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Festive for Early Independence Day

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Workhouse Arts Center will have fireworks on Saturday, June 29, 2024 in Lorton.

Herralink, For Seniors

PAGE 8

Specter of School Boundary Changes

PAGES 10-11

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
SENIOR LIVING, PAGES 8, 9 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

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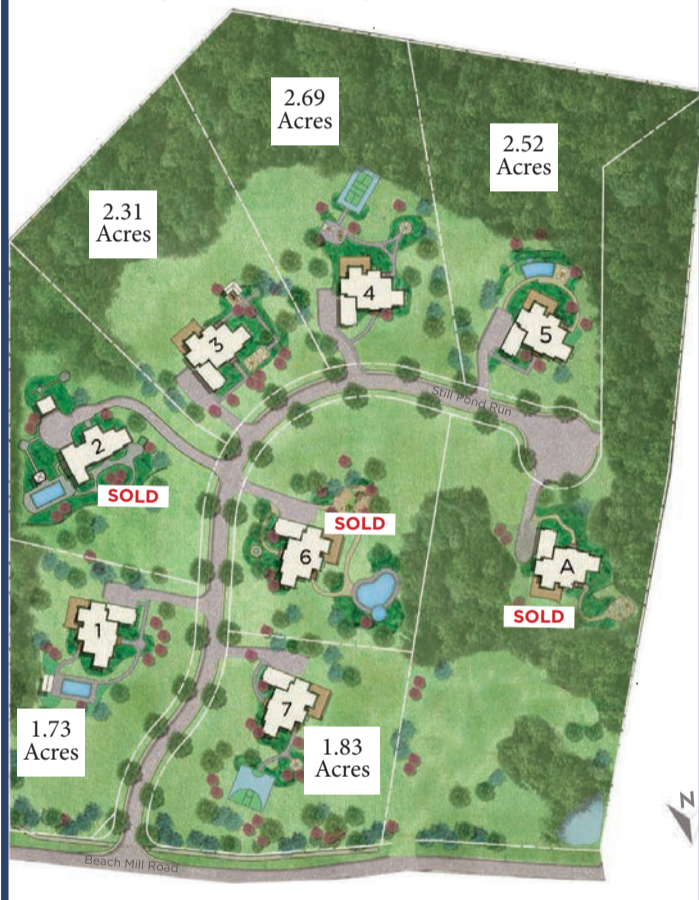
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Come Celebrate the Fourth of July in Fairfax City

Festivities include a parade, firefighter fun, music and fireworks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to the Fourth of July, Fairfax City throws one heck of a bash. So next week's Independence Day celebration promises to be as spectacular as ever. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with a flyover by The Flying Circus's replica World War II-era planes, signaling the start of the largest July 4 parade in all of Virginia.

This year's theme is "We Stand United" and the parade goes on, rain or shine. It steps off from 4100 Chain Bridge Road and loops around downtown Fairfax along Chain Bridge, Main Street and University Drive to the reviewing stand on Armstrong Street.

The colorful, two-hour extravaganza will feature a multitude of bands, gigantic balloons, floats, superheroes, dancers, cultural performers, firefighters, police, princesses, political dignitaries, bagpipe groups, color guards, clowns and Boy, Girl and Cub Scouts. Local highlights will also include the Fairfax High and Woodson High marching bands, members of the City of Fairfax Theater Co., the Kena Shriners, Fairfax High Alumni Kazoo Band, the Fairfax Jubil-Aires, and the City of Fairfax Regional Library Precision Book Cart Drill Team.



A patriotic flag balloon flying in last year's parade.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High Alumni Kazoo Band is always a hit.

But that's just the start of the fun. Immediately after the parade, Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive will hold Future Firefighters Day from noon-2 p.m. Families will enjoy children's activities, learn about fire safety and get to explore the station's fire engines.

In addition, the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., will be celebrating its 32nd anniversary from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and the public is invited. Lemonade, birthday cupcakes and family activities will be offered on the lawn. And attendees may also check out the museum's "The Fairfax Story" exhibit, plus its current traveling exhibit, "Immigration: An American Story."

Then once evening arrives, the entertainment scene shifts to Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, from 6:30-10 p.m., for the evening show and fireworks display. Ice cream, barbecue, empanadas, kettle corn, cotton candy and other festival foods will be available for

purchase.

All bags and coolers will be checked before attendees are permitted to enter the event area for the evening show. Bag checks will begin at 4:30 p.m., and pets (except for service animals), alcohol, fireworks, weapons and smoking are prohibited.

For more information about Fairfax City's Fourth of July celebration, go to fairfaxva.gov/July4.

Important Changes

Heads up to everyone planning to attend the evening's festivities and fireworks display. This year, things won't be the same as always. Fairfax High's parking lot will be the seating area for the evening show, and people are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets.

In addition, the fireworks will be launched from the Army-Navy Country Club, instead of the football field, so this will be a big change from what people are used

2024 THEME:
"WE STAND UNITED"



This year's logo.

to. The stadium will be open, but ADA-accessible seating will not be available, and the viewing area will be on the away side of the stadium, not the home side.

Evening Show & Fireworks Schedule

❖ 6:30-8 p.m. - Ocho de Bastos, a Latin pop rock band, will perform a free concert.

❖ 8-8:30 p.m. - Brief, welcoming remarks and a parade-awards ceremony.

❖ The Vienna-Falls Church Chorus will sing the National Anthem.

❖ 8:30-9:30 p.m. - Ocho de Bastos again takes the stage.

❖ Around 9:30 p.m. - The fireworks show begins. (Rain date July 5).

Parking and Shuttle Buses

❖ For the parade, attendees are encouraged to use the free shuttle service, since parking will be limited. Shuttle buses will run from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. from George Mason University's Rappahannock River Parking Deck, 4400 University Drive; Woodson High, 9525 Main St.; and Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave.

❖ For the evening show, there is no public parking or seating on Cornell Road, and Lion Run will be closed to traffic from 4-11 p.m. Free ADA-compliant shuttle service will be available from 5-11 p.m. from Woodson High to Fairfax High.



Virginia Little League District 10 champions.

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The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps.

Matchup Set for Virginia Congressional District 10 Race

Suhas Subramanyam (D), Mike Clancy (R), and Dennis Aryan (I) will appear on the ballot in November for Wexton's seat.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Suhas Subramanyam defeated 11 other candidates in the Democratic primary for the 10th Congressional seat in Virginia. He received 30.9 percent of the vote (15,030 votes).

Mike Clancy (R) won the GOP primary with 63.1 percent of the votes cast in the Republican primary, (18,150 votes). Dennis Aryan is running as an Independent.

Last week's Virginia House District 10 primary attracted considerable attention due to its status as a battleground race, not only after the incumbent announced she would

not run for re-election, creating a crowded field of 12 Democratic candidates. On May 13, Subramanyam received Wexton's endorsement.

U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-VA) announced she will retire for health reasons when her third term ends. Her seat is open for the first time in six years. Wexton successfully flipped Rep. Barbara Comstock's GOP-held seat in the 2018 midterm elections. In 2022, Wexton won by 6.5 percentage points over Hung Cao, the GOP opponent.

Loudoun County is the anchor of the 10th district, which includes parts of Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, and Rappahannock counties.

PHOTO: X/
@SUHASFORVA
Suhas Subramanyam is the Democratic nominee for U.S. House of Representatives race for the 10th Congressional District.



SCREENSHOT
Mike Clancy, Republican nominee for U.S. House of Representatives race for the 10th Congressional District.

Dan Helmer (D) came in second to Subramanyam with 26.8 percent of the vote and 11,784 total votes.

Top Democratic primary candidates included Atif Qarni (D), an American teacher, and a Democratic politician whom Governor Ralph Northam appointed Virginia Secretary of Education. He received 10.6 percent of the vote, for a total of 4,768 votes.

With 9.3 percent of the vote, Eileen Fill-

er-Corn (D), the former House speaker from Fairfax, received 4,768 votes. Jennifer Boyko received 9.1 percent of the Democratic vote.

The other Democratic candidates were David Reid, Michelle-Ann Maldonado, Adrian Pokharel, Krystle Kaul, Travis Nembhard, Marion Devoe, and Mark Leighton.

The other VA-10 GOP congressional candidates were Alicia Andrews, Alexander Isaac, and Manga Anantatmula.

Connolly Elected Acting President, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Following a unanimous decision by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) Bureau, Congressman Gerald E. Connolly has been elected Acting President of the Assembly to fulfill the remainder of the 2024 presidential term. Former President Michal Szczerba's term came to an end following his election to the European Parliament. Connolly's appointment comes just weeks ahead of the NATO Parliamentary Leaders Summit and NATO Summit, both being hosted in Washington, D.C. the week of July 8.

"With war raging in Europe and our



Gerry Connolly and Michal Szczerba.

shared democratic values under attack, this is a pivotal moment for the Alliance. NATO Parliamentary Assembly has an important role to play in shaping the future of transatlantic security," said Connolly. "I want to thank Michal Szczerba for his service and his friendship over the years, and my deepest gratitude goes to our colleagues for once again trusting me to lead this vital organization."

Connolly has been a member of NATO Parliamentary Assembly since 2013 and served as President from November 2020 to November 2022. He currently is a member

of the Political Committee and a Vice-Chairperson of its Sub-Committee on NATO Partnerships.

Connolly is the US Representative for Virginia's 11th District. He was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2008. From 1989 to 1997, he was Vice President of the Washington Office of SRI International. He was also Director of Community Relations for SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation).

He served 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including five years as Chairman.

Voters To Consider Bond Referenda Totaling \$306 Million

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, June 25, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Fall 2024 Bond Referenda for Transportation Facilities (Metro) and Public Safety. The two bond referenda on Nov. 5, 2024, totaling \$306 million: Transportation \$180 million and Public Safety \$126 million, of which \$56 million is for renovation/expansion of three county fire stations. Tysons Fire Station needs \$25 million, Fox Mill Fire Station needs \$25 million, and Oakton Fire Station needs \$6 million. The police department would receive \$70,000,000 to replace the Criminal Justice Academy as part of a consolidated Police Training Center.

Adoption of the resolutions requests the Circuit Court to order the referenda authoriz-



SCREENSHOT FCPD

Rendering of the new Tysons Fire Station-Board Agenda Item Action-5 during the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, June 25, for the Fall 2024 Bond Referenda for Transportation Facilities (Metro) and Public Safety approval.

ing the issuance of such bonds. If voters approve, the proceeds of these bonds would be used for the public safety renovations and to pay \$180 million for the County's share of the Washington Met-

ropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Capital Improvement Program.

The county will prepare and distribute an informational pamphlet about the bonds mailed to all

County households.

Looking more closely at public safety and three planned fire station projects, while there are many fire stations around Tysons Corner compared to the rest of the county, the larger replacement fire station, currently in the design phase, will have the capacity to meet future increased demand for emergency medical and fire suppression services based on anticipated population growth and high-density development in Tysons along with the challenge of "vertical response." The fire station at Spring Hill Road remains in place, and operations can continue until the replacement station is constructed.

According to the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition, on June 20, it hosted a discussion with Eric C. Craven, Assistant Fire Chief with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD), leading the Operations Bureau, and Laurie Stone, Planning Manager, concerning the planned relocation of an

expanded Fire Station 29 to the Tysons Transit Station site on Jones Branch Drive.

Craven discussed the challenges in responding to emergencies in the highly populated area of Tysons Corner. With office buildings being converted to condos and apartments to make the best use of the real estate, Craven said FCFRD is "struggling." He explained that the agency allocates resources and provides "vertical response time" in addition to responding to Tyson's traffic laterally during crises. They must account for that delayed response rollout time to go vertical, meaning up the buildings.

"We need to get to the person in need within four to six minutes. We're taking into account the fact that they're on the fourth floor of a high rise in their apartment to make sure that we have positioned enough resources locally," Craven said.

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Stolen Cop Cruiser Crashes into Two Police Vehicles

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police have arrested the man they believe stole one of their own police vehicles, last week in Fair Oaks – and crashed it shortly afterward into two other police vehicles. He is Eric Gutierrez, 30, of Ashland, Va.

On Friday, June 21, around 11:35 a.m., officers from the Fair Oaks District Station were alerted to the site of a stolen 2010 Toyota Corolla outside Fair Oaks Mall. An officer found the vehicle parked at the mall with three adults inside.

Police say the driver, Kenton Smith, 46, of no fixed address, attempted to walk away from the stolen vehicle when the officer arrived. But when the officer tried to stop Smith, say police, Gutierrez left the vehicle, got inside the officer's unmarked police cruiser and allegedly drove off with it.

According to police, Gutierrez reportedly failed to stop for officers, and a short pursuit ensued. It ended abruptly when Gutierrez crashed that vehicle into two police cruisers on Federalist Way, near Government Center Parkway. As a result, he and two officers sustained non-life-threatening injuries and received treatment for them.

Detectives from the Police Department's Auto Crimes Enforcement Unit took Gutierrez into custody. He was transported to the Adult Detention Center and charged with two counts of grand larceny-auto theft, grand larceny and felony speeding to elude. Gutierrez was also served with two outstanding warrants and held without bond.

As for the other two people initially found inside the original stolen vehicle at the mall, Smith was

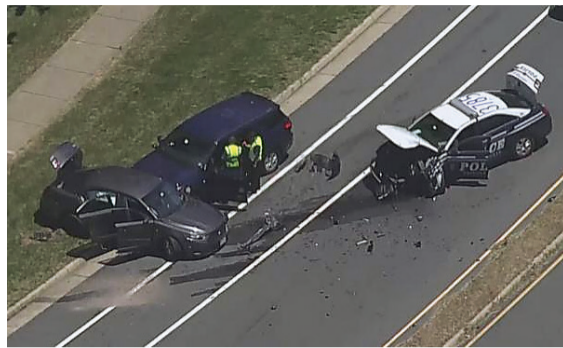


PHOTO COURTESY OF WUSA-TV

Smashed Fairfax County police vehicles after Friday's incident.

charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle and grand larceny and held in jail on \$4,000 bond. The other passenger, a woman named Natrua Mayfield-Jackson, 28, of Maryland, was also served with two outstanding warrants at the jail and held without bond.

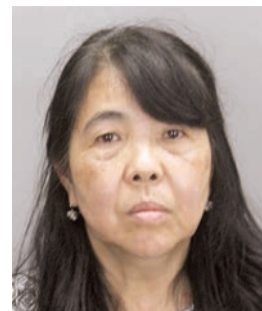
During a press conference after that morning's crash and arrests, police spokesman Sgt. Jacob Pearce said, "All suspects were quickly apprehended within minutes of the start of the incident. Officers located inside the stolen vehicle suspected stolen merchandise and suspected narcotics. All three suspects are from out of this jurisdiction and [allegedly] came here to Fairfax County to commit crimes."

Pearce said he believed the stolen vehicle was taken from Maryland. He didn't know from which stores the merchandise had been stolen. Meanwhile, detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to call the non-emergency number, 703-691-2131.

Police Charge Special Ed Teacher with Assault

A Fairfax woman who worked as a special-education teacher has been charged with assaulting three students at White Oaks Elementary in Burke. She is Elizabeth Yoshimi Nagagata, 62.

According to police, on April 12, Child Protective Services received a referral that a teacher was seen assaulting a student at school. Detectives began investigating and determined that, between September 2023 and April 2024 Nagagata, allegedly assaulted three students on separate occasions.



Nagagata

Detectives from the Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau's Child Abuse Squad then arrested Nagagata last Friday, June 21, charging her with seven counts of assault. She's currently being held at the Adult Detention Center without bond.

Meanwhile, specialists from the Police Department's Victim Services Division were assigned to ensure that the children involved receive appropriate resources and assistance.

Detectives would like to speak with anyone who may have information about this case or others possibly related. Those with information are asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 4.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Man Charged with Killing Fairfax Resident

Fairfax County police have arrested a Washington, D.C., man in connection with the May 21 murder of a Fairfax resident. The victim was Arthur Edward Mann II, 38, and charged with his killing is Doniel Drake, 44.

SEE MAN CHARGED, PAGE 12

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/BURKE CAP

Burke Composite Squadron cadets stand for a photo with Fairfax One and its crew June 20 at Irving Middle School.

Fairfax One Visits Burke CAP

Cadets learn search and rescue techniques.

BY CADET TECHNICAL SERGEANT SAGAN KREZEL
THE CONNECTION

On Thursday, June 20th, the Burke Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol hosted the Fairfax County Police Department's Helicopter, Fairfax One, at Irving Middle School. Members of the squadron got to see Fairfax One land on the back field of the school before members were allowed to get up close and walk around the helicopter, talk to the helicopter's crew, and receive a presentation from the helicopter crew on how the aircraft operates.

The learning experience provided insight into helicopters and how the police utilize Fairfax One to help stop criminals and complete air medical evacuations.

The Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is home to 21 squadrons spread throughout the Commonwealth and has approximately 2,250 members, 13 light aircraft, six small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), and 28 multi-mission vehicles. These assets are available to federal, state, and local governments, as well as to emergency responders and law enforcement agencies to perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and counter-drug missions. <https://vawg.cap.gov>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fairfax Ace Hardware Holding Community Celebration

Fairfax Ace Hardware is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a block party for the community. It's set for this Saturday, June 29, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 10310-B Main St. in the Main Street Marketplace in Fairfax City. The family-friendly event will include a cookout, deejay music, facepainting and balloon animals for children, as well as merchandise deals and demos.

"We're proud to showcase Fairfax Ace Hardware and our community partners to help commemorate Ace Hardware's century-long journey," said Craig Smith, CEO of The Cool Hardware Co. Inc. and Fairfax Ace Hardware. "Fairfax Ace has positively impacted this area since 2011, and we're honored to be a hub for DIY enthusiasts and neighbors alike. We can't wait to honor Ace's 100 years of service, innovation and community spirit." AceHardware.com.

Help Stock Britepaths' Food Pantry

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths needs donations of household supplies and personal-hygiene items for its low-income clients experiencing financial crises. Especially needed are household cleaners, large bottles of laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, hand soap, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner for textured hair. Also helpful would be donations of toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, mouthwash, sanitary pads, tampons, deodorant, razors, diapers and Pull-Ups (all sizes).

Britepaths is at 3959 Pender Drive, No. 200, in Fairfax, and accepts donations on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To arrange to make a drop-off, please contact Britepaths in advance at 703-273-8829 or info@britepaths.org. For more information about how to support Britepaths' pantry, go to britepaths.org/pantry.

Time to Register for National Night Out

This year's National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 6, and it's a fun evening when neighbors and communities gather together with their local first responders for food, fellowship and festivities. In the Sully District – which includes Centreville and Chantilly – people will be able to get to know their police and firefighters, talk with them about any concerns and raise crime-prevention awareness.

Never participated in National Night Out before? No worries – just email MPO Meg Hawkins at Meg.Hawkins@fairfaxcounty.gov and she'll guide you through and answer any questions. Registration deadline is July 26. To participate, go to <https://bit.ly/fcpdno2024> and fill out the form.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HERB ZIMMERMAN

From left are Bill Stollhans; Ashley Guzman (Fairfax High), attending NOVA to study Nursing; Safiya Akpinar (Centreville High), attending Virginia Tech to study Public Health; Bairon Recinos-Monjaras (Herndon High), attending UVA to study Biomedical Engineering; Zimmerman and Read. Two other students also receiving Moose Lodge scholarships, but unable to attend the presentation, were Jasleen Nijjar (Robinson High), attending George Mason University to study Business; and Jayden Vafier (Centreville High), attending Virginia Tech to study Psychology/Criminology.

Centreville Moose Lodge Presents Five Scholarships

On Saturday, June 15, Centreville Moose Lodge No. 2168 – located in and serving Fairfax City for the past 25 years – gave scholarships of \$5,000 each to three new high-school graduates. Present-

ing their certificates were Lodge President Herb Zimmerman, scholarship-committee chairman Bill Stollhans and Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read, also a Centreville Moose Lodge member.

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SENIOR LIVING

Herralink Brings Connection, Joy, to Senior Citizens

Centreville High grad is dedicated to improving their lives.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Isabella Solano is just 19, but she's owned her own business since October 2023. And her passion for improving the lives of senior citizens demonstrates how much good people can do when they truly care.

The 2022 Centreville High grad founded Herralink, a nonprofit volunteer organization that bridges the gap between generations by connecting high-school students with residents in retirement homes. The students receive community-service hours for school, and the seniors receive something even more valuable – companionship.

“The word ‘Herra’ has a Nordic background and means elder or senior,” explained Solano. “And ‘link’ is because we link elders with future generations to create connections that grow to feel like family. And our students are called Herralinkers, meaning elder helpers.”

When Solano was 16, she was recruited to work at a tech startup. But when it folded, two years later, she realized she was lonely. “I have an immediate family, but sometimes you need something more,” she said. “A friend at the time was a CNA [certified nursing assistant] at a retirement home and he told me that the seniors barely had any family nearby and never got visitors from the community.

“So that’s how I got interested in them, and they became my family. I felt warm and fuzzy and so happy that they welcomed me into their community. And I feel that warmth and love every time I’m with them – it’s never left me.”

Herralink now partners with four homes for seniors: the Dulles Health & Rehab Center in Herndon, Gainesville Health & Rehab Center in Gainesville, Potomac Falls Health & Rehab Center in Sterling, and Hunter Woods Fellowship House in Reston. The first three are skilled-nursing homes, and the one in Reston is a low-income, independent-living, senior community.

Herralink provides the student visitors and, together, they and the seniors enjoy one-hour activities such as arts and crafts, and light and art therapy, plus social-fitness



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Isabella Solano.

events, including chair yoga and tai chi. They also do one-on-one meetings between the students and the residents, on weekends, at times convenient to the students. They’ll do things such as playing board games, doing jigsaw puzzles, watching movies or making jewelry together.

“We have almost 400 volunteers, but only eight in the one-on-one program, and I hope that number will increase,” said Solano. “These are the students who really want to connect with the residents and change their lives. To participate in the one-on-one, they go through a personality quiz and an interview with me and are then matched with a senior by me and the retirement home’s director of activities. It’s important that they have something in common, like their personality or a hobby. I match them so they both benefit.”

“The students create their own schedule of the days and hours they visit,” she continued. “Some come in for a few hours on the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISABELLA SOLANO

Isabella Solano is flanked by (from left) Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay, her parents Mario and Jessica Solano, and Supervisor Pat Herry.

weekend and some visit monthly. The main thing is that their visits are consistent. The students and seniors decide how to spend their time together. The goal is to create authentic relationships that come to feel like family.”

Solano said the students often want to stay longer than they initially planned, and that’s fine. “It’s totally up to them,” she said. “It’s the most special part of Herralink and makes all the hard work worth it. Recently, one of the residents thanked me and told me she felt

like she had family. It almost made me cry because that’s all I want for them, and it makes me feel proud of what I do.

“Even if they don’t have real family, at least they know they have one person who’ll come in and show them the love they deserve. And there’s so much more I want to do; I’ve only just begun.”

Meanwhile, Solano’s work caught the eye of Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield), who praised her for connecting thousands of students with senior cit-

izens who, otherwise, would be alone. In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized volunteers throughout the county during its Volunteer Services Awards ceremony. Recommended by Herry, Solano was honored as the Springfield District Community Champion.

In nominating her, he wrote, “Isabella discovered that 60 percent of retirement-home residents nationwide don’t have visitors. This motivated her to start her non-

SEE CENTREVILLE HIGH, PAGE 19



Herralink volunteers (from left) Ashnil Dasan, Mischa Cho and Kelsa Boodal help nonprofit Reston Strong create a market for neighbors and residents in nearby independent-living homes.



From left, Herralink volunteers Medha Unnava and Maya Ptak do arts and crafts together with senior citizen Alicia Mackin in Herndon.

SENIOR LIVING



FILE PHOTO BY TOM MANNING

Herb Levitan from Arlington gets ready to compete in the 100 yard backstroke for the 75-79 age group on Sept. 16 at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling. He came in first place.

2024 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics

83 Events, 26 Venues, Ages 50 to 100+.

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics will take place Saturday, Sept. 14 through Sunday, Sept. 29. Eighty-three events will be held at 26 indoor and outdoor venues throughout the NOVA jurisdictions. NVSO Chairman Riley Geary said "The Committee has been hard at work since January planning the 2024 events. ... Last year we had well over 900 participants and we are anticipating even more this year."

Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31 and live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions including the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. Most events are by gender and five year age groups.

More information is on the website at www.nvso.us and a complete schedule of events will soon be added. Registration is online only and opens July 1. The registration fee remains at \$20 which covers a multitude of events. Ten pin bowling, orienteering, cycling and golf, 9 hole, 3 par require additional fees.

NVSO is a non-profit, 501-c-3 thus making donations tax deductible. Revenues received from registration fees, Patrons and individual donations are used for equipment, judges, event officials, T-shirts for participants and volunteers, graphics and flyers. There is no paid staff. Committee members include representatives and volunteers from the sponsoring jurisdictions.

2024 Gold Patrons thus far are Greenspring by Erickson Senior Living, Goodwin Home Health, The Woodlands, The Virginian, Johns Hopkins Health Plans, Adobe and Anthem. For information about volunteering or becoming a Patron, email www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The bocce competitor's bracket ranges up to the over 90-years-old category. Register now for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics at <https://nvso.us/>



FILE PHOTO BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION
Alease Brooks from Arlington competed in the 800 meter walk in the 80-85 age group in 2017. This was her 13th Senior Olympics.

nvso1982@gmail.com.

Contact: Judy Massabny, jmassa@arlingtonva.us

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Dividing Lines: Reviewing School Boundary Adjustment Policy

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools' Policy 8130 governs the school division's boundaries, program assignments, and school closings. Policy 8130 determines a student's school assignment based on their residence address. Boundary lines and policies can change over time through review and adoption by the school board.

Thirty-eight years have passed without a comprehensive review of Policy 8130. In 2018, the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) presented recommendations to the school board, and the board began reviewing them. This link provides historical information about the Fairfax County School Board review: <https://www.fcps.edu/facilities-planning-future/school-boundary-adjustments/boundary-policy>.

As part of the process, on Dec. 9, 2021, MGT Consulting, hired by Fairfax County Public Schools, submitted its "Boundary Policy Best Practices Review Final Report." In it, MGT stated, "School districts should use enrollment projections (meaning capacity) as a primary consideration when governing school boundaries."

MGT added in 2021 that three overriding principles must always take precedence in determining the priorities of boundary

policies: equity, stability, and efficacy. The One Fairfax Policy, adopted in 2017, commits the county and schools to intentionally consider equity when delivering policies, programs, and services.

According to MGT, the current Policy 8130 indicates that appropriate program staff members should review school and program capacity as part of the first step in a boundary adjustment process. This process allows for an accurate assessment of school and program capacity while incorporating other critical factors that may impact capacity, such as planned renovations or staffing adjustments.

As of early 2024, the Fairfax County School Board had referred Policy 8130 to its Governance Committee for review and directed the superintendent to assist with committee work. Four school board members serve on the committee: Rachna Sizemore Heizer, chair; Sandy Anderson; Kyle McDaniel; and Ilryong Moon. The staff liaisons are Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent, and Christina K. Setlow, clerk of the school board.

In an emailed News From School Board Member Marcia St. John-Cunning (Franconia) received May 25, St. John-Cunning wrote that the committee has been reviewing Policy 8130 and "updating to address



Marcia St. John-Cunning, Franconia



School Board Chair Karl Frisch

a range of community concerns, including instructional program locations, overcrowding, temporary classrooms (trailers), and transportation."

The 2023-2024 School Year Fairfax County School Board Annual Meeting Calendar lists Policy 8130 as an agenda item for the board's work session on Tuesday, June 25, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. According to the agenda item, "On Feb. 13, 2024, the School Board held a forum on the possibility of reviewing Policy 8130, Local School Boundaries, Program Assignments, and School Closings and referred the review of this policy to the Governance Committee. Since February, the Governance Committee has been reviewing potential changes to the policy, and on June 18, 2024, the Governance Committee voted to send the attached draft to the full School Board for a Work Session." Christina Setlow, the School Board Clerk, is the staff contact.

The full board will discuss the five-page, 6-18-24 - Policy 8130 - FINAL Governance Committee - UPDATED is available online.

A Final Draft Boundary Policy PowerPoint 6_25_24 Work Session.pdf is also available online.

"For the policy to be adopted, a motion will need to be listed on new business at a future regular meeting and then voted on at a subsequent meeting," said Karl Frisch, school

board chair, in an email to this reporter on Friday, June 21. Public engagement and public hearings are part of the normal process. The School Board Annual Meeting Calendar does not indicate a date as of yet.

According to St. John-Cunning, if the board passes the policy with a majority of votes, "the board hands the baton to the superintendent, who will use the updated policy to review and propose any future changes to school boundaries... The superintendent will then return to the board with her recommendations."

Even small policy changes at hyperlocal levels are pivotal adjustments that significantly affect parents, students, and their community in shaping student access to opportunity. The One Fairfax Policy, adopted in 2017, commits the county and schools to intentionally consider equity when delivering policies, programs, and services. As of Tuesday, June 25, the Fairfax County School Board is not considering any school's boundary changes.

GFCFA Town Hall Webinar with School Board Member Robyn Lady

Hard questions on boundary policy answered.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association welcomed Fairfax County School Board Representative Robyn Lady (Dranesville) to its virtual town hall, open to the public and held Monday evening, June 17. Following its June 11 membership meeting, GFCFA wanted to create a platform for Lady to clarify issues and hear public feedback concerning the draft revision to Fairfax County Public Schools Policy 8130, school boundary adjustments. On June 11, community members expressed "significant" concern over FCPS Policy 8130, including the lack of clarity on the implementation of redistricting policies, as well as the ambiguity and broad discretionary authority in the policy itself.

The policy is currently under review by the school board's Governance Committee, which would meet the next day, Tuesday, June 18, and be open to the public. Four of the school board's 12 members serve on the

committee, but not Lady. The committee would continue to work on Policy 8130.7.

"School boundary policy affects all county residents one way or another, whether or not you have school-age children," GFCFA president John Halacy said.

GFCFA often weighs in on issues beyond its geographical boundaries because they affect community members. Jennifer Falcone, GFCFA secretary, moderated the two-hour town hall meeting on June 17 with 482 registered attendees. Lady delved into one of the current policy's significant issues: school board members, not operational specialists, must raise boundary issues. Lady said she heard from the principal of Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School that they added two kindergarten classrooms this year.

Coates ES is located in the unincorporated area of Herndon, close to the Silver Line Innovation Station and within the Dranesville District. Lady stated that the school is 33 percent overcapacity for the next year and described the boundary change as an "emergency" requiring triage.

"They're literally turning custodial closets into classrooms," Lady said. "There's no stone unturned over there because we're out



Robyn Lady



GFCFA president John Halacy



Jennifer Falcone, GFCFA secretary and moderator of virtual town hall

"In this conversation, it's evident that some people have created a pecking order ... of our schools, but all of our schools are good."

— Robyn Lady, Dranesville School Board member

of room for modular [classrooms] and trailers." According to Google Maps, the nearest Great Falls Elementary School is on Walker Road, 23 miles away, with a driving time of 46 minutes.

Lady said state law would enable the school district to shift 15 percent of those

youngsters out of Coates ES, but the county's current boundary policy limits it to 5 percent. "I talked to operations about that and said, 'Well, 5 percent is going to cut a neighborhood in half I think that's absolutely wrong,'" Lady said.

Lady noted that the superintendent may revisit an adjustment that did not satisfy requirements if staff evaluations significantly change its impact or determining factors. Current Policy 8130, Section VII, describes accelerated school boundary adjustments.

When an "emergency" or other pressing public need requires the school attendance area to change quickly, the superintendent can expedite the change if it won't affect more than 15 percent of each school's enrollment and will improve the school system's operating efficiency according to a staff analysis. Before implementing it, staff

SEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, PAGE 12
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GFCA's Position Paper Calls for a Pause

GFCA provides alternative facility and educational management considerations.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On June 17, the Great Falls Citizens Association's executive board sent its two-page adopted position paper to all Fairfax County School Board representatives, requesting that the board pause its policy review process for county-wide school boundary adjustment policy changes.

The executive board stated that the county has had to build new schools, renovate existing ones, adjust school and program assignments, and address increased financial burdens, adding that it appreciates the efforts.

The position paper asserts that the best ways to meet school needs are transparent capacity analysis methodology, defensible data on school capacity and student population projections, and prioritizing staff and financial resources. The executive board proposed seven principles for the school board consideration to "best manage school facilities and educational spaces for current and future students."

- ❖ Decisions should be based on accurate



Children at Great Falls Elementary School, a Fairfax County Public School, participate in a tree planting program on Jan. 13, 2023.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

and defensible data about school facility resources and assignments to develop each school's objective capacity.

- ❖ In student enrollment forecasts and program capacity calculations, methodologies must be transparent.
- ❖ Priority choices should be communi-

ty-based K-12 schools.

- ❖ Recognize the importance of not breaking up communities to address capacity imbalances.

- ❖ Prioritize construction, refurbishment, and maintenance; renovate based on need, not the length of time since the last renova-

tion; and use life-cycle costing to maximize budget resources.

- ❖ Consider innovative program placement and personnel.

- ❖ Include the community in all planning and policy modification processes.

The GFCA established a school task group in December of 2023, with the executive board reaffirming its commitment to "a high level of awareness of issues relative to school facility funding and boundary adjustment policies." The Task Force reviewed the FCPS Capital Improvements Program from earlier this year and assessed "the pulse of the community" to see how anticipated investments and school boundary revisions will affect that concept and the school community. According to the position statement, the Task Force took this action because the executive board "views our schools as the foundation of our community."

Located within the Fairfax County Dranesville Magisterial District, highlights of the U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2023 report that Great Falls is a Census Designated Place, with a population of 15,953 (April 1, 2020 census), its white population makes up 66.4 percent of Great Falls; Asian alone 24 percent, and Hispanic or Latino 3.8 percent of the population. Less than 2 percent of Great Falls' population is Black. The median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2018-2022 \$1,246,100 and median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022 \$250,000+.

Highlights of Boundary Policy and Assignment of Students

Boundary assignments' overarching goals are excellence, efficacy, equity; capacity is the primary benchmark.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board is conducting a comprehensive review to consider updates to its Policy 8130 on boundary adjustments. It seeks a clear roadmap for any potential changes to the attendance zone boundary (AZB) to balance the district's projected enrollment of 181,701 for FY25, compared to 179,952 for FY24. The board initiated this review due to severe overcrowding at several schools, insufficient bond funding to address capacity demands, reliance on over 750 trailers, planned growth in specific county areas, and increased demand for additional preschool classrooms. The school board last revised the policy on October 19, 2015.

The Fairfax County School Board held a work session on June 20 with its Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC), pronounced "F-pack." FPAC's 2023-2024 Annual

Criteria

Priority criteria for boundary changes that "shall be used" are access to programming, enrollment/capacity, proximity, and transportation. Additional criteria that "may be used" are school pyramids, minimizing disruption, supporting family involvement, reducing temporary space use, promoting stability, and minimizing costs.

al Report outlined parameters and methods for responding with recommendations to its boundaries and processes.

FPAC proposed a four-step process. 1) Use capacity as the primary benchmark for the initiation of a boundary study; 2) support the current implementation timeline by fall 2026 after notifying the public by January 2026 to allow families to plan for any necessary adjustments; 3) consider future coun-



Ilryong Moon, at large



Michelle Reid, superintendent



FPAC's school board liaison is Mateo Dunne

ty-wide facility strategic planning and capital investment timelines; and 4) adopt an open communications policy and outreach plan for future boundary studies.

Ilryong Moon, one of three school board representatives at large, asked staff if capacity should be the key benchmark when initiating a boundary study.

The staff person said, "Yes, that's our recommendation. ... Every conversation I've been following for a decade seems to come down to capacity. We have high schools next to each other; one is severely overcrowded, and one is severely under. ... We have schools that can't field academic teams because there isn't the capacity. You've got ten trailers here and none here."

Thirteen citizens serve on the Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC), one from

SCREENSHOTS JUNE 20 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

each Fairfax County magisterial district, one from the City of Fairfax, and three at-large members. FPAC's school board liaison is Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District School Board member. Staff liaisons are Janice Szymanski, chief of facilities services and capital programs, and Jessica Gillis, executive director of capital improvements and planning.

FCPS says that the advisory council may look at a range of facilities-related issues, such as school program capacity, enrollment and projections, transportation and operating efficiencies related to facilities planning, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) prioritization, creative financing and construction strategies, the scope of renovations, school closures and new schools,

SEE BOUNDARY POLICY, PAGE 12

Governance Committee Continues Policy Review

FROM PAGE 10

would meet with sending and receiving schools to explain the expedited adjustment and solicit public comment.

“We will give the affected school community at least ten days’ notice before the meeting. The superintendent may reconsider an adjustment that previously did not meet the above criteria if staff members’ evaluations indicate a significant change in the adjustment’s impact or determining factors,” Lady said.

Falcone brought forward a community statement requesting Lady to halt the policy review process until she gathers public feedback on the proposed changes. This would allow the school board to collect the necessary data to support these changes. “If you don’t have a policy, there’s no directive in terms of how to evaluate data to operationalize it,” Lady responded. She added that there are many reasons why a new boundary policy would be beneficial, such as budget optimization, student well-being, and sleep time. If the policy is approved, Superintendent Reid and her team will implement the regulations.

Falcone read an inquiry stating that the census data for Herndon indicates a 35 percent Hispanic community, yet nearly 50 percent of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Crowds pack the Fairfax County Schools Board’s Governance Committee as members look into changing school boundaries, Policy Document 8130.7, during its meeting on Tuesday, June 18.

the student population identifies as Hispanic. “Why is this so different?” Lady answered, “If you live within those boundaries, then that is the school’s demographic makeup.”

Lady said that while some of the county’s public schools look different demographically, they’re very similar regarding academic opportunities and course offerings, which are interchangeable among schools. “AP classes taught at one school are taught at

another school,” Lady said.

She added, “In this conversation, it’s evident that some people have created a pecking order ... of our schools, but all of our schools are good.”

Asked why families were not enrolling in Fairfax County Public Schools, Lady said they only know that when a student withdraws from the division, there is a withdrawal process where the parents must doc-

ument where they’re taking their children. The division cannot access the information if the code selection doesn’t represent where the student is going. She added that the division could better capture the information.

One of the inquiries addressed the assertion that redistricting students from McLean High School to Langley High School and the subsequent transfer of Great Falls High School students to Herndon High School do not create diversity or equity at Langley.

Lady replied, “I haven’t thought about it that way, because nowhere in this policy does it say anything about ethnic diversity.”

Falcone read an inquiry that asked Lady to empathize with a family whose children have attended the same school for years. “How would you feel if your school changed, and, more specifically, that change led to your children being in a less safe environment based on the Virginia Department of Education’s reported statistics regarding the number of incidents?”

“I think it’s very difficult ... I understand that change is hard, but it is not impossible. And I understand what you are sharing in terms of incidents,” Lady said.

To view the GFCAs YouTube video of the Town Hall, click this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2ZmMSmY43U>.

Boundary Policy and Assignment of Students

FROM PAGE 11

and planning for student housing (building additions, modular relocations, and review of school boundaries). 6-18-24 - Policy 8130 - FINAL Governance Committee - UPDATED Title.pdf (170 KB)

On Tuesday afternoon, June 25, at the Connection’s press time, the Fairfax County School Board will hold its Forum and Work Session, during which, from 1 to 4:30 p.m., the board will discuss Policy 8130: Local School Boundaries, Program Assignments, and School Closings.

According to the Boundary Policy Review, June 25, 2024, available online via BoadDocs, the priority criteria for boundary changes that “shall be used” are access to programming, enrollment/capacity, proximity, and transportation. Additional criteria that “may be used” are school pyramids, minimizing disruption, supporting family involvement, reducing temporary space use, promoting stability, and minimizing costs.

Boundary Policy Review, June 25, 2024, is also called Final Draft Boundary Policy PowerPoint 6_25_24 Work Session.pdf (582 KB). It is one of two posted meeting materials. The other is 6-18-24 - Policy 8130 - FINAL Governance Committee - UPDATED Title.pdf (170 KB).

The board will only discuss the policy on Tuesday, as the Governance Committee must finalize it after the board discussion. After public notice and finalization of the draft, the full school board will cast its vote. Once the school board adopts the policy, the superintendent implements it with community engagement before making boundary adjustments.

The 18-page Boundary Policy Review states that a better, current policy would help address community concerns about temporary classrooms (trailers), instructional program locations, overcrowding, facility renovation timelines, and transportation.

According to Boundary Policy Review:

❖ The impact summary of the proposed policy changes, Draft Policy 8130, states it benefits the community by assigning implementation to the division superintendent. It requires full school board approval of any adjustments except temporary emergencies, prioritizes proximity, provides a 5-year cyclical review, and strengthens public input and engagement.

❖ It compares the current and draft policies. In the current policy, “The superintendent is responsible for implementing the policies. The new policy makes this explicit.

❖ In a side-by-side view of the overarching goal of the assignment of students, the current policy states, “The basic policy of the Fairfax County School Board shall be to assign pupils to the schools and programs that serve the areas of their residences in accordance with the local school boundaries and service areas established by the School Board.”

❖ The new draft states that the goal is “to maintain or improve operational excellence and efficiency to sustain a world-class education system. ... FCPS is committed to providing facilities across the division that are equitably equipped and funded to provide safe and accessible school settings.”

❖ In a side-by-side comparison of adjustment types, the current policy is that the superintendent may recommend, after public meetings in affected communities and consultation with affected school board repre-

sentatives in an emergency, that less than 15 percent of students are affected; a board vote is required, but public comment/hearing is not required.

❖ In the new draft, during off-cycle adjustments, when the need is “expedited,” the superintendent is authorized to act after public meetings and requires a board vote.

❖ The current policy highlights the criteria for boundary changes, which include factors such as proximity to residences, projected school enrollment and capacity, walking and busing safety, natural and man-made geographic features, neighborhood impact, school feeder alignments, contiguous school attendance areas, long-range capital plans, the socioeconomic characteristics of school populations,

the distribution of programs and resources, and adjustments made without regard to magisterial districts or postal addresses.

❖ The proposed criteria for boundary changes prioritize access to programming, enrollment/capacity, proximity, and transportation. Additional criteria may be used, including school pyramids, minimizing disruption, supporting family involvement, reducing the use of temporary space, promoting stability, and minimizing costs.

For more detailed information, visit [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/D6FSRL73F2DF/\\$file/Final%20Draft%20Boundary%20Policy%20PowerPoint%206_25_24%20Work%20Session.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/D6FSRL73F2DF/$file/Final%20Draft%20Boundary%20Policy%20PowerPoint%206_25_24%20Work%20Session.pdf).

Man Charged with Killing Fairfax Man

FROM PAGE 6

Officers responded May 21 at 6:07 a.m. to the Citgo gas station at 6241 Richmond Hwy. in Fair Haven for a report of a shooting. There they found Mann, who’d sustained a gunshot wound to the upper body. He was declared deceased at the scene.

His assailant fled before officers arrived but, with the assistance of the police Fugitive and Apprehension Unit, Drake was identified as the alleged shooter and was found and arrested later that day. Preliminarily, detectives believe he and the victim had been verbally arguing at the gas pump before the shoot-

ing. According to police, “The suspect discharged a firearm, hitting the victim.”

Drake was taken to the Adult Detention Center where he was charged with second-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Drake is being held without bond and has a Sept. 4 court date.

Meanwhile, detectives continue to investigate the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the shooting. They’re asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 2.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ Oak Hill
Chantilly ♦ CENTREVIEW ♦ Burke
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES AND CHARGES AND TO REVISE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO GAS SERVICE CASE NO. PUR-2024-00030

On April 29, 2024, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CVA" or "Company"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Chapter 10 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Commission's Rules Governing Utility Rate Applications and Annual Informational Filings of Investor-owned Gas Utilities, requesting authority to increase its rates and charges, effective for the first billing unit of October 2024, and to revise the terms and conditions applicable to gas service ("Application"). In its Application, CVA states that the proposed rates and charges are designed to increase the non-gas base revenues of CVA by approximately \$52.6 million per year. CVA further states that this revenue increase includes approximately \$15.4 million of revenues associated with investments under the Company's Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy ("SAVE") Plan pursuant to Code § 56-603 et seq. (the "SAVE Act"). The Company states that it is proposing to include recovery of the costs associated with approximately \$129 million of net rate base SAVE investments as of September 30, 2024, in base rates, as permitted under the SAVE Act. The Company represents that it was last authorized to increase its rates and charges effective October 2022 in Case No. PUR-2022-00036 ("2022 Rate Case").

CVA states that the earnings test analysis of the Company's jurisdictional operations during the 12 months ending December 31, 2023 ("Test Year"), after limited accounting adjustments, shows a return on equity ("ROE") of 8.08%, which is below the authorized earnings test ROE of 9.70%. CVA states that, in addition to these under-earnings, the increase in base rates proposed by CVA in this Application is driven primarily by the Company's ongoing capital investments to accommodate pipeline and facility safety and modernization and to accommodate sustained demand for natural gas. CVA further represents that, since the 2022 Rate Case, the Company has continued to enhance pipeline safety and reliability through its safety management system approach by identifying, prioritizing, and reducing risks. The Company states that significant Distribution Integrity Management Plan ("DIMP") initiatives are currently underway and are expected to continue in the 12 months ending September 30, 2025. The Company requests approval of the annual amount of eligible safety activity costs of \$5.9 million necessary for the DIMP.

In its Application, the Company proposes an ROE of 10.85%, which it asserts falls at the midpoint of the proposed cost of equity range for CVA of 10.35% and 11.35%. CVA represents that its proposed rates will result in an increase of approximately 11.68%, inclusive of SAVE recovery, to the typical monthly bill for a residential customer using 5.1 dekatherms. The Company states that the average monthly bill of a residential customer using 5.1 dekatherms will increase from approximately \$76.26 to approximately \$85.17. The Company states that, for small general service ("SGS") customers, the typical monthly bill based on average usage will increase by approximately 13.10% for SGS1 customers, 9.02% for SGS2 customers, and 6.30% for SGS3 customers.

The Company also proposes modifications to its currently effective Rate Schedules, General Terms and Conditions, and Form of Service Agreements (collectively, "Tariff"). The Company states that the proposed substantive modifications to the Tariff include: (a) revisions to Rate Schedule CSPS – Competitive Service Provider Service; (b) modification to the definition of Purchased Gas; and (c) modification to the Supplier Refund Process.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review CVA's Application and supporting public documents in full for details about these and other proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company's Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public hearing on CVA's Application. The Commission noted that the proposed revenue requirement, if approved, would result in an increase to customer bills. Pursuant to Code § 56-238, the Commission suspended CVA's proposed rates for a period of 150 days, the maximum allowed by law, and permitted CVA to implement the proposed rate increase and revisions to the Tariff on an interim basis, subject to refund with interest, on and after the first billing unit in October 2024.

On December 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., the Hearing Examiner assigned will hold the telephonic portion of the hearing for the purpose of receiving the testimony of public witnesses. On or before December 4, 2024, any person desiring to offer testimony as a public witness shall provide to the Commission (a) your name, and (b) the telephone number that you wish the Commission to call during the hearing to receive your testimony. This information may be provided to the Commission in three ways: (i) by filling out a form on the Commission's website at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting; (ii) by completing and emailing the PDF version of this form to SCCInfo@scc.virginia.gov; or (iii) by calling (804) 371-9141. This public witness hearing will be webcast at scc.virginia.gov/pages/Webcasting.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on December 10, 2024, the Hearing Examiner will telephone sequentially each person who has signed up to testify as provided above.

On December 10, 2024, at 10 a.m., or at the conclusion of the public witness portion of the hearing, whichever is later, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, the Hearing Examiner will convene a hearing to receive testimony and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission Staff.

To promote administrative efficiency and timely service of filings upon participants, the Commission has directed the electronic filing of testimony and pleadings, unless they contain confidential information, and required electronic service on parties to this proceeding.

An electronic copy of the public version of the Company's Application also may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: Vishwa B. Link, Esq., McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or vlink@mcguirewoods.com. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies of the public version of the Application and other documents filed in this case from the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

On or before December 4, 2024, any interested person may submit comments on the Application by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail with the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00030.

On or before September 18, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. The respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, Participation as a respondent, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, Counsel, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00030.

On or before October 16, 2024, each respondent may file with the Clerk of the Commission, at scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling, any testimony and exhibits by which the respondent expects to establish its case. Any respondent unable, as a practical matter, to file testimony and exhibits electronically may file such by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Each witness's testimony shall include a summary not to exceed one page. All testimony and exhibits shall be served on the Commission's Staff, the Company, and all other respondents simultaneous with its filing. In all filings, respondents shall comply with the Commission's Rules of Practice, as modified herein, including, but not limited to: 5 VAC 5-20-140, Filing and service, and 5 VAC 5-20-240, Prepared testimony and exhibits. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00030.

Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, except as modified by the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5-20-150, Copies and format, of the Commission's Rules of Practice.

The public version of the Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice, the Order for Notice and Hearing, and other documents filed in this case may be viewed on the Commission's website at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE



SCREENSHOT FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is recruiting deputy sheriffs.

County's Sheriff's Office Is Recruiting

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is recruiting for positions as Deputy Sheriff with a \$15,000 hiring bonus. According to the office, upon the date of Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy graduation, "All new Deputy Sheriffs are assigned to a Confinement squad in the Adult Detention Center on a shift for approximately 12 weeks where you shadow the deputy, work calls together and ultimately be evaluated at the end of the training period. Upon successful completion of the Field Training period, you will be assigned to a shift where you will work either a fixed-day schedule, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m., or a fixed-night schedule, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending at 7 a.m." <https://fcsocareers.org/recruiting/become-a-deputy/>

— MERCIA HOBSON

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE GREAT FALLS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board is reviewing School Boundary Adjustment Policy 1830. The board's final decision may ultimately change which school a student attends.

Gfca Board submits second letter to FCSB to pause School Boundary Adjustment Policy 8130

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, June 25, the Great Falls Citizens Association submitted a second letter to the Fairfax County School Board requesting a pause in the process to allow for community engagement and information sharing concerning the School Boundary Adjustment Policy 8130 currently being considered by the school board. According to Gfca, "a draft policy was approved by a subcommittee which has been forwarded to the board for action. The board meets Tuesday, June 25, 2024 to determine its next course of action." The Gfca letter is available at [https://gfca.org/resources/School%20Issues%20and%20Documents%202024/Gfca%20Policy%208130.8%20comments%206.24.2024%20\(1\).pdf](https://gfca.org/resources/School%20Issues%20and%20Documents%202024/Gfca%20Policy%208130.8%20comments%206.24.2024%20(1).pdf)

14 ❖ THE CONNECTION ❖ JUNE 26 - JULY 2, 2024

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE



SCREENSHOT FCPS.EDU

Crossing guards needed; apply.

Crossing Guard App:



SCREENSHOT FCPD, MCA PRESENTATION: McLEAN DISTRICT CAPTAIN BRAD LIBBY, ASSISTANT COMMANDER, JUNE 20.

Scan the code to learn more.

School Crossing Guards Needed

Fairfax County police department needs school crossing guards for McLean, Vienna, Fairfax and Falls Church. Minimum qualifications are any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to high school graduation or a GED issued by a state education department. "The population of Fairfax County is very diverse where 38.7 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home (Spanish, Asian/Pacific Islander, Indo-European, and others) and we encourage candidates bilingual in English and a foreign language to apply to this opportunity," states the job description. Applications opened June 22, and the listing closes on July 5. To apply, visit <https://www.government-jobs.com/jobs/4547543-0/school-crossing-guard-mclean-district-station/apply>.

Reston Regional Library Closes



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Starting Saturday, June 29, Reston Regional Library will be closed for about ten weeks for renovations. Please pick up your holds before then. Watch this video at https://youtu.be/4x8yL_TUxVc?si=_JxmsC0wcX2luRP8 to learn more about the renovations.

SPRINGFIELD AND ACROSS THE COUNTY

National Night Out 2024 Sign up to host an event



SCREENSHOT @PATHERRITY

Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District, reminds everyone that National Night Out returns on Aug. 6 to Fairfax County. All district stations are sharing information about the event to encourage participation. Support the county's police officers and sheriff's deputies by signing up to host an event, cook-out, ice cream social, light on campaign, and the like in your local community at <https://form.jotform.com/FCPD/nno-2024-registration>.



PHOTO GEORGE MASONU

Tiny Crime Fighters With Wings: Bees Go to Work on a Virginia 'Body Farm.

Tiny Crime Fighters With Wings Bees Go to Work on a Virginia Body Farm

By studying bees and their honey near decomposing human tissue, researchers at @georgemasonu hope to give crime scene investigators a new tool for finding the hidden dead.

— MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT FCPS

All children under 18 are eligible for no-cost breakfast and lunch this summer through FCPS.

FCPS' Summer Meal Program Underway: No-cost meals offered

Supervisor Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) reposted an announcement by FCPS that during summer break, no-cost breakfast and lunch are available to all children 18 years of age and younger at FCPS sites across the county through Aug. 16 through its Summer Meal Service Program. Meals are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit <https://www.fcps.edu/family-resources/student-safety-and-wellness/food-and-nutrition-programs/summer-meal-service>

— MERCIA HOBSON

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Ready to cut the ribbon are (from left) Osiris Mera, Tara Borwey (Fairfax City Economic Development), Catherine Read, Haylee Hall, Vanessa Rosario, Ivan Cordero, Aaron Martinelli and Mackenzie Vreeland. Guava staff members are in orange T-shirts.

Homemade Latin American Desserts in Fairfax City

Guava Artisanal Latin Bakery has become a customer favorite.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Before opening Guava Artisanal Latin Bakery in Fairfax City, husband and wife Ivan Cordero and Vanessa Rosario ran a bakery out of their Springfield home for eight years. But, said Cordero, “We always dreamed of having a brick-and-mortar location where people could come in and find our treats.”

And that’s exactly what’s happening at their bakeshop at 3230 Old Pickett Road. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Customers may walk in or order in advance at <https://guavabakeryva.com>.

Both born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Cordero moved to the U.S. in 2009, and Rosario, in 2011, when they got married. And now, they’re sharing their heritage with others through their pastries and various styles of coffee.

“We specialize in Latin flavors and make all types of desserts,” said Cordero. “Our mission is to bring people’s tastebuds back to their hometowns, wherever they’re from in Latin America. And for everyone else, it’s to introduce non-traditional desserts to the U.S.”

These include, for example, brigadeiro cake – a chocolate cake with a chocolate-truffle filling; coconut tres leches cake and the bakery’s signature dessert, Dominican cake. It’s a vanilla cake with fillings such as dulce de leche, pineapple, guava or yellow pastry cream, and topped with Italian-meringue frosting.

“Also popular is our flan de queso, which is a flan made with cream cheese in the batter to make it thicker and creamier,” said Cordero. “And customers also like our nontypical cheesecakes in flavors of dulce de leche, passionfruit, café [coffee] con leche, and guava.”

The bakery also caters for hotels, as well as individuals, for weddings and other special celebrations. Two days’ notice is needed, either via the website or by calling 703-342-6896.

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Cordero says more and more customers are choosing Guava as their place to go because of its large selection of coffees and baked goods. “Everything is made in-house and baked fresh daily using ingredients from Latin America. We get chocolate from the Dominican Republic and dulce de leche from Argentina. And although our coffee is roasted locally, it’s imported from Guatemala.”

After finding their new location to rent, Cordero said he and his wife struggled with all the red tape involved in getting a new business ready for prime time. But once they opened their doors, he said, “We received so much love from the community. Then people learned about us through word of mouth and great customer reviews on social media. Business has been amazing, and we’ve gotten a warm welcome. It’s been a wonderful experience so far.”

Besides being Guava’s co-owner, Rosario is also the main baker and loves what she does. “There’s a satisfaction in knowing that the customers are enjoying our treats,” she explained. And once her and her husband’s dream of having a bakeshop became a reality, said Rosario, “Sometimes, it was like a ‘pinch-me’ moment. So it feels especially good to be open here and see customers coming in.”

They’ve also built a loyal base of repeat customers, such as Kiara Diaz. “I like that they’re a small business and they’re delicate with the decorations on their desserts. They even put bows on their boxes, so they care about the small details.”

As for her favorite baked goods there, Diaz said, “I’m from the Dominican Republic, too, and I’m especially a fan of the coconut-rum tres leches cake and the mini flan. I like the Amarena cherry on top of both of them, and both desserts have really good flavors. I’d definitely recommend this bakery to other people because all their desserts are tasty, and the ingredients are really good quality – which is important to me.”

Meanwhile, Roxanna Vazquez is a big fan of Guava’s Dominican cake. “I like the Italian meringue on top, and the cake is very moist and a perfect consistency, with a pineapple or guava filling,” she said. “I also love the pecan tart. It has a lot of nuts, and the filling has a hint of bourbon that gives it a great flavor. And the passionfruit cheesecake is the perfect mix between tangy and sweet.”

At the bakery’s official ribbon cutting, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read said, “I appreciate that, after doing their home-based business

for years, Vanessa and Ivan chose Fairfax City to open their storefront. And they did that because we’re good at incubating new small businesses in our City.”

Following her, Rosario said, “The support of the City of Fairfax and the [Greater Fairfax] Chamber of Commerce has been great.” She also thanked their family and friends in attendance, saying, “This means a lot.” Then, linking her arm in her husband’s, she told everyone, “We are a team, and we hope you’ll stop by.”

Speaking last, Cordero also expressed gratitude for the guidance provided by Fairfax City Economic Development. Saying his sentiments were on behalf of everyone associated with the bakery, he said, “It’s an honor for us to be here. We chose Fairfax City for our first brick-and-mortar because we’ve seen so many places grow here.

“It’s hard for any small business to open its doors, but it’s always amazing to feel that you have support from your local government. So on behalf of the team, thank you. We’re looking forward to being part of Fairfax City and this community for many years to come.”

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ENTERTAINMENT



McLean's Independence Day Fireworks Celebration will take place on Saturday, June 29, 2024 at Langley High School in McLean.



Workhouse Arts Center will have fireworks on Saturday, June 29, 2024 in Lorton.

NOW THROUGH JUNE 30

Illuminating the Natural World.

Open weekends 12-5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Internationally recognized artist Rosemarie Forsythe presents her new exhibition of distinctive, colorful paintings portraying the magic of nature, science, and learning through imaginative compositions that are often inspired by 15th century illuminated manuscripts.

JUNE 8 TO AUG. 4

Workhouse Minhwa Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Minhwa, an exploration of the essence of Korea's beauty, vibrant colors, flora and fauna, and timeless narratives. The exhibit is located in the McGuire Woods Gallery, W-16 2nd Floor. Visit the website:

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/blowing-the-winds>

COLLEGE ACCESS FAIRFAX HOLDS FREE CLINICS

College Access Fairfax will hold free clinics throughout the summer at various locations in the county to help parents and students complete or correct the FAFSA or VASA financial aid forms. Clinics are currently scheduled on:

Wednesday, June 26, 6-8 p.m. at Sully District Government Center.

Wednesday, July 10, 6-8 p.m. at Mason District Government Center.

Both the student and a parent/guardian must attend the clinic. Applicants should bring a laptop to all clinics except Fairfax High School. Spanish translation will be available. For more information, to register for a clinic, or to request a one-on-one appointment, visit College Access Fairfax's website. These services are free of charge.

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: 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

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

2024 Farmers Market season is here and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, 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.

WEDNESDAYS

McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Through Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

Oakmont Through Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton

Wakefield

Through Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m. Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

THURSDAYS

Annandale Through Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Herndon

Through Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

FRIDAYS

McLean Through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean

Kingstowne

Through Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m. In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

SATURDAYS

Burke Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

Reston

Through Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

SUNDAYS

Lorton Through 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. Contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

FARM HARVEST FRIDAYS

Every Friday at 2 p.m. – May 31 through October.

At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Enjoy live music, a guided harvest from Annie, the Giving Garden urban farmer, produce tastings, and more. Throughout the season, the farm will produce over 50 varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs, including strawberries, zucchini, beets, spinach, carrots, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and more.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: DOUBLE FEATURES

July 20. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. First set: 4:00-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Summer Concert Series will offer two

live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-630 p.m. and the second from 7-9 p.m. The series will feature local bands such as Party Fowl, Cazhmiere, Billy Twilde, and more. Come out and enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

DANCE NIGHTS ANNOUNCED FOR LAKE ANNE LIVE!

Thursday Evening Concerts beginning June 6 through June 27, 2024 from 6 to 9 p.m. Sponsored by Lake Anne and Washington Plaza Merchant Association, at Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront) - 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston.

SCHEDULE:

❖ **June 27:** Swing Line Dance! Learn Swing Line Dancing, including the always popular Charleston Stroll with Gottaswing's Sue and DJ Gary! DJ Gary will be spinning your favorite tunes from the 40's, 50's and up! Requests considered.

FCPA'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series presents more than 190 exciting performances at 17 locations all summer long. Choose from an array of free, live performances featuring classical to bluegrass music and everything in between. Enjoy performances from outstanding local and national touring groups including:

(June 28) The Artimus Pyle Band – Grist Mill Park: Rock on with The Artimus Pyle Band to classic Lynyrd Skynyrd songs, such as "Sweet Home Alabama," "Free Bird" and "Simple Man."

(July 11) Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille – Frying Pan Farm Park: Embark on a musical journey through multiple genres held together by fantastic harmonies, top-notch musicianship and a killer band.

(July 18) The United States 257th Army Band – Fairfax County Government Center: Join us as "The Band of the Nation's Capital" performs a variety of music including classical, rock, jazz and more.

(July 19) Yellow Dubmarine – Royal Lake Park: Enjoy and sing along to all of your favorite Beatles hits.

(July 20) Saved by the '90s – Mosaic District: Strawberry Lane: Throw it back to the '90s with this huge, interactive cover band.

(July 25) Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen – Frying Pan Farm Park: Experience this Grammy-nominated band perform a torrent of mind-blowing bluegrass.

(Aug. 16) The United States Air Force Strings – Mason District Park Amphitheater: Join the official string ensemble of the U.S. Air Force for an evening of music ranging from classical symphonic selections to classic rock, bluegrass and patriotic compositions.

(Aug. 18) Cheryl Wheeler with Kenny White – Mason District Amphitheater: Sing along to folk music with famed singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler and pianist and singer Kenny White.

(Aug. 23) Deanna Bogart – Grist Mill Park: Hear Deanna Bogart's dazzling keyboards, soulful saxophone, smoky vocals and cut-above songwriting.

(Aug. 24) Bruce in the USA – Arrowbrook Centre Park: Jam on to your favorite tunes by Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band.

(Aug. 31) Cloud Cult – Arrowbrook Centre Park: End your summer on a high note with Cloud Cult, a band known for their unique alternative-orchestral-folk-rock sound and hailed as one of the "Top 10 Green Bands" by Rolling Stone. Performances are held outdoors and may be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation has announced its annual Summer Concert Series schedule at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. The series will feature military bands performing music from traditional patriotic tunes to contemporary works and pop hits. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets. The Museum, Rifle Range and Museum Store will remain open for extended hours until the concerts begin. Tun Tavern hours will be extended until 6 p.m. Outdoor concessions will be available during the performance. Admission and parking are free and open to the public for all concerts. Visit marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789.

ENTERTAINMENT



Catch The Artimus Pyle Band on Friday, June 28, 2024 at Grist Mill Park as part of FCPA's Summer Entertainment Series.



The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters will perform on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle.

SCHEDULE:

❖ **Thursday, June 27:** The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters, the official chorus of the Navy, will present a variety of music, including traditional choral music, sea chanteys, patriotic fare, opera, Broadway, and contemporary works.

❖ **Thursday, July 11:** "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, whose mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, will celebrate their 226th birthday at the museum with a special concert.

❖ **Thursday, July 25:** The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers will play pieces from across musical genres, from jazz to rhythm & blues, classic rock to pop, and their own original material.

❖ **Thursday, August 22:** "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will present a varied repertoire ranging from traditional concert band selections to the patriotic marches that made it famous.

❖ **Thursday, August 29:** "The President's Own" United States Marine Band returns to close the Summer Concert Series for 2024.

FREE CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night from June 26th through August 21st at Burke Lake Park for an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson's Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic blanket, lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE:

June 26 - Randy Thompson Band
Food truck: Empanadas de Mendoza

July 3 - The Nighthawks
Food truck: Roaming Coyote

July 10 - Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille
Food truck: DC Slides

July 17 - The Magic Trio
Food truck: Babu-Ji

July 24 - The Skip Castro Band
Food trucks: DC Slides & Empanadas de Mendoza

July 31 - The English Channel
Food trucks: DC Slides & Babu-Ji

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August 7 - The Road Ducks
Food trucks: Babu-Ji & Empanadas de Mendoza

August 14 - SoHo Down
Food truck: Roaming Coyote

August 21 - Riptide
Food truck: Roaming Coyote

TYSONS CORNER CENTER EVENTS

❖ **Farm Harvest Fridays**
Every Friday at 2 p.m. - May 31 through October

Enjoy live music, a guided harvest from Annie, the Giving Garden urban farmer, produce tastings, and more. Throughout the season, the farm will produce over 50 varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs, including strawberries, zucchini, beets, spinach, carrots, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and more.

Summer Concert Series: Double Features

July 20 at The Plaza

First set: 4-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7-9 p.m. Summer Concert Series will offer two live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-6:30PM and the second from 7-9 p.m. The series will feature local bands such as Party Fowl, Cazhmiere, Billy Twilde, and more. Come out and enjoy takeout and cocktails from the restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS IN THE PARK BY THE ALDEN

Due to the renovation of McLean Central Park, The Alden at the McLean Community Center's Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park will be held at Lewinsville Park this year. The free concerts will be presented on the porch of the historic house in the park at 4 p.m. on Sundays, June 16 through July 28. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 30, 4 p.m. Backtrack Vocals

Sunday, July 7, 4 p.m. The Gordon Sterling Trio

Sunday, July 14, 4 p.m. Lil' Maceo

Sunday, July 21, 4 p.m. The Billy Coulter Trio

Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. Justin Trawick

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 26

Pride Night Out. 5-8 p.m. At Springfield Town Center, Grand Court area, Springfield. In support of Safe Space NOVA, an organization dedicated to providing a safe,

accepting, and supportive environment to combat social stigmas, bullying, and other challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth. This year's family-friendly Pride celebration will feature entertainment from Evita Peroxide, Stormi Skye, and DJ Milko, along with activities and giveaways, including:

- ❖ Pride-themed Glitter Tattoos & Face Painting
 - ❖ Pride photo booth and selfie station
 - ❖ Best Pride outfit competition
 - ❖ Crafts for the whole family.
- Visit the website SpringfieldTownCenter.com/events.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 26

Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. At LOOK Cinemas at Reston Town Center, Reston. Featuring the movie "Oppenheimer" (Rated R). RA presents Senior Movie Day, a free movie on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For ages 55-plus. Sign-In and register online through the www.RestonWebtrac.com account.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Biggest Block Party. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fairfax Ace Hardware, 10310-B Main Street, Fairfax City. Help celebrate the incredible 100-year journey of Ace Hardware! Learn more: <https://bit.ly/45sWPXS>. Cost for event: Free.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks, Food and Family Fun at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Fun starts at noon, with fireworks starting at 9:15 p.m. Enjoy food trucks, live performances and fireworks at the annual celebration. The park will close to new arrivals at 8:45 p.m. Admission is free. Parking: \$15 ahead of the event date; \$20 at the gate. The park is the location of the Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole. Tickets for the Water Mine, which will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., are sold separately.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Fireworks at Workhouse. 6-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Bring a chair or a blanket to relax on

the lawn and enjoy a display of vibrant colors, brilliant lights and ground-breaking explosions, while also providing amazing and fun entertainment for all ages. The DJ leads the party on the Workhouse Quad with special performances from local music and dance groups. Food trucks and beverage options (food, soft drinks, craft beer and wine available). Price starts at \$40 per vehicle in advance; \$45 on-site. <https://www.workhousearts.org/fireworks>

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

McLean Independence Day Fireworks Celebration. 6:30-10 p.m. At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike. Come celebrate Independence Day with McLean Community Center. The whole family will enjoy music, food trucks, giveaways and at dusk, a huge fireworks display. There is a limited amount of free onsite parking and additional free satellite parking with shuttle bus service (accessibility equipped). Visit mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

Fourth of July 5K Fun Run. Join Great Falls TrailBlazers for the annual Fourth of July 5K Fun Run. Meet behind the Great Falls Library on July 4 and the race/walk will begin sharply at 8 a.m. This pet-friendly event is open to all ages. The trail makes a loop and goes through the woods so if you want to bring a stroller it is best if it has large wheels like a jogging stroller. Visit the website at GreatFallsTrailBlazers.org or the Facebook Page for more information and a link to Run Sign Up. Free T-shirts to the first 200 runners who finish the race.

FOURTH OF JULY IN CLIFTON

Schedule: 3:45 p.m. - Parade Line-Up at Dell/Kincheloe
4:00 p.m. - Parade Start
4:30 p.m. - Ayre Square flag raising
5:00 p.m. - CBA Potluck and Celebration

Please remember to bring a side or dessert to share! The CBA provides

bbq, beer and some drinks. Please bring your own water bottles.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Country-Western Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a country-western dance. Lessons, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Open dancing, 7:00-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages are welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$15; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

40th Anniversary Celebration! 4-6 p.m. At Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Featuring a fun-filled afternoon celebrating with Insight friends new and old! They'll be gathering at Insight-Fairfax to look back on their journey and celebrate everyone who has helped shape where they are today.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, at twilight! Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, as you watch the changing light bring out the beautiful architectural details of the house. Play games in the yard, listen to period music, and tour the house at your leisure as the sun slowly sets.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

Relax Sound Bath. 4-5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This month's Sound Bath with Iris McCray, which revolves around relaxing into the natural course of things. Visit the website <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/sound-bath>

Obituary

Obituary

Paul Allan Vodola, a long-time resident of Reston, died May 29th. Born May 16th, 1947, in Taunton, MA, the oldest child of Daniel Vodola and Jane (McKechnie) Vodola, Paul grew up in Wollaston, MA, and graduated from North Quincy High School in 1964. He got a BS degree in Math from Eastern Nazarene College in 1970. In the ENC chapel in June, 1971 he married Ruth Susan "Sue" Young, a fellow student; they enjoyed fifty-three happy years together. Their first home was in Charlottesville, where Paul got his PhD in Math in 1976 from the University of Virginia. In 1980 he began a long and fulfilling career at SPA in Alexandria. A life-long piano student, in retirement Paul performed at nursing homes with fellow students and their teacher. Paul and Sue both loved travel, and went often to New England to see family and friends. In later years Paul was an avid genealogist; Mayflower Quarterly mentioned one of his findings. He also published several math articles. Paul is survived by his wife, Sue; his sister, Elisabeth Vodola, of Alexandria; his brother-in-law, David Young, his wife, Carolyn, and their family, of Kingston, MA; his niece, Elizabeth Prior, of Center Conway, NH; his step-mother, Frances Vodola, of Trumbull, CT; and by his step-sister, Catherine Vodola, of Weston, CT. He was predeceased by his sisters Esther Vodola, of Randolph, MA; and Anne Goerss, of Center Conway, NH. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Herndon.

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Obituary

Obituary

In Memoriam: Arthur Bushkin



Arthur Allan Bushkin, 80, writer, philanthropist, and social activist of Vienna, Virginia, passed away on February 9, 2024, at the Reston Hospital Center from an unexpected heart attack. Arthur was born on July 11, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois, to Ben and Helen (Beller) Bushkin and is survived by his daughter, son, and sister.

Arthur graduated from Senn High School in Chicago and later graduated from college at MIT, where he spent eight years living in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

Art's professional life centered around "giving back" his expertise and other resources for the betterment of society. In the 1960s, Art was present at the creation of what was to become the Internet, working with ARPA in the Defense Department. He taught computer science at MIT and Wellesley. In the 1970s, Art served as Director of President Carter's Privacy Initiative and led the Administration's effort to enact a Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978. He was also the U.S. Delegate to the OECD on Information, Computer, and Communications Policy. In the early 1990s, he was president of Bell Atlantic Video Services, which led to the creation of video-on-demand. From 1999 to 2009, he was the CEO of the Stargazer Foundation, focusing on online services for education, communications, safety, and emergency response.

On Valentine's Day 2013, Art and his 2nd wife Barbara along with CNN.com published their Lifelong Valentine story, spreading it widely online. Later, they published their own book version called Lifelong Valentines. This eventually evolved into a Kindness project, which became the main focus of their work together. They also supported local charities such as Martha's Table, the Newseum, and several others. In keeping with their joint commitment to daily acts of kindness, they would offer food and drinks to service and delivery personnel and find ways of helping people in times of great need.

After Barbara passed away in 2019, the Kindness Project officially became the tax-exempt, non-profit Kindness Cloud Foundation, a Global Kindness Movement. Since 2019, this online movement has spread to reach millions of people worldwide with Kindness messages and resources. Now, with Art's passing, it will continue as a testament to their commitment to kindness and making the world a better place.

Art deeply believed in the transformative power of kindness. During his lifetime, he was privileged to inspire countless people from many walks of life and to embrace and spread kindness. His hope was that they, too, would use their unique talents and skills to act with kindness, thereby inspiring others to do the same. Those whose lives he touched directly will always remember him for this.

To honor his legacy, please spread kindness in your community and contribute to the effort to make the world a Kinder place. You can learn more about this ongoing global Kindness Movement by visiting KindnessCloud.org and/or Facebook.com/Kindness-Cloud. Online condolences and fond memories may be left to the family at www.moneyandking.com

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SENIOR LIVING

Centreville High Grad is Dedicated To Improving Their Lives

FROM PAGE 8

profit to connect an underserved population with high schoolers looking for service hours." Mentioning Herralink's four partnerships, Herrity said Solano organized several events for the seniors from short, one-hour gatherings – including craft making, game sessions and karaoke – to one, large, community event each month.

"These larger events have included a Halloween event with a bouncy house, balloon animals, face painting and a magician, and a Thanksgiving event where she recreated Cox Farms and brought farm animals like a baby cow, baby horse, chickens, goats, and pigs to the retirement home," wrote Herrity. "She also coordinated with service dogs to ensure bed-bound residents weren't excluded. She even held a masquerade ball at the Jim Scott community center [in Fairfax], which attracted over 200 people. Thank you, Isabella, for your incredible work."

The seniors are grateful to Solano, as well. Just ask Alicia Mackin and Erica McCorry, both residents at the Dulles Health & Rehab Center. "Isabella has a wonderful program," said Mackin. "She's altruistic, a beautiful woman inside and out. I can't express the growth in elderly activities because she draws in more people than she knows."

And, said McCorry, "I love my volunteers. They are so sweet, polite and fun. They enjoy a good discussion. We've done a lot of movie-watching, and I've even taught them to play Scrabble."

The residents at the Gainesville location are also pleased. Alex Afari considers Solano "the heart of this place," and Cynthia "C.C." Cabbage called her the "kindest, laughiest, smartest person in the world."

"Isabella helps people and is a nice person with a positive personality," said Mike Kelsor. And Connie Munczki is glad to see the volunteers Solano brought to them. "I like the high schoolers," she said. "They make me feel very happy because they come to visit and stay with us for a little while."

Volunteers such as sisters Kaelyn and Kelsa Boodal, both rising seniors at Paul VI High, are enjoying their experiences, too. "Herralink is a way for students to connect with senior citizens," said Kelsa. "Isabella hosts various events that aren't only fun for the seniors, but also for the volunteers."

"Herralink and Isabella have provided us with a wonderful opportunity to do activities with seniors that they wouldn't normally get to do," added Kaelyn. "Isabella makes volunteering fun and memorable for high-school students like me."

Solano said many teens and young adults don't realize they need real, in-person connections with other people. "The love of a community has so much strength and power, and so many people take it for granted," she explained. "But talking with older adults and learning about them gave me a purpose in this world. I try to enrich their lives and will spend the rest of my life doing that."

She'd eventually like to study cognitive



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ISABELLA SOLANO

student volunteers pose for a group photo at a Herralink karaoke event at the Gainesville center. Top row, from left, are Karina Champaneri, Pierro Evangelista, Sidharth Dusanapudi, Ashish Sunkarapalli, Akarshan Anand, Milind Champaneri, Arnav Bhat, and James Garcia. Bottom row, from left, are Lauren Gniazdowski, Rylie Hurst, Piper Waddell and Isabella Solano.



Herralink took residents from Dulles Health & Rehab Center to the White House for the spring 2024 Easter Egg Roll. In back, from left, are Isabella Solano and AnaLucia Rojas; in front, from left, are Ruth Johnson and Alicia Mackin.

science with a focus on aging so she could someday design technology to enhance seniors' lives. For example, it could be applied to help seniors find their room number, or the rooms of their friends, when they can't remember these numbers on their own.

Solano would also like the nursing assistants to realize that "if they'd interact more with the seniors as people, they'd both feel that warmth of human connection. The senior population is often an afterthought and ends up being dehumanized. But if you can do something to improve that, why not? Right now, I'm interacting with these people and learning as much as I can, so I can really help change their quality of life."

And the differences she's already made for so many seniors are both obvious and welcome. "Isabella has created a remarkable nonprofit that bridges the gap between high-school students and nursing homes," said AnaLucia Rojas, activities director at Dulles Health & Rehab Center. "Through her organization, Isabella and her team of volunteers bring joy and warmth to our facility, enriching the lives of our residents with laughter, compassion and affection."

In fact, Solano has made such a positive impact there that, as of June, she's that location's new admissions director. For more information about Herralink, go to www.herralink.com.

"It Doesn't Have Me Yet"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How I closed last week's column is how I open this week's. Why? Because attitude, anecdotally writing, is how I can - without offering any guarantees, control my universe and secure my future. Not hardly. However, if I don't think it, it surely won't happen. The dilemma/trick is rolling with the punches that cancer inevitably land and trying to shake them off somehow. And that 'somehow' is complicated by the fact that there's not exactly a neutral corner. Moreover, there's no place to hide, no place to run, and no place to go for a quick remedy for what ails you (meaning me). Which as you regular readers know is papillary thyroid cancer with chronic kidney disease on the side.

The problem/reality is that cancer isn't simply a disease - and often a terminal one at that; depending on the type of cancer you have and how far along (what stage) you are, it's a lifestyle, too. Moreover, it's the predicament which keeps on "predictamenting. It's like having the sword of Damocles hanging over your head, or for the more modern readers, it evokes Linus from the comic strip "Peanuts," having that dark cloud following him everywhere. Cancer is one seriously dark cloud. What's worse is that cancer permeates your entire body. It affects, in one way or another, your brain, your heart, your lungs, your entire being. In its own insidious way, cancer takes over and rearranges everything, figuratively speaking. And unfortunately, despite the best medical care, often, (once again, depending on the type and staging of the cancer) there's nothing - to invoke a classic baseball description: "You can't stop it. you can only hope to maintain it." I ought to know, I've been maintaining it for years.

My intention over these past 15+ years of being a cancer patient has been an attempt at being one for a long time. During this experience, I have been as "compliant" as the doctors would have wanted. I've never missed an appointment. I've always attended my miscellaneous scan appointments and such, I've always had ample supplies of medicine, among other responsibilities. In summary, I have done what the doctors have told me. They have described me as 'compliant,' a real compliment as I've come to understand. I figured that if I was going to take on something as daunting as cancer, I better be clear in my head as to how I was going to do it. And knowing there were no guarantees made it an even a greater challenge. Could I be "the one" (who survives) we asked my oncologist. "Sure, you could be the one." (Although I didn't take him literally. I have come to find out that cancer is a big dog who wants very much be the only one to on your porch. And though cancer survival rates are improving, thousands of people are still dying.)

Having been through the cancer wars, going back nearly 15 and half years, I do feel that experience does give me a sort of emotional foundation as we navigate yet again through this minefield of inevitability. And though I have mostly been there and done that, unfortunately, it doesn't give me much control. Just because I know the dos and don'ts and understand the perimeters of what's reasonable to expect, it doesn't mean I have any sort of advantage over my cancer. All I can control is how I respond to doctor's orders and the interpretations of the miscellaneous scans that I undergo. After all these years, these reactions/assessments are like muscle memory.

I've endured so much for so long; I can't help but wonder if my inventory of positivity and humor has been drained. To take on cancer requires your best effort. Any sign of weakness, however slight might be enough to open the floodgates. The body can only take so much. As I witnessed with my mother-in-law and with my own father, sometimes new complications are just too much for the patient to bare and the patient succumbs to their disease. That's what I worry about: succumbing. I don't even like the sound of it, let alone the meaning. I guess I'll just invoke Scarlet O'Hara from "Gone With The Wind" and "think about that tomorrow."

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



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