. What to do if the unsheltered homeless people refuse to leave the area in which they are sleeping presents a challenge to law enforcement. Criminalization makes it more difficult for individuals to

find work, receive public benefits such as federal housing assistance, and obtain a lease.

Shelter Availability

When asked what year-round shelters are currently open and which have available beds, Alison Coleman, the City of Alexandria’s director of the Office of Community Services Department of Community and Human Services, named two: “Carpenter’s Shelter and Alexandria Community Shelter are open and [are] at full capacity.”

According to their jurisdictions’ spokespersons, similar shelters in Fairfax and Arlington counties are likewise open and at full capacity.

Coleman added, “Additionally, the City of Alexandria has a seasonal winter shelter, open overnight from 11/1 to 4/15, and bed spaces are available nightly for families and single adults experiencing homelessness.” Similar hypothermia shelters in Fairfax and Arlington closed on March 31.

With the lack of space in the local year-round shelters and the closing of the seasonal hypothermia shelters, individuals who are unsheltered and homeless are more visible where they choose to sleep to the public and law enforcement.

According to “Housing Not Handcuffs,” the Denver Police Department conducted thousands of “street checks” related to law violations. Advocates say this practice amounted to police threats to ticket or arrest homeless people unless they dismantled their camps. It is impossible to ticket or arrest people out of homelessness, and it puts law endorsement in a comprising position, said Eric Tars and his colleagues at the National Homelessness Law Center.

Housing First Approach: Best Practice

One response to addressing homelessness is the Housing First approach, which provides home-

Conversation with Fairfax Supervisor Walter Alcorn

Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn (Hunter Mill), who represents Reston, said he visited the encampment at Reston Town Center last week to talk directly with residents about their situations. He said the county is holding off on posting ‘No Trespassing’ signs at the encampment. Alcorn intends to wait until the temporary overflow shelter operated by Cornerstones is open, planning to give encampment residents sufficient time — a few months or so.

Alcorn said he is considering increasing the availability of campgrounds in the county as a temporary housing option. Additionally, Alcorn plans to use \$20,000 of his funds and raise additional funds from others in the community for longer-term support, such as rental assistance and other support for residents transitioning from the encampment to housing.

“We’ve got the temporary shelter, but this is tough,” Alcorn said. The Connection received 2020–2023 data from the Office of the Virginia Medical Examiner in Richmond on the number of hypothermia-related deaths (exposure to the cold) and hyperthermia-related deaths (exposure to the heat) for the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and Fairfax County. The Office of the Virginia Medical Examiner reported the number of deaths from the locality’s total population, not from a select subgroup such as the population of undomiciled/homeless people.

Unlike the D.C. Office of the Medical Examiner, which can provide deaths among unhoused people in the District of Columbia in a Five Year Overview (2019-2023) by manner and cause [accident; intoxication and all causes; natural: all causes; homicide: all causes; undetermined: all causes; and suicide: all causes], the Virginia Department of Health Office of the Chief Medical Examiner does not.

“Unfortunately, we do not collect this information in an accurate, uniform fashion that is fully representative of all the deaths we investigate, said Kathrin “Rosie” Hobron, MPH, Statewide Forensic Epidemiologist, Virginia Department of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, in an email to The Connection Newspapers.

“We should be getting this,” Alcorn said. “This should be part of a regular report.”

less people with permanent housing first, along with long-term wrap-around support services from teams to prevent them from becoming homeless again.

Fairfax County hopes to follow the best practice approach with approximately 40 individuals camping in Reston Town Center, making use of new state-funded housing vouchers. They hope those encampment will inquire about the vouchers through Cornerstones, whose staff will operate the new temporary shelter next to the encampment.

The shelter is planned to open in the coming weeks or thereabouts on a date yet to be determined. In the meantime, Cornerstones’ staff is engaging with residents of the encampment face-to-face. They hope to entice those encamped to look into services at the new temporary shelter next to the encampment, which could help them transition into permanent housing through the new voucher program.

Local governments argued that it undercut their ability to maintain public spaces and enforce public health and safety laws.

The groundwork for a future where everyone has a place to call home hinges on the Supreme Court’s ruling in Johnson v. Grants Pass. SCOTUS will hear oral arguments on April 22, 2024, and render a ruling by June 1.

The National Homeless Law Center describes the case as the “criminalization of homelessness.”

Funders Together to End Homelessness calls Johnson v. Grants Pass “the most significant Supreme Court case in four decades about the rights of people experiencing homelessness.”

The 2018 decision against the City of Boise, Idaho, in Martin

v. Boise, by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, found that when there is no option of sleeping indoors, “the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter.” The court based its decision on the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

Local governments argued that it undercut their ability to maintain public spaces and enforce public health and safety laws.

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Coming to the Supreme Court

The 2018 decision against the City of Boise, Idaho, in Martin



The cast waves goodbye during a rehearsal of the song, "Bon Voyage."

Sometimes People Just Need Laughter in Their Lives

Chantilly High presents rollicking, romantic musical, 'Anything Goes.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast of 50 and a crew of 25, Chantilly High's Cappies entry, "Anything Goes," is poised to burst upon the stage. The actors have been rehearsing this rollicking musical since January, and Director Andy Shaw says it's bound to bring the audience happiness and joy.

"It's a fun, romantic comedy, and I wanted us to do something lighter than our darker musicals of the last couple years," he explained. "It's also a large-cast, classic musical with big tap, ensemble and production numbers. And the students are a joy to work with; we have lots of quadruple threats who are dramatic and funny, as well as great dancers and vocalists."

The story takes place in the 1930s aboard a luxury cruise ship and follows the love story of Billy Crocker and Hope Harcourt. Things are complicated, though, since she's engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakleigh because of the money and security he'll bring her. And meanwhile, Oakleigh's falling for a showgirl named Reno. Hilarity ensues before Hope and Billy can have their happy ending.

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 18, 19, 20, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17, adults; \$10, students, at the door or via www.chantillydrama.org.

Most of the scenes take place on the deck of a two-story cruise ship, and some happen in various characters' rooms. "So the set has a dollhouse effect, opening up the ship to show the rooms inside," said Shaw. "And our costume team researched the era to find the right clothes, wigs and costume designs for the characters. They even found some actual vintage pieces and are also making some new gowns that mimic the style of the '30s."

In addition, he said, "The music is great, with recognizable Cole Porter songs, plus brand-new ones. It's one of the most well-re-

spected and celebrated music scores and has a wide range of songs from romantic to lively and comedic to big production numbers. People will have a good time watching it, and sometimes in life, it's just what we need to have – some laughter."

Senior Bridget Dombro portrays showgirl Reno Sweeney, who's the show's lead actress but not the centerpiece of the plot. "She's in cahoots with several of the characters to help out her friend Billy and make sure the romances for her and her friends all work out," said Dombro. "She's sultry and seductive but also witty, cunning and comedic. One of my favorite parts of her are all her quips."

"In the beginning, she seems to have everything all figured out," continued Dombro. "But as her feelings shift from Billy to Evelyn [pronounced eve-lynn], her façade drops a bit to show a more raw and sincere part of her. And I love her songs spanning from a slow, reflective – almost self-deprecating – solo to upbeat, full-cast performances."

She especially likes the "Bon Voyage" number sung by everyone. "It's the musical's opening hurrah where you see every character," said Dombro. "And it has such good energy as we're celebrating this journey we're about to take."

She believes the show's comedy will appeal to audiences the most and "give them a good laugh and a pick-me-up. And they'll be astonished by the talent of everyone in the cast, plus the work of the directors – including Musical Director Evan Ayars and student director Rory Ketzle – and the technical team. And even beyond the show's flashiness, people will enjoy seeing the actors' dedication and realism in portraying their characters."

Playing Billy Crocker is senior Will Sanfilippo. "He's young, energetic and genuine, but can also be cunning, manipulative and slick," said Sanfilippo. "He's a stockbroker's apprentice and is on the ship going from New York to London. He's in love with Hope,

so he snuck aboard to see her, instead of doing some work at home for his boss – who's also on the ship."

Sanfilippo loves his role because "Billy's funny and has lots of great scenes and beautiful songs. Some really classic jazz standards from the early 20th century came from this show. And Billy's a great character because, overall, he's lighthearted but also has complex layers to him and particular reasons for his actions."

Sanfilippo's favorite song is "All Through the Night." He sings the main part, along with others. "It's different from Billy's other songs because it's joyful despite the character's current, unfortunate situation on the ship that's preventing him from being with Hope."

He said audiences will enjoy this musical because "it's an entertaining comedy with huge, song-and-dance numbers. There are lots of fun, character dynamics and relationships, and people will leave feeling happy."

Senior Mckenzy Hopkins portrays Hope Harcourt, a debutante in her early 20s. "She's caring, charming and has a bubbly personality with playful, youthful energy," said Hopkins. "She's protective of her loved ones and is also classy because she grew up with money."

Basically, explained Hopkins, "Hope's a sweet girl who just wants love. But her dad died, and her family lost its money, so her mother wants her to marry Evelyn – a guy who has money. Hope's engaged to him, but she loves and wants to marry Billy, so she's in a sticky situation."

Thrilled with her part, Hopkins likes it because her character's "in a bad spot but finds some light in it and still tries to make everyone happy. And she shows so many different emotions – from happy to heartbroken – that the audience gets to see her many sides."

Hopkins especially likes the song, "Goodbye, Little Dream, Goodbye," which she sings. "It's about her getting her heart shattered because she has to give up Billy," she said. "And it's special to me because the directors put a lot of time and energy into making me feel comfortable and confident

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZANDER HALL



From left, Bridget Dombro as Reno Sweeney, Kai Obernberger as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, and Mckenzy Hopkins as Hope Harcourt.

See the Play

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 18, 19, 20, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17, adults; \$10, students, at the door or via www.chantillydrama.org.

singing this song. I love its emotion because Hope's been taught to keep her walls up, and this song is her breaking point."

She said people will love the energy this cast brings to the show. "The dance numbers are big highlights, and audiences will be blown away by the actors' commitment to and groundedness in their characters," said Hopkins. "The sets are incredible – audiences will be both surprised and amazed – and our costumes perfectly illustrate the time period."

Playing Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, a wealthy but strange Englishman, is senior Kai Obernberger. "He enjoys everything American and even writes down American expressions to learn them, but fails miserably when attempting to use them," said Obernberger. "He tries to act like a proper Englishman, but makes some weird, whack statements and gets excited over odd things. And sometimes, he doesn't register that this is his life that's happening."

"I'm having so much fun with this role because I get to do the weirdest laughs and most ridiculous sounds," continued Obernberger. "It can be challenging because Evelyn has different relationships and ways of acting with every character. But I'm enjoying it because he's just having fun, the whole time."

His favorite song is "Drifter in Me," which he sings. "Evelyn's running all over the place and does a funny, silly dance to it," said Obernberger. "And during the song, he blames his grandmother for his promiscuity with women."

Obernberger said audiences will love this musical because "everyone in it gets a chance to be the comic relief. Even during a depressing scene, there's always something lightening the mood. And the tap break during the 'Anything Goes' number is so cool, they'll really enjoy watching it."

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NEWS

10 Ways to Take Climate Action

FROM PAGE 5

mate your household's emissions so you can take actions to reduce – and save money too.

2. Learn about Fairfax County's climate plans, policies, and initiatives. From plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience community-wide to a sweeping environmental vision that addresses the conservation and protection of natural resources, these plans and policies help to define a sustainable future for all residents. View the plans on the Climate Plans, Policies, and Initiatives page.

3. Sign up for Fairfax Alerts to stay informed about emergencies in Fairfax County, including weather events. Fairfax Alerts is managed by the Department of Emergency Management and Security, and you can choose to receive alerts by email, phone or text.

4. Hire a professional to conduct an energy assessment (audit) of your home to see where improvements can be made. Federal tax credits for energy audits are available. You can learn more about energy assessments on Fairfax County Home Energy page

5. Adjust your thermostat during hot or cold months.
- Thermostat settings during warm months: Turn your thermostat up a few degrees (78F recommended) during the summer months to reduce energy used by air conditioning.
- Thermostat settings during cold months: Turn your thermostat down a few degrees (68F recommended) in the winter months to save on heating. Wear an extra layer of clothing.

6. Replace your incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED light bulbs, which are much more energy-efficient while producing the same amount of light. They last much longer, too.

7. Buy and install weather stripping and caulk around your doors and windows to reduce air leaks that create annoying drafts. Common culprits for air leaks include doors, windows, exterior outlets, ducts, and connections to the outside such as cables or plumbing fixtures. Sealing air leaks helps you reduce energy use and save money. To help you identify air leaks in your home, check out a thermal camera from Fairfax County Public Library.

8. Drop off your food scraps (compost) at any Farmer's Market location in Fairfax County, at the I-66 transfer station or I-95 landfill. Composting reduces emissions from our landfills. Find the Farmer's Market locations and schedule.

9. Consider ENERGY STAR or a WATER SENSE models when replacing or upgrading home appliances like refrigerators or washers and dryers. These models are guaranteed to improve efficiency and save money in the long run.

10. Switch to an electric vehicle if feasible for you. Be sure to take advantage of federal tax credits and other incentives available for EVs. Visit the county webpage dedicated to electric vehicles, for information and resources to help you on your EV journey.

Bonus Action: Go solar! Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination has information on its Going Solar webpage. Additionally, Spring 2024 solar group purchasing programs are accepting applications for a limited time, so sign up for Solarize Virginia or Capital Area Solar Switch.

Looking to do more? This list of actions is just a sample of what you can find on the Fairfax County Climate Action Checklist – an interactive checklist designed to help you track your progress in adopting sustainable habits and making environmentally conscious choices that can also save you money. This Excel spreadsheet offers a list of 70-plus actions you can take, along with their cost up front and yearly savings in both money and carbon emissions. There are also links to incentives and resources to make taking actions cheaper and easier.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents>

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Mystery, Romance, Beautiful Songs and Hopeful Story

Fairfax High Presents 'Anastasia the Musical.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 1907, a 6-year-old Russian princess named Anastasia is given a music box by her grandmother, who's leaving for Paris. Then when she's 17, there's a revolution and her family, the Romanovs, are attacked. Afterward, Anastasia is missing – and no one knows if she's dead or alive.

Meanwhile, a young woman named Anya has amnesia and can't remember her past. So two conmen convince her to team up with them and pretend she's Anastasia so they can receive a reward from the grandmother in Paris who's looking for her.

That's the premise of Fairfax High's upcoming Cappies show, "Anastasia the Musical." The curtain rises Thursday-Saturday, April 18, 19, 20 at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, April 25-26, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 27, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10, students; \$12, adults, online; and \$15 at the door. Online tickets are at www.fxplayers.org.

There's a cast and crew of about 75, plus a 22-person pit orchestra. "It's a really beautiful story that's full of hope, and I thought the kids would enjoy doing it," said Director Chris Whitney. "Watching their performances during rehearsals has taken my breath away. I've seen flashes of brilliance, and I can't wait to see what they do on opening night."

Act I scenes take place in Russia at the palace of St. Petersburg, in that city's slums and on the streets of Paris. Act II scenes are portrayed during a ballet in Paris, in hotel and press rooms, and in a Russian nightclub.

Creating the sets will be projections, plus a periaktoi used in ancient Greek plays. It's a giant, three-sided column with changeable walls that'll become the inside of a palace and a government office, as well as the streets of Russia and Paris.

"There are so many different elements of spectacle the audience will enjoy, ranging from snow and big dance numbers to moments that are intimate and heartfelt," said Whitney. "The show's message is that, ultimately, love triumphs over duty."

Senior Kaylee Williams plays Anastasia/Anya, in her 20s. "She's strong and independent, since she's had to live on her own since she was a teenager," said Williams. "After the Communist attack, she lost her memory and didn't know who she was. People found her lying in the snow and brought her to a hospital, where she was named Anya. She's tough, confident and stubborn and is trying to find her family. She has a vague memory of Paris and that someone's waiting for her there."

Loving her role, Williams said, "It's so much fun, and Anya's different from other princess characters. I like playing the lead and showing the dynamics she has with the other actors. And I also like being in a trio with the two con artists – Vlad, an older man, and Dmitry, who becomes her romantic interest."



From left, Kaylee Williams, Alejandro Cahoon and Tristan Farmer in a scene after Dmitry gave Anya the music box.



Tristan Farmer (as Vlad) teaching Kaylee Williams (Anya) and Alejandro Cahoon (Dmitry) to dance.

See the Show

The curtain rises Thursday-Saturday, April 18, 19, 20 at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, April 25-26, at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 27, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10, students; \$12, adults, online; and \$15 at the door. Online tickets are at www.fxplayers.org.

Her favorite song is "We'll Go from There," sung by the three of them on a train. "It's really cheerful and energetic, after their previous song, which is very dark," said Williams. "So this changes the mood and shows how they're hoping to find a better future."

She said audiences will enjoy the musical's variety in tone and dynamics. "There's romance, humor, darkness and mystery," said Williams. "It's all you can ask to see in a show. The music is beautiful, and the ensemble vocals sound gorgeous and help support the story."

Portraying Gleb Vaganov, a high-ranking member of the new Communist regime, is sophomore Nate Smith. "His father was part of the revolution against the Romanov family," said Smith. "He's stern and projects a fake, strong persona to maintain his position and be accepted by his higher-ups. But inside, he has a soft spot for Anya and has fallen in love with her. So he has a conflict between that love and his order from the Communists to kill her, because they believe she's the last remaining Romanov."

Smith tries keeping Vaganov's stern exterior in check by finding little, humorous parts

in his dialogue, although his character's attempts at jokes fail. "I show in my facial expressions and body movements how he really feels inside and how conflicted he is," explained Smith.

He especially likes the song, "Land of Yesterday," sung by Kathryn Whitis as Lilly, a former Romanov countess. "It's the most fun and high-energy song in the show," said Smith. "And I got to choreograph it with my co-choreographers, Naomi Bautista and Libby Hansen."

"This show makes you reflect on who you have in your family and how we treat other people," he continued. "It says a lot about our history as a society and as a world – and how we fix our issues but, in doing so, often hurt each other."

Senior Alejandro Cahoon plays Dmitry. "He's a con artist who wants to leave Russia and falls in love with Anya in the process of finding his way to Paris to get a reward for her," said Cahoon. "He's street smart and had to raise himself at a young age. He's a good person at heart but starts off pretty selfish."

"It's a blast playing him," said Cahoon. "This is my last high-school show and, as a transfer, it's my first at Fairfax, and the cast has been incredible. Dmitry is super charismatic, and I get to grow as a performer, showing many different sides of his character while also showcasing my vocal talents."

Cahoon's favorite number is "Quartet at the Ballet," sung by Dmitry, Gleb, Anya and a dowager empress. "Each character gets

their time to shine in this song," said Cahoon. "And at the end, they come together to make beautiful harmonies."

Regarding this musical, he said, "The set pieces look spectacular; they're extremely detailed and will draw people into the scenes. And the choreographers have done a remarkable job teaching us such mesmerizing dances in a short amount of time."

Portraying Vlad is sophomore Tristan Farmer. "He's the show's comic relief but has his own side story," said Farmer. "Vlad's a con artist on the streets with Dmitry and a father figure to him. And while on the journey with Anya to discover who she is, Vlad reunites with a former lover, Lilly."

"He's a jolly, happy guy but also has a darker side, so a lot of his humor comes from his struggles in life. I really like playing him because I've previously portrayed rebellious, gangster-type characters. So this role's lighter and shows I'm capable of playing other things."

Farmer especially likes the song, "In a Crowd of Thousands," sung by Dmitry and Anya. "It's the first moment they show their vulnerabilities to each other," said Farmer. "He's comforting her after she awakes from a nightmare. And through this song, she begins to uncover small things about her past."

He called this show "one big journey with numerous side plots, a romance and beautifully written and performed music. The audience will be thinking, 'Wow, these are really talented high-school students in a production not normally seen at their level.'"

ENTERTAINMENT



The American Daffodil Society Convention takes place April 11-12, 2024 in Herndon.



"The Ugly Duckling" can be seen Friday, April 12, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

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

BONITA LESTINA

FAIRFAX 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

April 19: Sylvan Waters Duo – Harp/Brass

MARCH 9 TO APRIL 14

"Every Brilliant Thing." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center Performing Arts, announces its newest production, Every Brilliant Thing, a heartfelt one-person play that celebrates the little things that make life brilliant. "Every Brilliant Thing" is an interactive solo performance piece that explores the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity to find joy in all the little things. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and range from \$25 to \$35. For more information, visit the website (www.workhousearts.org).

MARCH 23 – APRIL 13, 2024

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Adapted by Ken Ludwig. It's 1934, just after midnight, and a snowstorm has stopped the opulent sleeper train in its tracks. A wealthy American businessman is discovered dead, and the brilliant and beautifully

mustachioed Hercule Poirot must solve the mystery before the murderer strikes again.

MARCH 25 TO APRIL 19

Mason Exhibitions. Mason Exhibitions presents two exhibitions on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus, Faces & Figures: Identity Through Printmaking in South Africa at Gillespie Gallery in the Art and Design Building from March 25—April 19 with an opening reception on Tuesday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Roots & Reflections: Contemporary Chinese Artists in DC at Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery on display through April 19.

APRIL 1-30

Young at Art Exhibit for 55+ Plus Age Group. At RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. This free exhibit, for two-dimensional art only, will take place from Monday, April 1 to Tuesday, April 30. A reception and presentation of awards is planned for Thursday, April 13th in the Community Room from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to view the art and present several fun awards. At 2:15 p.m., you are invited to attend a performance by violinist Miles Stiebel at the CenterStage.

APRIL 4-21

"The Nance." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. This witty, Tony Award-Nominated play, filled with music, dance, and comedy sketches, introduces us to Chauncey Miles, a gay burlesque performer at the Irving Place Theater. The Nance recreates the naughty, raucous world of burlesque's heyday and tells the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. At a time when it was easy to play gay and dangerous to be gay, Chauncey's uproarious antics on the stage stand out in marked contrast to his offstage life. Visit www.1st-stage.org or call 703-854-1856.

APRIL 6-28

Pat Macintyre Retrospective Exhibit. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Lake Anne, Reston. See a collection of works by Pat Macintyre, a beloved, lifelong artist with an instantly recognizable style, including original drawings and paintings from the era of Reston's

formation. Open every weekend from 12-5 p.m. Meet the artist and connect with fellow Macintyre fans at the show reception, 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 14.

PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

As spring blooms, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Master Gardeners extend a warm invitation to all gardening enthusiasts for a series of free Vegetable Garden Plant Clinics. These educational programs, offered in collaboration with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of gardening practices and foster a sense of community among green thumbs of all levels.

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Clinics will be held concurrently on each of these dates at eight locations across Fairfax County:

Pine Ridge Park, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale
Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean
Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria
Grove Point Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield
George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax
Hogge Park, 3139 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church
Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna

JOIN THE SPRING CLEANING EFFORT IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS

It's spring cleaning time again and the Fairfax County Park Authority and dozens of volunteers of all ages throughout the county are rolling up their sleeves to spruce up public parks across the county as part of the annual Watershed Cleanup Days in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy.

Cleanups have been scheduled at various locations throughout

the county and offer a diverse array of activities to be involved in. From collecting and bagging trash to tackling other projects, volunteers will have the chance to contribute to the beautification and preservation of our natural spaces. Choose from among the following locations:

Saturday, April 13
Cub Run Rec Center, Chantilly (9-11:30 a.m.)
London Towne, LT West, 2nd LTW, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Sully Station I, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Sully Station II, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Isaac Walton and Gatepost I/II, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Virginia Run, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Chalet Woods and Country Club Manor, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Braddock Park, Clifton (9-11:30 a.m.)
Saturday, April 20
Hidden Oaks Nature Center - Roundtree Park, Falls Church (9 a.m.-noon)
John Byers Park, Alexandria (9-11 a.m.)
Centre Ridge North Park, Centreville (9-11:30 a.m.)
Merrybrook Run Stream Valley Park, Herndon (9-11:30 a.m.)
Saturday, April 27
Cub Run Stream Valley Park: Penrose Place, Chantilly (9-11:30 a.m.)
Cub Run Stream Valley Park: Flint Lee Road, Chantilly (9-11:30 a.m.)
Sunday, April 28
Lake Accotink Park, Springfield (9 a.m.-noon)

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCross-Blood.org and enter: "McLeanCC" to schedule an appointment.

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

Inner Gardens Solo Show Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. At Atrium Gallery, McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Inner Gardens is a collection of Abol Bahadori's latest paintings that delve into the depths of the human psyche, exploring the intricate landscapes of our inner

worlds. Each piece invites viewers to embark on a journey of introspection and discovery through colors, surreal simulation of perspective, and intuitive abstract marks. The reception will provide an opportunity to engage with the artwork, meet fellow art enthusiasts, and enjoy light refreshments in a welcoming atmosphere.

APRIL 11-12

American Daffodil Society Convention. At Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Thursday, April 11, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. | Friday, April 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Daffodils signal the true arrival of Spring! Blooming en masse there is little that rivals the spectacle, but get closer and you will see the utter miracle, the vast variety, and sheer beauty of these springtime arrivals. The American Daffodil Society (ADS) offers the opportunity to the general public to capture a glimpse of thousands of blooms during their 70th Anniversary ADS Convention. Stunning varieties, many centuries old, and others so innovative and new that they have not yet been named will enthrall you. From the popular yellow trumpets to blooms that measures 1/4 inch across and colors of pale yellow to white and rose, collections and individual blooms will be exhibited. This will be a show/convention not to be missed.

ARTSCREEN:

A FREE FILM SERIES

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Join in a free film series on Friday evenings in the City of Fairfax at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Films begin at 7:30 p.m. Free popcorn, candy, refreshments and door prizes, too!

April 12: *Midnight in Paris.* (2011) PG-13 - While on a trip to Paris with his fiancée's family, a nostalgic screenwriter finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920s every day at midnight.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

"The Ugly Duckling." 6 p.m. At The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Semi-finalist on NBC's "America's Got Talent" and winner of TruTV's "Fake Off," Lightwire Theater will bring its production of "The Ugly Duckling" to The Alden in McLean. Lightwire

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT



McLean Earth Day will take place Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.



The 2024 Horse Expo takes place Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.



Langley High School will present "Guys and Dolls" on April 12-15, 2024.

FROM PAGE 15

utilizes light, technology and music to tell captivating stories. Using cutting-edge puppetry, technology, music and dance, the beloved story of "The Ugly Duckling" will be told in complete darkness with light from electroluminescent wire defining the various characters. Their unique brand of storytelling uses only LED wire, larger-than-life puppets and a dramatic music score to convey deep meaning and theatrical excitement. Visit the website, aldentheatre.org.

APRIL 12-15

"Guys and Dolls." At Langley High School, McLean. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of New York City, filled with love, laughter, and catchy tunes. Langley's talented cast and crew are ready to transport you to the golden age of Broadway! Follow the intertwining tales of high-rolling gamblers, captivating and unlikely love stories. Will the charismatic Sky Masterson win the heart of straight-laced missionary Sarah Brown? Can Nathan Detroit organize the perfect craps game while dealing with his own romantic troubles? Ticket link: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15635/langley-high-school-theatre>

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

McLean Earth Day – Act Locally. 9 a.m.– noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This outdoor environmental action event is designed to provide MCC district residents with an opportunity to create a healthier planet. Shred, reuse, recycle, replenish and make McLean an even better place by acting locally. The event includes document shredding (up to five file boxes—no clips please), bike donations, recycled art display, bulk and household item donations and more. Don't leave without your free gifts of a tree whip and pollinator seeds!

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

1040 5K Run/Walk. Lace up your running (or walking) shoes and join the Friends of Lake Accotink Park for their inaugural 1040 5k at Lake Accotink Park on Saturday, April 13. Enjoy a scenic trip around the Lake Accotink Loop at your chosen pace and find out how you can be an active participant in the Friends of Lake Accotink Park community. Race packet pick-up opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 13. The race will begin promptly at 10:40 a.m. Registration for this event is \$25 per participant. Lake Accotink Park is located

at 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield. For information about the park and park programs, visit the Lake Accotink Park website or call 703-569-3464.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

April Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Celebrating Cherry Blossom Season and the Japanese Culture! Watch a cherry blossom origami demonstration; participate in a cherry blossom painting Make & Take; learn about Japanese woodblock prints; enjoy a Japanese tea tasting, and more.

As always, they will have brand new exhibitions from the monthly featured artists (on display for the entire month). Talk to painters, ceramicists, photographers, and more—and indulge in the art that speaks to you!

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

New Play Reading: Orpheus & Eurydice. 4 p.m. At Traveling Players Studio. Hear renowned playwright Judith Walsh White read her latest play, Orpheus & Eurydice. The play is based on the Greek myth and written in contemporary language. Judith is joined by her husband, Chris White and together they read all the roles.

The first performance of Orpheus & Eurydice will take place this July starring the Mythology Ensemble (grades 4-6).

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

The Big Jam. 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons Corner. The Vienna Jammers present the Big Jam. Join in a night of unforgettable music featuring over 135 kids aged 8-18 from Northern Virginia. They'll wow you with original tunes, popular hits, and traditional pieces from around the world. Using everything from marimbas to trash cans, their percussion ensemble delivers pure energy! Guest Artist: Yasmin Williams. Tickets at www.bigjam.live.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

2024 Horse Expo. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Calling all horse enthusiasts to the Annual Horse Expo at Frying Pan Farm Park Equestrian Center! This featured event is for experienced riders, beginners, and anyone who loves horses or hopes to become a rider. Frying Pan Farm Park has been hosting horse shows and serving the local horseback-riding community for more than 50

years. Come by and enjoy a purely authentic equestrian experience. Enjoy amazing equestrian demonstrations; see a variety of horses in the Parade of Breeds; gain insights from expert speakers; explore a wide range of businesses offering horse-related products and services; and indulge in delectable treats from food trucks. Pony rides are also available (Preregistration is required). Admission to the Horse Expo is free, pony rides are \$10 per rider.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Spring Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Morven Park Parking Lot, 17195 Southern Planter Lane, Leesburg. Thousands of beautiful spring blooming flowers, shrubs, trees, vines and ferns will be for sale from four native plant nurseries: Watermark Woods, Nature by Design, Seven Bends Nursery, and Hill House Farms and Nursery. Experts will be on hand to help you choose the right plants for your garden. Want to learn more about native plants. They'll have an 11 a.m. Intro to Native Plants presentation, with information, pictures, plants and giveaways.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024. <https://ahsgardening.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/springgardenmarket2024/>



The McLean Art Society Partners with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra to present Brian Ganz on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at Capital One Hall in Tysons Corner.

FROM PAGE 16

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

T-TRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia T-TRAK members will hold a tabletop N gauge model train display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; senior 65+ and military (active and retired), \$4. For more information on the museum events, <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Prom Dress Giveaway. 1-5 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Can't afford a prom dress? Becca's Closet will be having a prom dress giveaway. Becca's Closet is a non-profit organization that donates prom and homecoming dresses to girls with financial need. Email: novadressdonations@gmail.com to request an appointment to pick out your free dress.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Celebrate Earth Day. At Loudoun Water, 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn. Join the Youth Advisory Board at Loudoun Water for the 3rd Annual Earth Day Extravaganza — a fun-filled, outdoor celebration of our planet! Celebrate Earth with hands-on activities, games, a recycled art show, science

demonstrations, a hike, and more. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Registration is limited to the first 250 attendees. Event will occur rain or shine!

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

McLean Art Society Partners with Virginia Chamber Orchestra. 4 p.m. The McLean Art Society is thrilled to participate in the Virginia Chamber Orchestra's premier performance at Capital One Hall in Tysons, featuring works of Beethoven, Mozart, Vaughan Williams and Mendelssohn with guest artist, Brian Ganz, regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation. This unique hybrid event combines classical chamber music with local art in a manner that will gratify the senses through aural and visual stimulation. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to view original art by talented local artists — including watercolorists, oil painters, and sculptors — with art available for purchase. Artists will be on site from 3-4 p.m., during intermission, and after the performance to meet concertgoers and share the inspirations for their works.

MONDAY/APRIL 15

Tea 'n Painting. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. At the Lake House in Reston. Are you looking for a fun way to express your creative side? Come and enjoy an afternoon of tea, socializing, and painting at the Lake House. Sip on your tea while you create a landscape painting with the step-by-step guidance of an instructor. At the end of class, you'll be able to

take home your finished masterpiece. Ages 55+. All skill levels welcome. Contact events@reston.org or 703-435-6571.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Green Expo. 7-9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. More than 30 local exhibitors will be on hand with information about green landscaping ideas, composting, recycling, energy efficiency, solar power, water conservation and more. The popular "Ask Me Anything" sessions are back this year featuring local experts who will make brief presentations and then take questions from attendees regarding sustainable practices. For more information, visit www.viennava.gov/GreenExpo.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

"Twelfth Night" Movie. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. One of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies, "Twelfth Night" was 'blissfully reborn' (The Daily Telegraph) for the 2012-2013 season at London's Globe Theatre. Not rated.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

The Green Expo. 7-9 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. Plant guidance, giveaways, and expert tips on sustainability are what's in store. Don't forget the best part: live animals! See the new additions: ewes and lambs, along with returning favorites: live birds of prey! Details: <https://bit.ly/TOVGreenExpo>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Five Hills Garden Club Flower Show – For the Love of Nature! 2-4 p.m. At Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna. Enjoy creative floral designs presented by club members as well as horticultural specimens on display from member home gardens. Free and open to the public.

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

The opening of the 2024 Farmers Market season is fast approaching and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, will have tons of fresh and healthy foods waiting for you at all 10 markets located throughout the county.

This year, you can expect to find locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and prepared foods at the farmers markets. Additionally, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities from musical performances, games, and don't forget to bring your food scraps to support our community composting efforts! The 2024 season begins April 17 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

WEDNESDAYS
McCutcheon/Mount Vernon
April 17-Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria
Oakmont
May 1-Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon
Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200

Jermantown Road, Oakton
Wakefield
May 1 - Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
THURSDAYS
Annandale
May 2 -Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
Herndon
May 2 -Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)
FRIDAYS
McLean
May 3-Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean
Kingstowne
May 3-Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria
SATURDAYS
Burke
April 20-Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke
Reston
April 27-Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston
SUNDAYS
Lorton
May 5-Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-noon
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton
Visit the Farmers Market website for complete information about this year's markets — including details on SNAP benefits for eligible households available at designated locations. If you have any questions, contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Trav-

eler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: www.mcleannewcomers.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have

received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for

caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

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QUANTITATIVE ANALYTICS & MODEL DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTANT SENIOR

The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. seeks a Quantitative Analytics & Model Development Consultant Senior within the Model Risk Management Organization in Tysons Corner, VA, to lead reviews and validation of high impact models for assets on PNC's balance sheet with major exposures to revenues and losses in both secured and unsecured retail consumer products such as mortgage, home equity, auto, and credit card for the bank's financial stress testing (CCAR/DFAST) and quarterly credit allowance (CECL) processes. Position allows for the ability to work from home with appropriate telecommuting systems for up to one day per week, with a minimum of four days per week in the office. Specific duties include: (i) provide oversight and execution to the model validation activities by conducting on-going communication with model owners, developers, and specialists; (ii) collect and work with large and complex data and assumptions to create and test model outputs; (iii) perform complex qualitative and quantitative assessments on all aspects of models including theoretical aspects, model design and implementation as well as data quality and integrity; (iv) review and perform advanced quantitative analysis and produce model documentation and written validation in accordance with PNC's Model Validation Policy and Guidelines; (v) use programming and quantitative tools and techniques to validate existing models, develop benchmark models and assess model risks; (vi) evaluate identified model risks and reach conclusions on strengths and limitations of the model, with a written report on model issues requiring remediation; (vii) determine if any poorly developed model should be rejected (rated Unsatisfactory), as recommended to model-risk validation management; and (viii) consult with model-risk management extensively as model validation reports are written and key new conclusions in model issues are drawn or outstanding issues are closed after review.

Master's degree in Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering, Economics, or Quantitative Finance plus 6 years of financial risk modeling and credit risk analytics experience at or for a bank or financial service company is required. Must have experience with: (i) building loss forecast models for consumer lending products including mortgage, home equity, auto, and credit card; (ii) performing statistical analyses on loan loss exposure in retail lending products; (iii) working with large datasets (number of records >10MM or variables >100) and simulation for major loan product (>\$10B exposure) under transition matrix framework; (iv) applying traditional algorithms including logistic and linear regression, decision tree, clustering, and machine learning algorithms to estimate probability of loan default and credit loss; (v) performing advanced data manipulations and developing quantitative models/tools using programming languages including SAS, SQL, Python, and R; (vi) conducting quantitative model performance testing using error metrics and creating technical documentation to evaluate the forecasting outcomes for credit risk models; and (vii) model development for stress testing (CCAR/DFAST) and allowance (ALLL/CECL) purposes.

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'Women Of Influence'

FROM PAGE 8

Regarding equity, King explained that, through Koury's job as an attorney, she's been "a true advocate for those who haven't had the means [to obtain] legal services. You've done pro bono work for others to ensure they received fair and equitable representation. Specifically, in 2013, you assisted in a class-action lawsuit focusing on providing fairer resources to individuals with intellectual disabilities."

In another realm, said King, Koury has advocated for transparent, free and fair elections. "Over the years, you've served as a volunteer to ensure that election processes are conducted with integrity," said King. "In addition, your appointment to the City of

Fairfax Electoral Board has given you opportunities to support election-worker training and absentee voting and make sure the electoral process is sound."

Therefore, King told her, "You are a Woman of Influence in your community, and we honor you. It's my distinct pleasure to award you the Women of Influence Award for 2024."

Addressing Koury before presenting her statuette, Read said it's wonderful "when people take their day job and give their expertise to vulnerable populations needing it. And the fact that you've been so committed and generous in looking out for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is amazing. Thank you for doing that."

Koury said she appreciated everyone's gracious words and is awed by the important work the Commission does in "identifying women's needs and taking action to meet them. So I'm thrilled such a wonderful organization has chosen to give their award to me. I'm especially grateful that the work on my life's two passions – helping ensure free, fair and transparent elections, and helping improve the lives of mentally disabled people – has generated this award."

She then thanked her friends for coming to the ceremony, and especially her husband Daryl, "who has supported me in every single thing I have ever done in my life." Thanking the Commission again, Koury hoisted her award and said, "I will treasure it always."

Driving Home a Point



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've had very few car accidents in my life, a fender bender or two but nothing approaching totaling a car – even in high school, when such incidents seemed common. I've certainly gotten my share of speeding tickets and a few moving violations: rolling through stop signs, "running" a red light, et cetera. In general, very rarely have I been exchanging insurance information with another driver as we both considered the accident that brought us together.

Nevertheless, I have developed a car-driving reputation among my family and friends (presumably those who know me/my tendencies best). Regardless of the pavement, either driving through neighborhood streets or on highways, I have often heard – and the opinions are always the same: "Kenny, you're a lousy driver." And my wife, Dina, a constant passenger who admittedly knows me best, takes an additional pot shot at me when she says: "Even your brother thinks you're a lousy driver." (After 45 years of marriage – and having spent multiple hours together in the car, Dina has often invoked a family member of mine, particularly my late brother Richard, as a further reinforcer of her opinion/my below-average driving skill. If my brother said it, it must be true; that's the argument.)

Disputing this negative description of my driving skill (or lack thereof) has been a recurring conversation between Dina and me. As often as we have discussed – both while we drive and/or while we don't, this driving issue, this topic, has failed to disappear into the ether. It is as common today as it has been for decades and has spawned many an argument. Unfortunately, I see no sign of relief as I have few defenders or any credible evidence to the contrary. Perhaps it's time to embrace the problem.

Since I can't do much, apparently, about my driving, especially since I don't agree with much of their criticism, I thought maybe I could take a pro-active approach to other drivers – and to satisfy Dina's regular rants and warn the other drivers. How, you ask? The solution is simple. I saw it yesterday. It was a bumper sticker stuck on the back of a car I'm sure many of you drivers have seen. It said: "Student Driver. Please Be Patient." Perfect, I thought. I'll place it on the back of my car. Thereby giving my fellow drivers a heads-up that yours truly, an allegedly poor driver, is behind the wheel. With this warning, I might get a wider berth on the road or be given more time to parallel park – as but a few examples, because the driver is a student/novice. Who's going to know the truth that I'm just a bad driver? It's not like I'm advertising it. I'm simply trying to avoid meeting by accident. When another driver sees that bumper sticker, you would think – for his own safety, he would pull back on the throttle some and/or manage his aggressive driving. No driver wants to be the victim of his own stupidity. I can hear it now: "Didn't you see he's a student driver. Give him some room/time." And he'd have no defense. After all, he was warned.

All of the above being said, I have been reminded recently by some friends who think they know me and my driving, of a few incidents when my driving has come into question: when, as an example or two: while backing up the car, my rear bumper hit and dented the downspout on Martha's garage, when I destroyed a fancy decorative bush when backing out of John and Lynne's half-circle driveway and another when I nearly backed into a ditch while reversing out of Cherril's elevated driveway. Yes, I'll admit, there's been a few incidents. Fortunately, nobody got hurt, and respectfully, the damage was minor. (You'll notice, all the examples I gave were when I was backing up the car. Let me digress: you'll never see me backing my car into a parking place. It would take me too long, and besides, I just don't see the advantage of going to all the trouble to back in. I've spent too many minutes sitting in my car, idling my time away while watching the driver twist and turn and attempt to look at all their car's mirrors simultaneously while attempting to fit in between two parked cars. Way too much trouble and effort – from my perspective.)

I think I may have stumbled onto a solution/compromise: the bumper sticker. Without directly admitting/agreeing with the Kenny's-a-lousy-driver premise, and without giving in to these "nattering nabobs of negativism," to quote Spiro Agnew, the one-time governor of Maryland and also our 39th vice president, I might be able to preempt some of the inevitable/occasional questions/situations when my driving might come into play. Nevertheless, consider yourselves warned.

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

Area Sky Watchers See Rare Solar Eclipse

FROM PAGE 3

cas, or the Native tribes of Ojibwe, Cree or Choctaw, then you were most likely astounded to witness the rather rare phenomenon of the sun nearly disappearing from the sky on Monday.

The partial solar eclipse viewing from our area, with great hype, did not disap-

point with its show amidst the only wispy clouded sky. Watchers, some prepared with eclipse glasses, pinhole projectors, or blankets, gathered and shared with friends, or came out on their own, to share in the rare event, in the safe cautious way the ancients may not have known.

Some traveled to regions of the U.S. with

more significant totality. But for those who stayed in this area, there was no particular or heightened location to reach. Any open area worked with a direct view, or with a sidewalk or armed with paper if using a pinhole projection. The eclipse created a shared event we all could see and enjoy together.



People gathered at Sherwood Regional Library to watch the eclipse.



The scene at Sherwood Regional Library where people gathered to watch the eclipse. The library hosted the viewing.

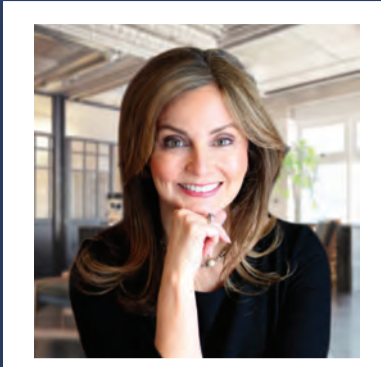


Sherwood Regional Library hosted eclipse viewing on April 8, 2024.



Eclipse watchers at Sherwood Regional Library

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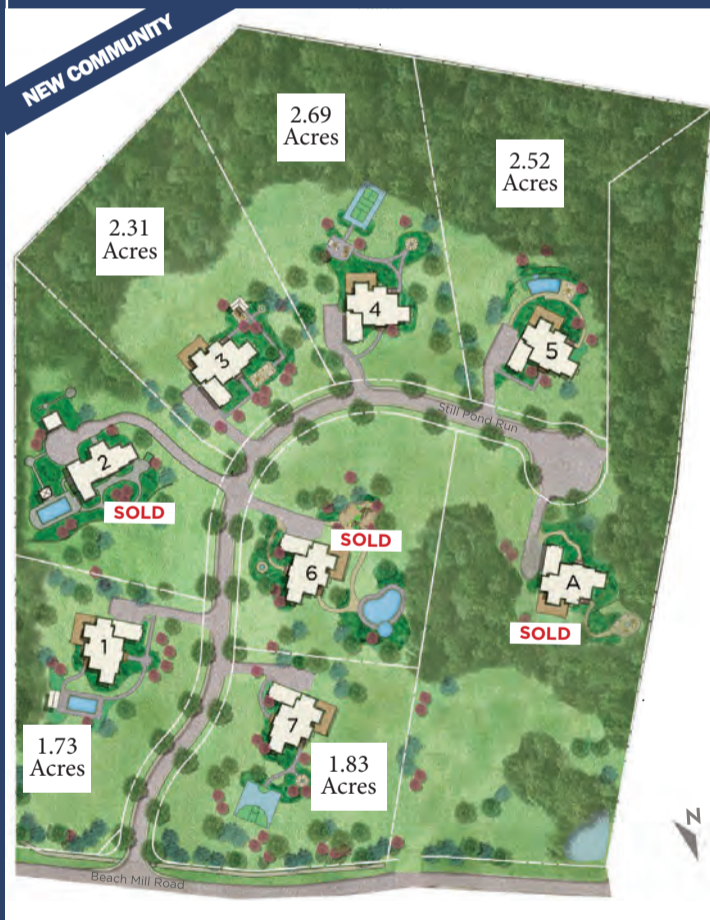


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