

# THE CONNECTION

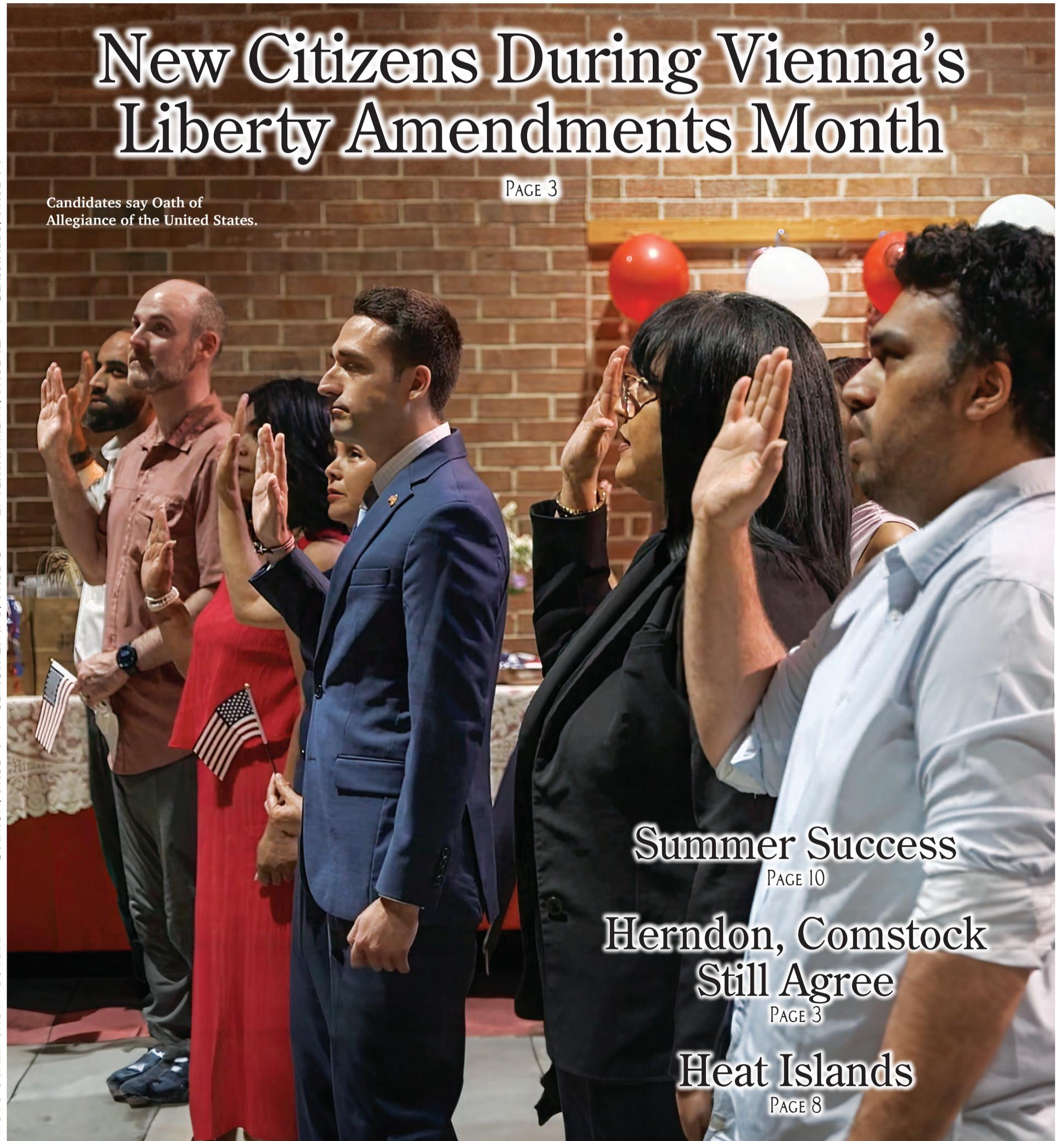
CENTREVIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

## New Citizens During Vienna's Liberty Amendments Month

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Candidates say Oath of Allegiance of the United States.

PHOTO SCREENSHOT YouTube  
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Summer Success  
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Herndon, Comstock  
Still Agree  
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JULY 17-23, 2024

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Per MLS

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**SOLD!**



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### 6025 Woodland Terrace, McLean

**\*GORGEOUS\*** 2016 Arts & Crafts home with 3BR/4.5BA on 3 spacious levels located on over a half acre in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! Designed by renowned architect Dwight McNeil and built by Joy Custom Design + Build. This finely detailed home features over 5300 sq ft of living space. The back of the house transitions beautifully to the sun-filled gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, and stunning family room. Spacious main level BR with en suite. Upper level features 2 spacious bedrooms with en suites. The lower level offers a spacious family room, rec room, wine cellar and full bath. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

## BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2024

**FOR SALE!**

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**2049 Rockingham Street  
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NEW CONSTRUCTION!**

**SOLD!**



**Sold for...\$1,080,000**

### 311 Wrens Way, Falls Church City

**\*CHARMING\*** renovated/expanded cottage home built in 1860 in FCC, sits back on a lush quarter acre+ lot with a stone walkway leading to the porch. The main level features a beautiful stone wall and wood burning fireplace in the living room. The updated kitchen offers an eat-in area with quartz countertops, ample storage space and ss appliances. Completing this level is a spacious family room with a cathedral ceiling, wood burning fireplace, built-ins and sliding doors to a private patio area. The upper level has spacious BR's, a full-size and half bath, and laundry. Loft with stairs from second bedroom. **Falls Church City Schools!**

**SOLD!**



**6144 Farver Road  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,550,000**

**SOLD!**



**1466 Kirby Road  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,560,000**

**SOLD!**



**6813 Tennyson Drive  
McLean, 22101  
\$2,550,000**

**SOLD!**



**1409 Layman Street  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,600,000**

**SOLD!**



**1639 Macon Street  
McLean, 22101  
\$2,215,000**

**SOLD!**



**1313 Merrie Ridge Rd  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,637,500**

**Curious what your home is worth? Call to chat with JD and Ed today!**

# Town of Vienna Holds Naturalization Ceremony

The door opens for dreams to come true.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Fifteen people from 15 different countries, each with unique cultures and traditions, became United States citizens during the Town of Vienna's Liberty Amendment Month 2024 Naturalization Ceremony on Saturday, June 29. Linda Colbert, the mayor of the Town of Vienna, revealed during her remarks that she had recently met a newly naturalized American citizen. He stressed to her the importance of fully immersing oneself in one's new country and taking advantage of all available opportunities.

"As you all take your Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America today, think about what you will do next to exercise your citizenship rights, but also think about your responsibilities," Colbert said. While voting and other privileges are undoubtedly sig-

nificant, being an engaged member of one's community is equally essential. ... Find a cause or an organization that you are passionate about and volunteer your time and talents," Colbert added.

Ready to recite the Oath of Allegiance, each candidate raised their right hand, eliciting smiles from loved ones and others.

Enoh Ebong, Director of U.S. Trade and Development, delivered the keynote address. During her remarks, the new citizens discovered that she, too, had immigrated to the United States and had sworn her allegiance to the country. At the time, Ebong was sure that her life would undergo a permanent transformation for the better.

Ebong expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to lead a U.S. government agency that "creates economic opportunities for people living both here in the United States and in our partner countries around the world. ... My American dream has come true. Today's naturalization ceremony will be your springboard toward fully recognizing your dreams," Ebong said.

In an email after the ceremony, Mayor Colbert shared her emotional journey: "I got



SCREENSHOT YouTube

Candidates say Oath of Allegiance of the United States.

teary on stage, watching the faces of people from many different countries go through the naturalization ceremony. I spoke with a man from Sevilla, Spain. He met his wife there when she was studying abroad for college. He came with her to the U.S., married,

and is now a naturalized citizen. His family was so happy for him. The daughter of a naturalized woman from Bolivia stopped me on the way to my car, asking for a picture."

View the 30-minute ceremony on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/BAKZfoV4JrM>.

# More on Herndon/Comstock Redevelopment Project

Town Manager Ashton resigns.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The two-and-a-half-month extension, needed to finalize the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project, is set to end on Aug. 15. The Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture, LC, agreed to the extension after amending their 2017 Comprehensive Agreement to pause construction from April 2022 to April 2024, thereby adjusting the project's timeline.

Upon the recent extension, Comstock's Chief Operating Officer Tim Steffan expressed reassurance, saying, "Comstock remains committed to the Town of Herndon and sees great value in being a part of this great community."

Initially, in April 2022, Comstock had taken advantage of its contractual entitlement to pause development for two years, citing COVID-19-related setbacks and economic repercussions. Then, two and a half months ago, at the end of April 2024, with the pause date set to expire, Comstock and the Town of Herndon extended the date to Aug. 15, 2024, to "restructure their contractual relationship ... [and reflect] the realities of project development in 2024."

Bill Ashton, the town manager of Herndon since 2017, said that inflation and its impact on interest rates today significantly differ from when the town first entered into its agreement with Comstock. According to Ashton, the town endeavored to achieve a mutually beneficial process "that realizes the town's vision for our downtown and makes good business sense for Comstock."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

Bill Ashton, Herndon Town Manager for seven years, resigns.

## Town Manager manager resigns.

The Town of Herndon announced Ashton's resignation on the evening of July 10. Mayor Sheila Olem accepted Ashton's resignation with "regret and sincere best wishes," according to a town release. She added that Ashton "provided thoughtful, professional counsel to Herndon's elected officials [and] principled leadership to town staff." Ashton did not publicly share the reasons for his resignation. On July 11, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors announced Ashton's appointment as their new county administrator following a national search. Ashton will assume his new position on Sept. 16.

During his tenure as the town manager, Ashton supported the Metro Silver Line development and opening of the Herndon Station, served during COVID-19, implemented



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

In April 2022, Comstock Herndon Venture LC exercised its contractual right to pause the commencement of construction to develop a mixed-use redevelopment project in Herndon's downtown for two years. In April 2024, the Town of Herndon and Comstock mutually agreed on a new expiration date: Aug. 15, 2024.

cost reduction mechanisms to weather the pandemic, and maintained the town's triple AAA bond rating at all times.

In 2021, Ashton successfully turned to the county to fill a funding gap for the stalled Herndon Redevelopment Project. In 2023, he permanently canceled the long-running Herndon Festival, shifting the town's approach to smaller, more sustainable community events. He saw the town build a new and improved website and collaborated with George Mason University and Office Evolution to launch the George Mason Enterprise Center in Herndon. Ashton brought forward the town's 2024-2029 strategic plan this March.

However, most recently, the town's fiscal year 2025 budget for all funds soared nearly 20 percent, to \$74,632,184 from the adopted FY 2024 budget of \$62,243,805. This increase was primarily due to "inflationary pressures on materials, supplies, and labor," which drove up the baseline cost of maintaining the town's current service levels," as stated by Ashton in the Town of Herndon Budget Book 2024.

Ashton's departure is the latest significant leadership change in the Town of Herndon.

SEE ASHTON RESIGNS, PAGE 11

# General Assembly's Ongoing Efforts to Protect Air Quality

BY SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL  
(D-MOUNT VERNON)

Protecting Virginia's air quality by reducing greenhouse gases has been a priority of mine since I was first elected to the General Assembly in 2009. This year, both the House and the Senate took steps to address this issue.

However, Governor Youngkin exercised his power to veto some of our actions. Does that mean that Virginia will be stymied in reduc-

ing greenhouse gases for the next two years?

No. The General Assembly has considerable power to continue to move policy initiatives. Here's a description of how that played out in the back-and-forth of the 2024 legislative session.

The Governor's efforts to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) probably captured the most attention.



Surovell

RGGI is a regional compact created by states in the Northeast to combat the air pollution that has been linked to climate change. Under RGGI, participating states first set a limit on the CO2 emissions allowed in their state. Power plants must buy

allowances for every ton of carbon they emit. Those funds are then returned to the state for a variety of green energy projects.

Virginia joined RGGI in 2020, under a law that was passed by both houses of the General Assembly that required funds to be allocated towards flooding resiliency projects and energy efficiency. The law has never been repealed and Virginia received over \$700 million for flood prevention projects and energy efficiency such as insulating and weatherizing homes.

In addition, according to an analysis of the public health impact of RGGI, carbon dioxide emissions in

SEE AIR QUALITY, PAGE 14

## Artists Share Work at Pathway Homes' Arts Exhibit

Pathway Homes hosted an Artist Reception as part of its 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. More than 83 pieces from 18 artists are on display throughout July in the South Atrium of the Fairfax County Government Center. Artists receive 100 percent of the proceeds.

The July 10 reception brought together the artists, providing attendees a chance to meet these talented people and celebrate their artistry. Pathway Homes is a nonprofit providing mental health services — starting with safe, stable housing — to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity. Art and creativity are an integral part of recovery for Pathway Homes' residents.

During the reception, Pathway Homes' resident Sherril Crawford, whose work is on display, read a poem that she wrote. As for her inspiration, she expressed that: "Doing art gives you a vision of hope. Everything will be ok."

The exhibit is open to the public on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through July 31.

Artist bios and photos of their works are also available for viewing and sale at [sota.pathwayhomes.org/artists](http://sota.pathwayhomes.org/artists). The reception and exhibit support the unique talents of Pathway Homes' residents and enable them to express



Marti Kelly, a Pathway artisan, with her crocheted afghan.



Pathway CEO Sylisa Lambert-Woodard.



Paula Weidmann, Pathway artist.



Sherril Crawford, Pathway artist and poet.

their journeys to recovery through their unique and personal artwork. The exhibit also honors Karen Free, a Pathway Homes resident and artist who passed away in 2011.

For more than 44 years, Pathway Homes has enabled tens of thousands of people in Northern Virginia with

serious mental illnesses and other co-occurring disabilities to get housing and supportive services to help them recover their lives.

Painting by Karen Free, a gifted artist and long-time resident of Pathway Homes, who passed away in 2011.





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## COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Dedicated Traffic Officer Named for McLean

Officer First Class Brian Hungarter of the Fairfax County Police Department is the new dedicated lead traffic enforcement officer at McLean District Station. Hungarter joins the department's 113-person staff, including 90 sworn officers, eight auxiliary officers, and 15 civilians (police citizen aides, crossing guards, a crime analyst, administrative staff, and volunteers) with sixteen years of law enforcement background, eight with FCPD. He will concentrate on enforcing traffic regulations to improve pedestrian safety, control traffic flow during peak hours, and respond to events. The department invites the community to collaborate with Officer Hungarter to address traffic concerns by contacting him at FCPDMcLeanSET@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Officer First Class Brian Hungarter of the Fairfax County Police Department

— MERCIA HOBSON

## NVFS Looks for Assistance with School Supply Drive

Participate now through July 24.

Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS), a nonprofit organization, is asking the community to help ensure its 2024 Back2School Drive provides 1400+ students across the region with new backpacks filled with the school supplies they need before they return to classrooms in August.

You can assist in three ways. Make an online donation. Visit [nvfs.org/back-to-school](https://nvfs.org/back-to-school). Buy school supplies July 2-22 from the Amazon Wish list [[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XQGK9TE6PPT7/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XQGK9TE6PPT7/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)]. Amazon will deliver the selected items to the NVFS office. Alternatively, you can drop off supplies at 12955 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax (near Starbucks), on Wednesday, July 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursday, July 25, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For questions or a donation receipt, email [lhurst@nvfs.org](mailto:lhurst@nvfs.org).

— MERCIA HOBSON

## Good Shepherd Housing School Supply Drive Underway

Monetary donations are also crucial.

The Good Shepherd Housing School Supply Drive is underway, a crucial initiative that will directly impact the lives of children in need. The nonprofit organization is collecting backpacks and school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year and would like to receive all donations by Aug. 1.

To support their School Supply Drive, visit Good Shepherd Housing's Amazon Wish List and ship items directly

to the nonprofit organization's office at 8253 Backlick Road, Suite L, Lorton, Va. You can also deliver locally collected items to the office or donate funds online.

As of Sunday, July 14, 5 p.m., \$104 of \$5,000 had been collected for the organization's Children's Resources Program, which funds everything it does, especially its yearly School Supplies Drive. Immediate support is crucial to bridging this gap. To donate, visit [https://goodhousing.harnessgiving.org/donate/?checkout=1665&campaign\\_id=15113](https://goodhousing.harnessgiving.org/donate/?checkout=1665&campaign_id=15113).

— MERCIA HOBSON

### SENIOR LIVING

## Fighting Fraud for Older Americans

Last year the Federal Trade Commission recorded \$10 Billion in reported fraud from U.S. consumers. Because fraud is underreported, actual losses are much higher.

While education empowers older Americans to protect themselves, more is needed to eliminate this large-scale problem. AARP advocates for bipartisan laws and regulations to strengthen consumer protections against scams on everything from illegal robo-calls, to gift card regulations to cryptocurrency scams and more. This work is done in state legislatures across the country, in Congress and at the White House.

Earlier this year AARP joined White House officials and industry leaders in a meeting aimed at helping the federal government fight back against the use of artificial intelligence-enabled voice cloning to commit fraud. A virtual White House conference followed in June, with AARP again at the table. With fraud already at an epidemic level, the addition of AI powered

scams is alarming, which is why AARP is focused on advocating for a strong legislative response to this threat.

Already this year the Federal Communications Commission has moved to make it illegal to use AI voice cloning in robocalls targeting consumers. As a result, a scammer who cloned President Joe Biden's voice to deceive voters in New Hampshire was recently fined \$6 million.

If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](https://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

With about 1 million members in Virginia, AARP is the largest organization working on behalf of people age 50-plus and their families in the Commonwealth. On Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](https://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia) and follow @AARPVa on X at [www.X.com/aarpva](https://www.X.com/aarpva).



SCREENSHOT @FFXFIRERESCUE

## Assistant Chief Dan Shaw, FCFRD, To Retire after 29 Years

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue's senior leadership team, along with Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis, recognizes Assistant Chief Dan Shaw as he retires after 29 years with FCFRD.

— MERCIA HOBSON

## COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

# Fairfax NAACP Wins National NAACP Thalheimer Award Again

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**D**eclared the most active and involved local chapter of its size in the country, the Fairfax County NAACP won the National NAACP's Thalheimer Award for the second time in six years. Karen Campblin, former branch president, will receive the award at the National NAACP's Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 14-17. A local celebration is planned later.

Nikki Zimmerman, president of the Fairfax NAACP, said that the branch does not treat the honor lightly. "It is a tribute to our late President Michelle Leete, who led our branch with distinction throughout 2023 and tragically died before her time. ... We dedicate this award to her memory and pledge to continue the fight for racial equity and justice for all."

The award period, from May 2023 to May 2024, proved important across multiple issues. Notably, the education committee led the fight to replace the reading method



SCREENSHOT/FAIRFAXNAACP.ORG

Members of the Fairfax NAACP accelerated the voting education of Black people and all people of color during the 2023 elections, which saw near-total redistricting with new numbers and some unfamiliar candidates.

for young children in Fairfax County Public Schools with a phonics-based one. The Criminal Justice Committee led initiatives to hold the Fairfax County Police Department accountable for the officer shooting and killing of Timothy Johnson, an unarmed Black man suspected of shoplifting sunglasses, and develop policies to protect citizens from unnecessary police use of force. The Housing Committee championed services for individuals who are unhoused, particularly extreme heat relief and pushed the Board of Supervisors for greater funding to improve the county's stock of affordable housing. The Political Action Committee, leading its 2023 "Souls to the Polls" campaign, created a website listing all election nominees on the ballot during the election season, which saw near-total redistricting. They also honored the recently found gravesites of formerly enslaved people in collaboration with NOVA Parks, the Religious Affairs Committee hosted a Juneteenth event at Bull Run Regional Park.

Visit Fairfax NAACP website at [fairfaxnaacp.org](http://fairfaxnaacp.org).



### Public Notice

#### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

County	Fed Route ID	Route #	Struc. Name	Location	Effective Date
SCOTT	16925	803	STAGE LANE	COVE CREEK	7/1/2024
ALBEMARLE	840	745	ARROWHEAD VALLEY ROAD-ROUTE 745	BRANCH MOORES CREEK	6/24/2024
BEDFORD	2832	699	BORE AUGER ROAD- ROUTE 699	BR. OF BORE AUGER CREEK	6/21/2024
DINWIDDIE	6050	624	HILLS DRIVE	WHITE OAK CREEK	6/20/2024
SCOTT	16905	732	ROUTE 0732	BRANCH	6/20/2024
LUNENBURG	11862	671	REEDY CREEK ROAD	BRANCH OF REEDY CREEK	6/17/2024
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	6/12/2024
ROANOKE	15108	777	FT LEWISCHURCH ROAD- ROUTE 777	STYPES BRANCH	6/12/2024

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit [vdot.virginia.gov](http://vdot.virginia.gov) and navigate to Traffic and Travel/For freight operators/Truck restrictions. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



### Boutique Senior Living with Great Falls at Its Heart

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Call 703.223.5226 or visit [IntegraCare.com](http://IntegraCare.com) to learn more and schedule a tour today!



# HEAT ISLANDS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



The drought has resulted in parched lawns like this one on Sherwood Hall Lane.



The parking lot at Mount Vernon Square Center on U.S. 1.

## Heat Wave Grips the Area, Amplifies Heat Islands

Neighborhoods impacted by poverty and which have a high percentage of minority residents average several degrees hotter because of the absence of trees.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

This summer's sweltering sauna is inflicting much discomfort around the region as heat indexes frequently exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit. On July 8, CNN headlined, "Persistent Heat Wave in the US Shatters New Records."

Heat-related illnesses have risen in the region.

"Fairfax County has had the highest number of illnesses this season," reported WUSA on June 27. On July 8, the county activated its emergency heat plan offering tips and cooling assistance.

### Heat Islands

Areas with hard surfaces and structures and few mature trees can be one to seven degrees Fahrenheit hotter during the day

SEE HEAT ISLANDS, PAGE 9



Hydrangeas are turning brown in the heat.



Woodland sunflowers and rhododendrons are struggling in the heat.

# HEAT ISLANDS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



One of two parking lots at Target on U.S. 1.



In June, builders destroyed many mature trees on a wooded lot in Mount Vernon to make way for a new house.



Sign at Walt Whitman Middle School on July 8, 2024.

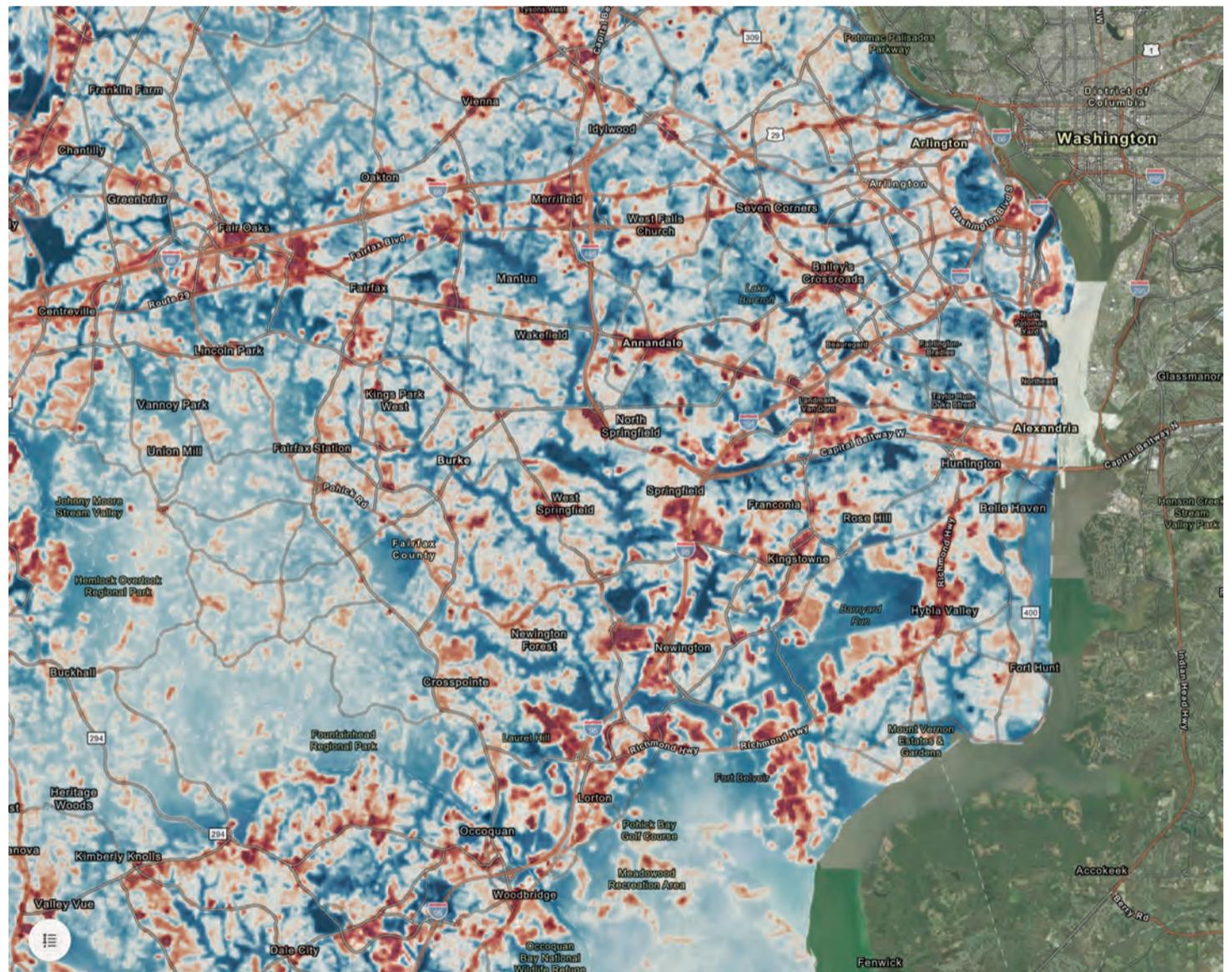
FROM PAGE 8

and one to five degrees warmer at night than “greener” areas, a phenomenon called “the heat island effect.” EPA explains: “Structures such as buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit the sun’s heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. ... pavements or roofing tend to reflect less solar energy and absorb and emit more of the sun’s heat compared to trees, vegetation and other natural surfaces. ... Human activities like vehicles, air conditioning and industrial operations also emit heat into the urban environment.”

## A Warmer Fairfax County

“The climate in Fairfax County is becoming warmer, wetter and weirder,” says Matthew Meyers, Division Manager, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. “Extreme heat, flooding, severe storms and other changing hazards repeatedly impact our neighborhoods, infrastructure, services and natural resources.” The county’s 2022 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan says, “Fairfax County, Virginia is already feeling the effects of climate change, including more severe storms, increased flooding and amplified extreme heat.” And the plan predicts more frequent heat waves, among other impacts.

Northern Virginia’s ever-metastasizing expanse of development, roads, parking lots, roofs and other surfaces increase land surface temperatures in some areas. The [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



This map shows heat islands in Northern Virginia.

CREDIT: NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Northern Virginia Regional Commission has mapped the heat island effect in Northern Virginia at <https://www.novaregion.org/1509/Urban-Heat-Islands>. It shows, for example, the U.S. 1 area as a hot corridor.

## Vulnerable People

The county’s climate and vulnerability index shows that 12 percent of its 1.15 million people and 27 percent of “vulnerable

populations” are at risk during extreme heat periods. Hot weather can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and disproportionately impact vulnerable populations. The county’s study found,

“The Fairfax County population in general is highly exposed to extreme heat. Both the general population and the vulnerable populations received the maximum exposure score of three.”

On vulnerability, the analysis says, “Based on available information, the general population in Fairfax County is estimated to have a moderately high total vulnerability to extreme heat. The vulnerable populations are estimated to have very high total vulnerability to extreme heat.”

# HEAT ISLANDS

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH



Construction crews and others have to work in the heat.



Dogwoods are drooping.

## Heat Wave Grips the Area, Amplifies Heat Islands

FROM PAGE 9

Some people cannot escape to air conditioned buildings, like people who work outside. On July 8, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions requested window air conditioners for some residents of the Harmony Place Mobile Home Park on U.S. 1

### Trees Lower Temperatures

Increasing tree canopy coverage “is one of the most effective heat mitigation strategies,” the resiliency report contends, but tree cover varies greatly.

American Forests developed tree equity scores for 200,000 U.S. urban neighborhoods. They found that neighborhoods impacted by poverty and which have a high percentage of minority residents average several degrees hotter because of the absence of trees.

In a May 21, 2024, memo to the Board of Supervisors, County Executive Bryan J. Hill reported that the county’s tree canopy cover increased by three percent between 2012 and 2021, an overall increase from 52 to 55 percent, to 138,866 acres. The county’s goal is 60 percent tree canopy cover. Staff estimate that 18 percent of land is a “possible planting area” and 27 percent of the county an “unsuitable planting area.”

Despite this increase, Hill’s memo acknowledges the assessment’s shortcomings: “Staff remain cognizant that changes in forest composition, loss of mature trees and increased abundance of invasive plants are not fully accounted for in the study,” adding, “The data set primarily measures the spatial extent of tree cover and is less effective in assessing qualitative aspects of the forest ecosystem.”

Fairfax County uses the vulnerability index to prioritize tree planting and other ac-

tivities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notes Meyers.

### What Can Be Done

To address these challenges, county officials cite their goal of 60 percent tree canopy, tree planting, the resiliency and climate plans, comprehensive plan and urban design guideline updates and the One Fairfax policy, a commitment by the county to consider equity in county programs, policies and services.

The Board of Supervisors has reduced parking requirements in certain areas and requires trees in some parking lots for both county and private projects.

Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, has suggestions: “We recommend planting street trees and partnering with nonprofits and

landlords to plant trees in apartment complexes.

“A major contributor to heat is the acres of wide roads and large parking lots resulting from the car-dependent development pattern. We’ve pressed for an end to road widenings and for large arterial roads to be converted to tree-lined boulevards with dedicated busways and bikeways. In addition, the redevelopment of commercial strip malls and their large parking lots is an opportunity to remove hard surfaces, replacing them with tree lined streets, green roofs, and larger forested stream buffers in return for developers building taller buildings.”

Ann Bennett, the Sierra Club’s Great Falls Group Land Use Chair, recommends, “strategically reducing large areas of asphalt and concrete and enhancing them with tree cover; providing cooling shelters; ensuring easy

access to water; and providing increased green, open space or mini-parks as a respite for residents and pets. Planners should prioritize investment in neighborhoods and commercial areas deficient in cooling protections for those who need it most.”

### Information

Heat Islands in Northern Virginia, <https://www.novaregion.org/1509/Urban-Heat-Islands>

Tree Equity, <https://www.treeequityscore.org/map#10.72/38.9071/-76.8208>

Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/cecap>

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resilient-fairfax>

## Sharks Take the Bite Out of Back-to-School Supplies

Each summer, the Vienna community’s Northern Virginia Swimming League Division 12 swim team at Shouse Village organizes an event where its swimmers swim laps for a charity. This year, the swim team played a crucial role in the success of Reston-based nonprofit organization Kids R First. It “provides the necessary school supplies for underserved children [in Fairfax and Loudoun counties]... custom orders for every grade level at every participating school.”

The initial estimate for funds raised at the swim event is over \$10,000, a testament to the community’s generosity and the swimmer team’s event. The top swimmer, 13-year-old Emha Franklin, swam 432 laps, equaling 10,800 meters, during the four-hour event showcasing the spirit of the local community.

— MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Swim team members celebrate as the Sharkfest Community Fundraiser Tops \$10,000.

## Fatal Crash in Clifton

On July 13, at 10 a.m., Fairfax County Police officers responded to a crash on Old Yates Ford Road and Henderson Road in Clifton involving a 2003 Honda Accord and a 2019 Volkswagen Atlas.

The driver of the Honda was uninjured, while the passenger of the Honda was flown by helicopter with injuries considered life-threatening to a local hospital. The driver of the Volkswagen and passenger were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Yesterday, detectives were notified that the passenger of the Honda, Jack Gumm, 22, of Manassas, succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the crash.

Preliminarily, detectives believe the driver of the Honda lost control of the vehicle while traveling on westbound Old Yates Ford Road. The driver began to spin, crossed over the double yellow line and was struck on the passenger side by the Volkswagen traveling in the opposite direction. Preliminarily, alcohol does not appear to be a factor and speed is still under investigation.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

## Town Manager Ashton Resigns

FROM PAGE 3

In January, the town hired a new parks and recreation director after the longtime director retired following the department's complete staff turnover. In May, the town filled the new position of economic development director, following the resignation of the previous economic development manager last year.

Early in 2017, following the retirement of the former Herndon town manager, Ashton, then Herndon's IT director, was appointed by the Herndon Town Council as acting town manager. Four months later, on June 29, 2017, Mayor Lisa Merkel and council announced that Ashton would be the permanent town manager, effective July 1, 2017. Merkel praised Ashton for demonstrating a steady hand, keen instincts, and a deep

understanding of town policy, all of which were crucial for the "redevelopment of our downtown" and other vital projects.

The Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture, LC, signed the Comprehensive Agreement to establish a mixed-use project in Herndon's downtown district seven years ago this October of 2017. Comstock has not constructed any new structures in the nearly five acre redevelopment site in the downtown, either within or outside their fenced area. According to current design plans, Comstock will raze whatever is on the nearly five-acre parcel, currently with parking lots and a nonprofit's rented arts center space, and construct a mixed-use redevelopment project with 273 apartments and approximately 17,000 square feet of retail space; a 16,265-square foot Arts Center; and a 726-space parking garage.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THRU AUG. 4

**LuminoCity Festival.** At Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. The festival will run daily, Monday to Thursday, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Friday to Sunday from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission tickets are available for purchase online at [luminocityfestival.com](http://luminocityfestival.com) or onsite. Ticket pricing ranges from \$16 to \$20 per person. Admissions for children 3 and under are free.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Dino Safari and Ice Age Adventure:** Two exhibition areas where visitors will explore 70+ life-sized animated dinosaurs and immersive ice age animals lighting sculptures
- ❖ **Interactive Recreation Zone:** Attractions such as a Dino Bounce Castle, Dino Speedway, T-Rex Thrill, Jungle Explorer Playground, Dino Carousel and Oviraptor Ride
- ❖ **Educational Experiences:** Participate in a Safari Dig and Dino Fossil Hunt to uncover hidden gems and excavate fossils from the prehistoric era
- ❖ **Lumi Giftshop:** Shop for dino-themed toys, gifts, and Lumi souvenirs
- ❖ **Food & Relaxation Zone:** Food trucks and restroom facilities, are convenient and easy to grab a bite and unwind after the prehistoric adventure

## JULY 5 - AUGUST 2024

### Family Friendly Theatre at Tysons Corner Center

The Plaza, Traveling Players Ensemble - Level 1

Join Traveling Players for family-friendly theatre in-studio and on the Plaza! Titles include: Hamlet, Improv Comedy Show, Learned Ladies, Orpheus & Eurydice and A Midsummer Night's Dream. In case of rain, performances will be moved inside Traveling Players Studio, located inside on the first floor.

Plaza Performances:

- July 31:
  - ❖ 7 p.m. - Hamlet
- In Traveling Players Studio:
  - ❖ July 5 - 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice
  - July 26-
    - ❖ 1 p.m. - Improv Comedy Show
    - ❖ 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice

## 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>

### 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: 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



**LEGO DREAMZZZ Playground will be an attraction at Springfield Town Center from July 12 to Aug. 2, 2024.**

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.

## NOW THRU AUG. 11

**WMAI Inaugural Exhibition.** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Serving Together, Creating Together is an Inaugural Exhibition of art by participants in the Workhouse Military in The Arts Initiative (WMAI). Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/serving-together>

## 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 4-6:30 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!

## FCPA'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES Fairfax County Park Authority's

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 CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night through Aug. 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.

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

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

### KIDZ KORNER EVENTS IN FAIRFAX CITY

**FUNDAY MONDAY:** Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. For more information: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

July 22 – Miss Mollies' Musical Fun  
July 29 – My Gym "Olympics" theme  
Aug. 12 – Music Together Sing and Groove

Aug. 19 – Drew Blue Shoes Magic!  
Aug. 26 – Storytime with Fairfax Library: "Ice Cream" theme

**KIDZ KORNER:** Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:15 am at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, Fairfax. <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

July 30 – Mad Science of DC: "Up Up and Away"

Aug. 3 – My Gym "Olympics" Theme  
Aug. 10 – Superhero Training with "The Hulk"

Aug. 17 – Children's Music with Marsha (of Marsha and the Positrons)

### TYSONS CORNER CENTER EVENTS

❖ **Farm Harvest Fridays**  
Every Friday at 2 p.m. – 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

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Miss Mollies' Musical Fun can be seen on Monday, July 22, 2024 at Kidz Korner Events in Fairfax City.

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, July 21, 4 p.m. The Billy Coulter Trio  
Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. Justin Trawick

## JULY 12 TO AUG. 2

**LEGO DREAMZzz Playground.** At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. LEGO DREAMZzz activities Include:

Search MINIWORLD for the dream clouds to crack Mr. Oz's secret code  
Dream up your own animal/vehicle mash-up and test it out on giant ramps

Meet & Greet Izzie & Z-Blob  
Play Dream Team Bingo and collect your dream team and then take on the timed challenge to create a Memory Protector  
Experience the LEGO DREAMZzz 4D movie

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

**CRASE & Stop the Bleed.** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. At Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd; Chantilly. The training will start off with a presentation on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE). This course equips you with strategies and guidance for surviving active shooter/active aggressor events and other critical incidents. This lecture will educate participants on attackers, past events, disaster response, and how to prepare for and respond when trapped in a building during an active violence event. Please be aware that certain content may be upsetting. The second portion of the seminar will be a course on Stop the Bleed which teaches participants the lifesaving skills

needed to prevent the number 1 cause of death after an injury: bleeding. Register here: <https://bit.ly/45K9dmM>

## JULY 18-28

**The Logan Festival of Solo Performance.** At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. This innovative festival will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The 2024 festival will feature three dynamic productions:

### Fly Me to the Sun

Written and Performed by Brian Quijada

Directed by Raymond O. Caldwell  
Following a tragedy in El Salvador, Abuela Julia moves in with her family in a Chicago suburb. Her grandson, BQ, learns about America through his grandmother's eyes while also teaching her to enjoy simple pleasures. Told in the style of a late-night talk show with Julia as a special guest (in the form of a puppet), Quijada weaves a beautiful story about the moments that move us and what calls us home.

### Too Fat for China

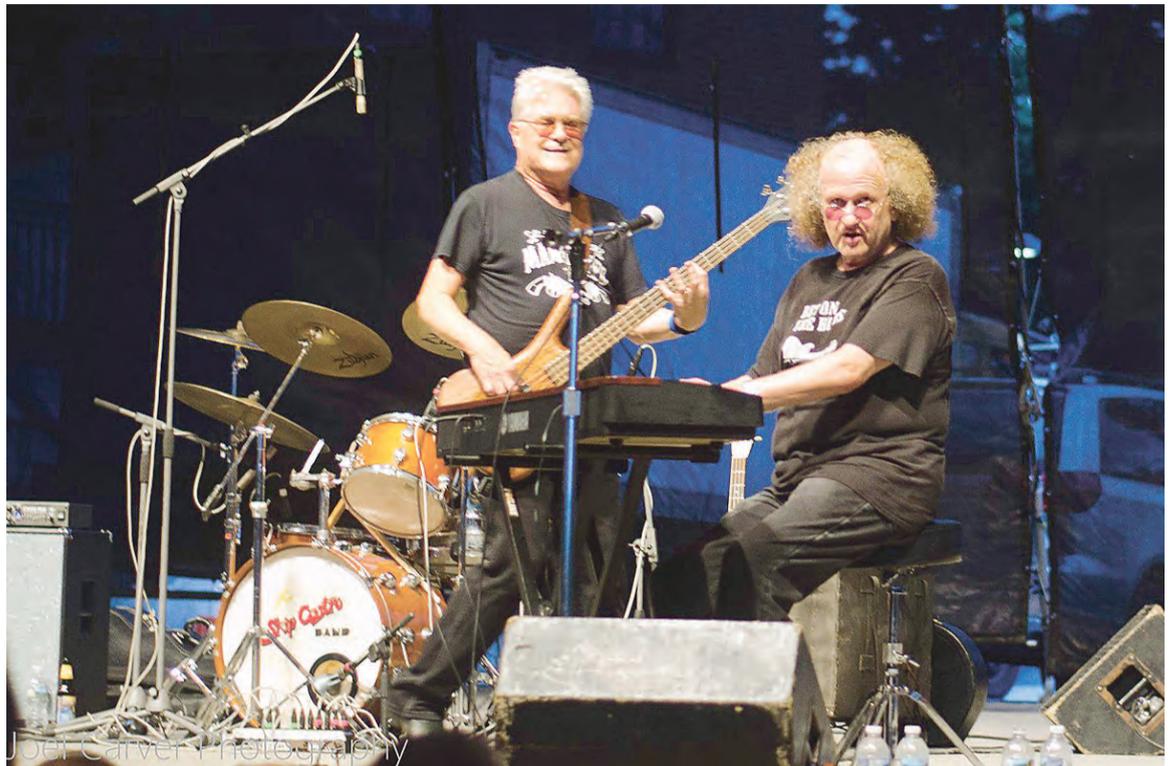
Written and Performed by Phoebe Potts

The story follows Phoebe Potts, a self-described comic storyteller and professional Jew, as she tries, fails and eventually succeeds to adopt a baby. After a US adoption goes horribly wrong, Potts finds herself surprised, disgusted and ultimately resigned to the role she plays as a middle-class white lady in the business of adopting babies in the US and internationally. Potts' tragi-comic journey is about looking for more— more love, more life and more family and will do anything to get it, including having her morals and values fold in on themselves.

### GUAC

Written and Performed by Manuel Oliver

Co-Written by James Clements  
Directed by Michael Cotey  
What do you do when you lose a son? Take it from Manuel Oliver, the father of Parkland shooting victim



The Skip Castro Band will play at the Free Concerts at Burke Lake Park on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Joaquin Oliver, you have to do what you do best. Fearless, funny, and pulling zero punches, GUAC is a one-man tour-de-force theatrical experience about a father turned activist, his undying love for his son, and the story of an immigrant family in search of the American Dream only instead to be confronted by a uniquely American Nightmare.

The Logan Festival of Solo Performance will run July 18-28 with performances of each show as follows:

Fly Me to the Sun: Thursday, July 18 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 20 at 8pm, Sunday, July 21 at 8:00pm, Tuesday, July 23 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 5pm, Sunday, July 28 at 8:00pm

Too Fat for China: Friday, July 19 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 20 at 2pm, Sunday, July 21 at 2pm, Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 8pm, Sunday, July 28 at 2pm

GUAC: Saturday, July 20 at 5pm, Sunday, July 21 at 5pm, Thursday, July 25 at 7:30pm, Friday, July 26 at 7:30pm, Saturday, July 27 at 2pm, Sunday, July 28 at 5pm

Please email the box office at [boxoffice@1ststage.org](mailto:boxoffice@1ststage.org) for reservations. General admission tickets are \$20 per show and \$10 per show for Students with valid ID. Individual tickets can be purchased online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

## 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.

## SATURDAY/JULY 20

### Community Pool Party. 4 p.m.

At Lake Newport Pool, Reston. Reston Association will honor the 60th anniversary year of Reston's founding with a community pool party, cookout and celebration. The event is free for all RA members and recreation passholders. This 60th anniversary celebration will include music, a cookout with complimentary food and non-alcoholic drinks, pool games, raffle prizes and more. Residents are also encouraged to share their memories and photos from 60 years of Reston with a large "memory wall" that's aimed to evoke shared stories and experiences in the community over the years. Admission for non-members/non-passholders is \$20 for children and \$30 for adults. Everyone interested in attending is asked to register online at [www.reston.org/events](http://www.reston.org/events).

## JULY 20-28

### Vienna Youth Players Presents

"Newsies." 7 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. The newsboy strike of 1899 is at the heart of Vienna Youth Players summer production, "Newsies." This classic Disney tale, based on true events, traces its roots back to the time when newsies – boys and girls who sold newspapers on the street – went up against two newspaper publishers, Joseph Pulitzer of the New York World, and William Randolph Hearst of the New York Journal, to fight for the chance to earn a livable wage. "Newsies" takes this real-life event to the stage with an explosion of energetic music and dance. Tickets are \$18 each and can be purchased in advance online, [www.viennava.gov/webtrac](http://www.viennava.gov/webtrac), or at the Vienna Community Center at the door before showtime, if still available. Shows run on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. July

20-27. Matinee performances are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. July 21 and 28. Visit [www.viennava.gov/theatre](http://www.viennava.gov/theatre).

## FREE SCHOOL ENTRY PHYSICALS AND VACCINES

Fairfax County Public Schools announced that the Inova Cares Clinic (ICC) offers free school entry physicals and vaccines during Back to School Pediatric Health Fairs. This is for Medicaid-eligible or uninsured children five and older and 7th and 12th graders who require vaccines. Attend the clinics on July 20 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) at Herndon Inova Cares Clinic for Families, 600 Herndon Pkwy., (703) 464-6094, and August 17 at ICC-Children-Falls Church. Visits to ICC are by appointment only. Book your appointment at 703-698-2550.

## SUNDAY/JULY 21

**Parkemon is Back.** 1-4 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Here's how it works: there will be 12-14 posters of four different Parkemon set up around the park. Players will have to "capture" the Parkemon by taking a selfie with each character. They will then take the selfies to the Parkemon Pond Pavilion, where they can spin to win a prize. If you're out roaming the ECLP trails during ParkemonTM, or anytime, please consider supporting the park and all it provides the community.

## SUNDAY/JULY 21

**N Gauge Model Trains on Display.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge model trains will be on display and running. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and Military (active and retired), \$4. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), Facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425.9225.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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**After**

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**OPINION**

**Air Quality**

FROM PAGE 4  
the region have declined by more than 50% while the regional economy has continued to grow.

However, Governor Youngkin announced from the start of his term that he wanted Virginia out of the interstate compact and he attempted to pull Virginia out in 2023. He was immediately sued and the legality of his action is currently pending in court. In the end-of-session budget negotiations, funding to force the Governor to follow the law and follow RGGI was removed as part of the compromise with the Governor that eventually led to passage of our biennial budget.

At the same time, the Governor vetoed my bill SB279, which would have created a Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank that would allow Virginia access over \$350 billion of low interest federal loans to finance public and private clean energy projects, investments in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and similar efforts. The bill had passed both houses with bipartisan majorities.

The Governor also vetoed my SB329, another measure designed to reduce greenhouse gases by promoting composting as a way to reduce methane consistent with Governor Youngkin's composting executive order. That bill passed the Senate 21-19 and the House 84-13.

Virginia still has the ability to move forward on reducing greenhouse gases. The General Assembly is taking action in other ways.

The budget we passed includes \$100 million to take on the kinds of projects that were previously funded by RGGI such as \$231 million to promote environmental management on farms and \$400 million for bonds to upgrade local sewer treatment facilities.

In addition, several of my bills promoting alternative energy were passed into law and signed by the Governor. SB508 will make it easier for Virginia consumers to receive payments from Virginia utilities when they install and use geothermal heating and cooling systems. For energy consumers who want to take advantage of solar power but cannot install a rooftop solar panel, my SB 253 and 255 will make it easier to participate in a "shared solar" program—receiving a credit on their electric bill for an off-site solar generation facility.

The members of the General Assembly will continue to work to bring Virginia back into RGGI. That may take another legislative session or another Governor, but we are not walking away from our efforts to address this critical priority for all Virginians. Please email me at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org) if you have any feedback.

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

## 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>

## JULY 25 TO JULY 31

**Fairfax City Shop Local Week.** Participating small businesses will welcome customers to experience, discover and enjoy their offerings with a variety of themed celebrations.

Community Cares Thursday will see retailers partnering with local charities to give back to the community.

Friday Social promises a lively shopping atmosphere with sip and shop events.

Sidewalk Sales on Saturday and Sunday bring the excitement outdoors with sidewalk sales throughout the city.

Discovery Day Monday invites customers to meet the makers, enjoy trunk shows, and experience pop-ups in different stores.

Treat Yourself Tuesday focuses on pampering customers with products and services designed to boost happiness and well-being.

Wellness Wednesday will highlight "Good for You" offerings, encouraging healthy practices and products.

Participants include Mode on Main by Mara, Omni Wellness & Performance, eXurb Fitness, Heart N Soul Yoga Studio, Smiley Skin Beauty, Fairfax Surf Shop, Lucy Loves, Paradise Games and Gifts, Perfect Mistakes, Romp n' Roll, Down the Line Sports Center, Brooke's Bridal & Balland Brooke's Bridal & Beyond.

## JULY 27 TO OCT. 20

**Annual Clay International.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. View 48 unique ceramic works that incorporate contemporary spirit and technical skill in the material. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/clay-international-2024>

## SATURDAY/JULY 27

**Designing American Living.** 4-5:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House provide a unique opportunity to put two American styles of architecture – separated by over a century – in conversation with one another. Take a close look at both houses to examine what it was that the architects who built these homes were trying to convey about the people who lived here, the period they lived in, and what they thought the future held.

## SUNDAY/JULY 28

**G-Scale Train Display.** 12-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will have a G-Scale train display running. The sheer size of these trains is a wonder to behold as their ability to run through the garden all year round. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors and Military (active and retired) \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.Facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

## AUG. 1-4

**4-H Fair and Carnival.** At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Check out livestock displays and 4-H exhibits, treat yourself to classic fair food, enjoy live entertainment, tractor demos, carnival rides and get up close and personal with adorable farm animals. For a special Friday night out, visit the Big Truck Night on Aug. 2.

## Carnival Hours

Thursday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to

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The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers will appear on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

8 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Big Truck Night from 5 to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 3, the Carnival is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Do you want the best deals on tickets for carnival rides? Purchase Unlimited Ride Wristbands for Thursday and Friday only. If purchased in advance online, wristbands are \$20 per person. Onsite wristbands are available for purchase at \$25 per person between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can purchase regular ride tickets on site after 3 p.m. Wristbands are for one day only.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK SALE

At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 Saint Germain Dr., Centreville.

Friday, Aug. 2, 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 3, 10-5 p.m.  
Sunday, Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m.  
Bag sale on Sunday. Fill a grocery bag with books for just \$10.

Sponsored by Friends of the Centreville Regional Library.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 3

**Summer Open House.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Featuring free self-guided tours of both Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, bring your family and friends to learn more about this unique local historic site and enjoy 127 acres of outdoor space.

## 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. Visit [marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789](http://marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789).

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

## SUNDAY, SEPT 15

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel.** 7 p.m. Music of Joy and Peace. At GMU's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Dr., Fairfax. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**Reston Multicultural Festival.** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston.

The annual Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates our rich diversity through song, dance, food and art. Learn about our mosaic of cultures as the community gathers for a delightful day in Reston Town Center. If you are interested in being part of the entertainment or storytelling, or craft vendors (quality product representing a culture) application forms will be on the website. All are encouraged to dress in attire that shares their pride in their cultural roots. Visit <https://restoncommunity-center.com/>

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

**Arts by George!** 5 p.m. At GMU's Fairfax Campus, Fairfax. The annual ARTS by George! benefit, presented by George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), returns in 2024 with multiple award-winning actress and singer Lea Salonga as the headliner. The philanthropic event raises vital support for student scholarships in visual arts, dance, music, theater, game design, film, and arts management, as well as for the Mason Community Arts Academy, Green Machine Ensembles, and the Great Performances at Mason season at the Center for the Arts. Visit <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

## SUNDAY/OCT. 13

**Paws in the Park.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria.

Place your business in front of thousands of pet lovers this fall, all while supporting our mission to help Alexandria's animals. They are looking for sponsors and vendors for our annual Paws in the Park event on October 13th in Old Town Alexandria. The free event features entertainment and music, food and drink, kids' activities, silent auction, and so much more.

## NOV. 8-9

**"Beauty and the Beast."** At 7 p.m. at Ernst Theatre in Annandale. Oakcrest School will stage Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." Through the enchanted story of a beloved classic fairytale set in a "poor provincial town," Belle encounters a young prince trapped under a spell that can only be broken by the power of love. Learn more at [Oakcrest.org](http://Oakcrest.org).

## Cyber Space – Between My Ears



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't quite know how to describe my relationship with the Internet: Friend or foe. On the one hand, whomever is in charge can sometimes offer unsolicited help, that's quite timely: Burial insurance, (let's be honest, I do have cancer) is a recent example of a recent sender from which I've been contacted many times; other emails, however, are completely off base and of no particular interest to me. Cooking recipes – from multiple entities, is an example of a regular sender. Why? I don't cook. I re-heat and I certainly don't ever follow a recipe. If I did follow a recipe, it would be a recipe for disaster. I don't think I'd burn the kitchen/house down, but there would be damage of some kind. In baseball, the catcher's equipment is referred to as the "tools of ignorance." Given my interest level and capability in the kitchen, pots and pans are my 'tools of ignorance.'

Moreover, to invoke a quote from M\*A\*S\*H, specifically, "Hawkeye:" "The instrument has yet to be invented to measure my indifference ..." to cooking (he was responding to a remark made by Major Burns). Receiving regular emails on the subject is a 100% complete waste of the time it takes for me to delete it from my inbox. Though it's clear what the email is about when I see it listed in my inbox, its arrival irritates me, nonetheless. This is the one instance where I will say "Why me?" There is no rhyme or reason for a cooking outreach to land anywhere near my inbox. Granted, I know there's not really a sender on the other end, so there's no one to blame per se, only an entity. Ergo, my displeasure, compounded.

Receiving these unwanted emails is akin to a death from 1,000 cuts: slow and painful. In this context however, it's acquiescence from 1,000 emails. After receiving so many emails and doing so little with them for so long and knowing of no way to stop them, eventually your curiosity - morbid curiosity in this instance, gets the best of you; soon there's a click with your mouse or a tap on your keyboard and then you're in a world of someone, or something else's making. And with respect to the computer, that's not where I want to be. I want to be in my world, one of my choosing. I don't want to be led down a garden path by a computer. Any more than I want to learn how to make flowerless chocolate cake.

Most mornings, after I turn on the computer, "there it is," or I should say, there they are: "Burial insurance" and "Command" or "Heartland Cooking." One email I have zero interest in opening, another I have a grudging interest in. One is semi on target, given my current medical reality and the other is nowhere near the target. How can an entity (and here comes my 'displeasure,') hit and miss on the same person? I mean, if they found out enough to get a hit: (burial insurance), how could they be so clueless about the cooking?

I know why. There isn't anybody at home on the Internet. They're all in cyber space, not real space.

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

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