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 PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Would a Meals
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Excelling
 In Rowing
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Excelling
 In Fly Fishing
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Women's Equality Day

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Katie Crooks, Director of Museum and Visitor Experience, reads a portion of President Biden's proclamation honoring Women's Equality Day.





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FOR SALE!

***OPEN HOUSE*
Sunday 1-3pm**

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6192 Hardy Drive, McLean
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SOLD!

**6025 Woodland Terrace
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\$2,350,000**

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

SOLD!

**311 Wrens Way
Falls Church City, 22046
\$1,080,000**

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!

Preparing For Another Tough Budget Season

Could data centers, meals tax, or Tysons casino help out?

On Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m. a Full Board of Supervisors Meeting is scheduled, including a public hearing on the proposed data center zoning amendment, meant to strengthen the current provisions for data centers.

A week later, on Sept. 17, the board will hear a staff report by the County Executive on a proposed meals tax. The board will not need a public vote for approval. The Virginia General Assembly passed I§ 58.1-3833 County food and beverage tax in 2020. It allows counties to implement a meals tax of up to 6 percent without a referendum. Many jurisdictions in Northern Virginia have a meals tax, including Town of Herndon and Town of Vienna, cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, and Prince William and Arlington have a meals tax.

In the meantime, Senate Bill 625, the ‘Tysons Casino Bill’ introduced by Sen. Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax), is held over to 2025, which is sooner than we think. Could these three measures create a much-needed revenue stream for Fairfax County?

County supervisors are aware of the “projected shortfall based on identified county needs and equal schools growth” of \$363.63 million for FY 2026. This was forecast at the Nov. 28, 2023 Budget Policy Committee Meeting and stated in the Multi-Year Budget – FY 2025 and FY 2026.

“Disbursement requirements continue to increase because of the factors that drive expenses in the County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) budgets, such as employee compensation increases, student demographic changes, maintaining current service levels, and the need to address the priorities in the community. Thus, it is not anticipated that projected revenues in FY 2026 will be sufficient to cover expected spending increases,” the multi-year budget document states. “Balancing the FY 2026 budget will require difficult decisions regarding which priorities to fund, which to exclude or delay, and whether programmatic reductions should be made in other areas or revenue enhancements should be considered.”

Zoning Ordinance Amendment

On Sept. 10, the Board will consider “to amend the Zoning Ordinance to strengthen the current provisions for data centers while recognizing that data centers provide an economic benefit to the County,” according to the Joint Board Matter with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Andres Jimenes, by Kathy L. Smith, Sully District dated March 19, 2024 .

The Sept. 10 meeting’s online Draft Agenda, reports that the data center public hearing is the final of 12 public hearings that day and is scheduled at 4:30 p.m. County staff will provide a presentation on the proposed

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Data centers could provide an economic benefit to the county.



The possibility of meals tax looms in Fairfax County.

data center amendment.

A regulatory oversight led to the 12 public hearings on Sept. 10. Public hearings held during the July 16 meeting, including the one on data centers, are scheduled to be re-heard on Sept. 10. The oversight also postponed all public hearings scheduled for the July 30 Board of Supervisors meeting. Those hearings are also rescheduled to Sept. 10.

According to a spokesperson for Fairfax County, the new public hearing advertisement requirements effective July 1 is Sect. 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia. It includes the requirements for the advertisement of plans, ordinances, etc. § 15.2-2204. Advertisement of plans, ordinances, etc.; joint public hearings; written notice of certain amendments (virginia.gov). Two notices are required, the first being no more than 28 days before and the second no less than seven days before the date of the meeting.

As for the testimony process, any testimony

provided on July 16 will be included in the record for the Board’s consideration, but all persons are invited to testify on Sept. 10 if they wish. Members of the public who testified at any of the four public hearings on July 16, can add themselves to the Speakers List for that Public Hearing on Sept. 10; re-submit their previous written testimony and modify the date to Sept. 10, or present new written testimony.

Instead of appearing in person at the Sept. 10 hearing, they can submit a YouTube video to be shown at the meeting, either using the July 16 YouTube video of themselves testifying, if accessible, or a different YouTube video.

On Sept. 17, the board will hear a report with all options for revenue diversification, including a possible meals tax. The county executive will present his report during the Board of Supervisors Budget Policy Committee at 3 p.m.

According to state code, not only will the tax be on food and beverages sold for human consumption, by a restaurant, the term “beverage” means alcoholic beverages as defined in § 4.1-100 and nonalcoholic beverages served as part of a meal. Grocery stores and convenience stores selling prepared foods ready for human consumption at a delicatessen counter will also be subject to the tax.

Advocacy groups, including No Food Tax are urging voters to tell their supervisors to vote no on the meals tax. This is not the first time the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is seeking to introduce a meals tax. They did so in 2014 and again in 2016.

During the Nov. 28, 2023 Budget Policy Committee Meeting, School Board Member Ricardy Anderson said Richmond is not fully funding Fairfax County Public Schools according to a report by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC). Instead the burden to do so comes from local dollars, mostly the residential real estate

tax. Anderson said she wanted to discuss the option of a meals tax.

“We do know as of that time, almost every jurisdiction had either 2.5 percent all the way up to 10 percent in DC, which is a meals tax. We can’t continue to fund our schools on the back of our homeowners. So I would definitely appreciate in earnest return to that conversation,” Anderson said.

The third item is Senate Bill 675, introduced by Marsden. At the Feb. 1 meeting of the Virginia Senate Subcommittee on Resources, Marsden said a casino would help Fairfax County’s loss of revenue from its Tysons commercial real estate, given the high number of vacancies.

Marden identified Comstock Holding Companies as the developer who seeks to build a resort-style casino with a hotel and entertainment complex in Tysons on land it owns near the Metro Silver Line station.

Should the Virginia legislature approve SB-675 and the bill be enacted, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would have the authority to place a referendum on future ballots, granting voters the authority to decide whether to go forward with a casino in Tysons.

The Virginia Senate Subcommittee on Resources voted 4-0 during the 2024 legislative session on Feb. 1 to “hold over” the bill to the 2025 General Assembly session for reconsideration after more study. The state’s Joint Legislative and Audit Review Commission (JLARC) completed a casino study in 2019. Sen. Creigh Deeds, who questioned the viability of a casino in Fairfax County, urged the completion of an updated JLARC review before a public referendum.

The Senators heard testimony against a casino from elected Fairfax County and local officials. Supervisor Walter Alcorn said approximately one-third of the locations in SB 675 could be in the Hunter Mill district. He opposed a casino there. Linda Colbert, mayor of the Town of Vienna, testified that the town had been a part of the Tysons Comp Plan and strategic plan, and a casino was never mentioned. She said, “Town of Vienna residents are just really, really strongly against this.”

Board Chair Jeff McKay (D-At-Large) sent a letter to the general assembly saying that the county had not been “substantively involved in the development of the casino concept envisioned by stakeholders and the patron of the legislation.”

The Town of Vienna issued a statement saying that a casino anywhere “would hurt the county’s economic bottom line, harm local businesses, increase gridlock and public safety problems, lower property values, and encourage risky behaviors, while forever changing the character of our community.”

The NO Casino Coalition continues circulating its petition, urging the public to let Fairfax County Board Supervisors know it opposes a casino referendum. Its partner organizations include the Great Falls Citizens Association, Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition, McLean Citizens Association, Reston Citizens Association, Town of Vienna (Council), and Sully District Council of Civic Associations (issued with Western Fairfax).

Celebration of Women's Equality Day 2024

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Workhouse Arts Center marks suffrage anniversary.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Women's Equality Day, celebrated every year, officially on Aug. 26, marks the granting of women's right to vote, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution by the 19th Amendment in 1920. The Amendment prohibits states from depriving citizens of the United States of the right to vote based on gender. The 2024 theme for the Day, "Equality Starts with Empowered Women," highlights the importance of fostering wellbeing and resilience of women in the workplace and society.

The importance of women's equality in the vote and politics is particularly poignant this year as the first Black and Asian American female, Kamala Harris, is the Democratic nominee for United States President. Her nomination came just days before the historic 19th Amendment commemoration day.

The Workhouse played a significant role in the women's suffrage story, where over 70 of the suffragists who picketed the White House were incarcerated. The Workhouse Arts Center marked the 1920 date in history, when most women won the vote, with two related events: a Learning at Lunch lecture, titled Suffragists UNcarcerated; and a Women's Equality Day Celebration on the Center's tented quad, Rizer Pavilion.

While several suffragists famously were jailed for picketing in front of the White House, many other high profile socialite suffragists escaped incarceration. Author and lecturer Kenena Spalding, shared historic photos and stories of principal women in the suffrage movement, in the first in a series of new lunchtime lectures hosted by the Workhouse. For upcoming events, see <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar>.

The Women's Equality Day festival held on Aug. 24, featured performances, readings, information tables and crafts. Capital Harmonia, a women's singing group formed in 2013, performs in support of women's causes. The group sang selections by female composers with themes of sisterhood.

Sonia Monson's belly dance group per-



Volunteers Nicole Mastin and Isabelle Shontz, juniors at Forest Park High School, lead participants in making paper roses, symbolic of the yellow roses worn by women to show support for the suffrage movement



Abby Mundt of Springfield shows off her yellow rose construction and Women's Vote temporary tattoo

formed several styles of belly dance. The dance study seeks to help women find mental and physical health through movement, part of the physical exercise class offerings at the Art of Movement at the Workhouse. (<https://www.workhousearts.org/art-of-movement>)

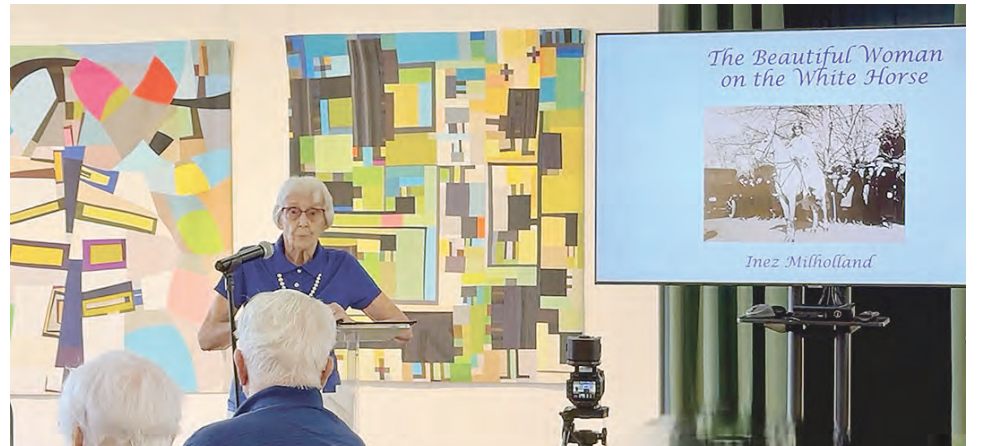
Sherri Waas Shunfenthal, a poet, read her poetry and shared stories of inspirational women of her acquaintance. Volunteers led rose construction and suffrage tattoo crafts. Nancy Rodriguez, of Cup & Crown



Sonia Monson's dance class performs belly dances with styles from several countries.



Katie Crooks, Director of Museum and Visitor Experience, reads a portion of President Biden's proclamation honoring Women's Equality Day



Local historian and author Kenena Spalding presents a Learning at Lunch lecture detailing women's actions in the suffragist movement using historic photographs and stories

(<https://www.cupandcrown.com>) offered an opportunity to create a custom tea mix, a nod to the part afternoon teas played in the suffrage movement.

Eleanor Gomolinski-Allu, formerly a long-time docent at the Lucy Burns Museum,

with friends Patty Marceron, Peggy Woods and Cynthia Cope agreed they came in recognition of the 'fellowship of women' and are eager to exercise their right to vote this year, "for the right person, who happens to be female."



Eleanor Gomolinski-Allu, formerly a long-time docent at the Lucy Burns Museum, with her friends Patty Marceron, Peggy Woods, and Cynthia Cope.



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Fri. Sept 6th at the Electric Palm Restaurant 12745 Sea Ray Ln
Woodbridge, VA 22192

8 pm to 12 am.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Proposed Limited Access Control Change
I-95/I-495 On-Ramp at
South Van Dorn Street
Fairfax County**

Willingness for Public Comment

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) invites you to review information about a proposed change in limited access control on the I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) ramp from northbound South Van Dorn Street (Route 613) to northbound I-95/eastbound I-495.

The purpose of this requested change in the limited access line is to include the existing on-ramp built in 1997 within the limited access. This project will involve changes in limited access control.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) was prepared under an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed change on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also included in the PCE.

Materials are available for review online at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/VanDorn> or by contacting the VDOT Project Manager, Ms. Tienjung "Tina" Ho, P.E. at 703-259-2752 or TTY/TDD 711 to review the materials.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access change at a future meeting.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Ms. Tienjung "Tina" Ho, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **September 6, 2024**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE



PHOTOS LUSK REPORT 8.23.24

The U.S. won the bronze medal in the men's eights final in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Franconia resident, Christian Tabash is in the back row, far right. Tabash will be congratulated in person at a future Board of Supervisors meeting, said Supervisor Rodney Lusk (Franconia).



Making his debut at the Olympics, Christian Tabash, a Franconia resident, wins bronze in the men's eights final at the 2024 Paris Olympics.



Franconia Residents Win Medals

Ethan Doell, a Franconia resident, won gold at the Youth/Veteran Pan American Games in the Men's Pre-Cadet Foil.

— MERCIA HOBSON
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Auction: The necklace's medallion is a hand-crafted wood and resin bead strung on a guitar string. The silver magnetic clasp is simple to use, and the necklace's 16" length falls perfectly at the collarbone. Created and donated by Sandy Buffie.



SCREENSHOTS GREAT FALLS STUDIOS

Auction: The oil painting "Coastal Sunset" portrays a serene evening in the low country on Kiawah Island, South Carolina. It measures 12" x 9" and is presented on a canvas board, framed, and ready to be hung. Painted and donated by Tom Tucker.

Great Falls Studios Holds Online Art Auction This Week

Funds raised support Studio Tour 2024.

Great Falls Studios is hosting its inaugural online art auction. The bidding starts on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 6 p.m. and ends on Saturday, Aug. 31, at 7 p.m. Twenty artists contributed various works, including paintings, photography, jewelry, pottery, apparel and services. The proceeds generated from the sale of these items will be used to support the Great Falls Studios Tour 2024, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 19, and Sunday, Oct. 20, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Visit the link at https://www.32auctions.com/Greatfallsstudiotour?mc_cid=910cbf77ad&mc_eid=c636cb55d3 to view and bid on the auction items. Donations are accepted to support the tour.

Great Falls Studios is a talented group of artists specializing in various mediums, including painting, pottery, photography, jewelry making, fiber art, sculpture, and more. For the past twenty years, Great Falls Studios has hosted the annual tour, inviting the community to visit the artists' studios. This event attracts hundreds of people each fall.

— MERCIA HOBSON

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Another **THE CONNECTION** Community Partnership

Taste the Flavors of the World

Fairfax City Summer Restaurant Week is Sept. 2-8.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A taste of the world is offered to all in Fairfax City – and especially during its upcoming Summer Restaurant Week. Running from Sept. 2-8, this event will highlight the diversity of the City's restaurants by featuring delicacies and delights from around the globe.

Fairfax City Restaurant Week gives diners the opportunity to experience flavors from Azerbaijan to the Caribbean, China, India, Italy, Ireland, Korea, Peru and other far-flung places. Whether people have a hankering for Gnocchi Marinara, lobster, Tandoori Chicken, fish and chips, pizza, Asian noodle dishes, or shrimp and grits from the American South, they'll find all these dishes and more in the City's restaurants.

At least 30 City restaurants will participate, offering prix fixe menus at set prices of \$25 for brunch or lunch and \$40 for a three-course prix fixe dinner. Some specialty restaurants and food purveyors, such as ViVi Bubble Tea, will also offer two-for-\$10 deals.

"Restaurant Week here in Fairfax City continues to grow and become even more inclusive of the local eateries that make our community so unique," said Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read. "From the fine-dining experience to pizza by the

slice, we have something for everyone to try. There is a dish for every palate and an experience for every budget."

Although Fairfax City has held seven winter restaurant weeks, this is just its third year to offer a summer version. And with such a wide variety of both American and international cuisines, the local restaurateurs are eager to share their offerings with visitors and residents alike.

Restaurants participating in this always highly anticipated event include 54 Restaurant Bar & Lounge, Baku Delicious, Bellissimo Restaurant, Commonwealth Brewing Co., Curry Mantra, Dolce Vita Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar, Draper's Steak & Seafood, Earp's Ordinary, El Pollo Rico, Hamrock's Restaurant, Jas & Fam Caribbean Flavor, Kelly's Oyster House & Bar, and Lil Italian Pizza.

Also taking part will be Mama Chang, Mackenzie's Tunes & Tonics, Meokja Meokja, Ned's New England Deck, Okonomi Asian Grill, Old Dominion Pizza, ONE Bar & Grill, Ormery Beer Co., Patriots Pub & Grill, P.J. Skidoos, Sichuan Legend Hotpot and Chinese Food, The Auld Shebeen, The Commons Fooderie, The Wine House, and ViVi Bubble Tea Fairfax.

"Fairfax City Restaurant Week has been so successful, thanks to the hard work of so many – including co-sponsors Fairfax City Economic Development, Old Town Fairfax Business Assn.

and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce," said Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "This event has grown considerably and has established Fairfax City as a premier dining destination, while showcasing the community and its quality restaurateurs."

A few examples of the dinner entrees in store for customers are:

Bellissimo Restaurant

Fish of the Day; Spicy Sea Scallops & Shrimp – over linguine and herb marinara; Crabmeat Ravioli - spinach pasta stuffed with crabmeat in lobster cream sauce and garnished with black tiger shrimp; Veal Porcini - Scalloppine of Veal sauteed with porcini mushrooms, brandy and a touch of cream; Lamb Shank Milanese over pappardelle pasta; Gnocchi Marinara - potato dumplings tossed in a light, herb marinara sauce; Agnolotti Amore - homemade egg pasta stuffed with goat cheese and spinach in goat cheese cream sauce; and Chicken Marsala sauteed with portobello mushrooms in marsala demiglace.

Kelly's Oyster House

Chesapeake Crab Cakes – Old Bay Remoulade, asparagus, tomatoes, cucumbers and au gratin potato cake; New York strip steak – au gratin potatoes, roasted vegetables and red wine sauce; Shrimp and Grits – sauteed shrimp with Andouille sausage, Cajun cream sauce and cheddar cheese grits; penne pasta with sauteed



Baku Delicious features desserts including Azerbaijani Pakhlava (similar to baklava), Shekarbura (sweet pastry) and Shorgoghla (sweet/savory pastry).



Curry Mantra's samosas stuffed with curried peas and herbs, plus a dish of Tandoori Chicken.



Ned's New England Deck offers fresh lobster rolls, as well as North Shore Beef Sandwiches with shaved roast beef.



Offerings at P.J. Skidoos include panko-fried fish tacos with avocado, pico de gallo, cabbage and chipotle aioli.



Korean Barbecue being prepared at Meokja Meokja.



Bread pudding and Irish Coffee at The Auld Shebeen.

shrimp and Italian sausage in tomato-cream sauce with basil; seafood linguine pasta – with shrimp, mussels, calamari, tomatoes and white-wine garlic-butter sauce; Hawaiian chicken over stir-fried rice – pineapple salsa, broccoli, asparagus and Hoisin barbecue glaze; and sauteed

rainbow trout – orzo pasta with tomato-cream sauce and asparagus.

54 Restaurant

Soft/crispy stir-fried noodles with chicken, pork, beef or seafood; grilled beef short ribs; grilled lamb chops; Shaken Beef - stir-fried cubes

of marinated beef; and Five Spice Grilled Beef.

❖ For more information and to see the latest participating restaurants and their offerings, visit [fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com](https://www.fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com) or follow @FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek on Instagram and Facebook.

Cool Vehicles, Live Music and Fundraising

Fairfax City hosts 25th annual Labor Day Car Show.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's almost September, but summer is still in full swing in the City of Fairfax. And what better way to celebrate Labor Day than by seeing cool cars, enjoying live music and spending some time in the sunshine with family and friends?

The 25th annual Labor Day Car Show will be held there on Monday, Sept. 2, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. It happens, rain or shine, and is jointly sponsored by the City and the Clifton Lions Club. And all the proceeds go to local charities.

Cars, trucks and motorcycles will line University Drive between Armstrong Street and Sager Avenue and will also be displayed in the Trust Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. University Drive in that area will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m.-3 p.m.

The show features a wide range of vehicles, including hot rods from the 1940s and '50s, muscle cars like Mustangs, Corvettes and Ford GTs, and foreign cars such as Jaguars, Mercedes, Porsches and Bentleys. Trucks, antique cars from the 1920s and '30s, plus classic, custom and brand-new cars will be on display, as well.

Event Co-Chairmen are Lions Club Past President Bill Poole and City Councilmember Jeff Greenfield, with help from Mitzi Taylor

and Deanna Payne of the Fairfax City Parks and Rec Department, plus the entire Clifton Lions membership. Their committee works all year 'round planning the show.

For Greenfield, it's a childhood dream come to life. "I've always been a car guy – from when I had Hot Wheels and Matchbox cars as a kid – to later on when I learned they were replicas of real cars," he said. So he's pleased to help bring this car show to fruition each year because of his "continued passion for cars, combined with the chance to raise money for the charities helping people in the City and in the greater Fairfax area."

The fun includes food, music by the Eclectic Company band, vendor booths and raffles, as well as attendees judging the vehicles in a variety of categories. Even more important, though, the car show raises money for several worthy causes. Entry and parking are free, but tax-deductible donations are accepted – with proceeds mainly benefiting the Cloverleaf Equine Center (formerly called the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program; see <https://www.cloverleafequinecenter.org>) and Inova Hospital System's Life with Cancer (www.lifewithcancer.org).

People may register vehicles to participate at www.labordaycarshow.org or outside Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the day of the event, from 6 a.m.-noon. And Boy &

Girl Scout Troop 893 from Centreville will hand out programs at the show's Sager and University entrance and will also collect donations there for the Lions Club's charities.

"It's great, as the day goes on, to be able to see so many families with kids and strollers and, perhaps, even grandparents there," said Greenfield. "You hear people saying, 'I had this car when I was young,' or 'Your father had a car like this one.' And just hearing those conversations and seeing families reconnecting over the cars makes me happy."

Weather permitting, Greenfield anticipates at least 6,500 spectators at this year's event to view the nearly 350 vehicles on display. The festivities also include a special 11:30 a.m. ceremony at the fire station, featuring Fairfax City's American Legion Post 177 Color Guard, local dignitaries and the singing of the National Anthem.

Also in that area will be food and beverages for sale. Lions Club members will be grilling and selling hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage. The always popular Inside Scoop ice cream truck and Rita's Italian Ice will offer refreshing treats, and the Scouts will be selling water. In addition, Kelly's Oyster House, The Auld Shebeen, DeClieu Coffee & Sandwiches, and some other restaurants in Old Town Fairfax will be open.

Over the car show's 24-year history, it's raised more than \$700,000 for charity. This year marks the ninth time it's been held in Fairfax, and the organizers anticipate this year's event will yield another \$50,000. And

all of that money is given directly to the recipient charities, since this event has no administrative costs – everyone's a volunteer.

Besides contributing to the two primary charities, car-show proceeds will also benefit American Legion Post 177, Main Street Child Development Center, and A Place to Eat, which supports the food pantries at all four Fairfax City schools. Greenfield hopes, as well, to donate \$1,500 each to the City of Fairfax fire and police departments.

Even the funds from the Clifton Lions Club food sales that day go to the many charities the club supports. Volunteers will also collect donations at University Drive and Armstrong Street.

More than 30 trophies will be awarded to the various vehicles, with most of the winners selected by the spectators viewing them. Participants will vote on the top cars, including Best of Show. There'll also be Mayor's, Kids', Ladies' and People's Choice trophies, one each for Best Motorcycle and Best Truck, and a Buddy Morrisette Memorial Trophy. Morrisette died in December 2016, but he helped put on this show for years.

For the second year, all the voting will be done electronically. Every car will have a QR Code in its window, and people just have to scan it on their phones to vote online for their favorites. The vehicle owners come from Maryland, North Carolina, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia and beyond to show their cars to an appreciative crowd.

All in all, said Greenfield, "It's an oppor-



This Ford GT was one of the sports cars in last year's show.



Yaya Hsu poses by a 1959, pink-and-white, Ford Sunliner convertible at last year's event.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

tunity to see lots of cars – including some not made anymore. It's also great to be out in the community, enjoying the day – and it's all for a good cause."

Those unable to attend the event, but wishing to help by making a contribution may do so either

via PayPal at <https://www.labordaycarshow.org/> make-a-donation or by sending a check, payable to the Clifton Lions Club, to: Clifton Lions Club, P.O. Box 41, Clifton, VA 20124. For further information, go to www.labordaycarshow.org.

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PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

Proposed Amendments to Reston Association Design Guidelines

Reston Association seeks community input on revisions and additions to Design Guidelines.

Board of Directors Work Session
Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Avenue

Visit <https://www.reston.org/property-owner-resources> for more information on Design Guidelines.



Visit <https://bit.ly/3MiHoJc>
Scan QR code for more info.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY2026 Budget
(July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026)

McLean Community Center Governing Board
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Small District 1A-Dranesville residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. The draft budget proposal will be available on the center's website and copies can be picked up at the center's reception desk beginning on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Written comments may be delivered to the McLean Community Center (see address below) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@mcleancenter.org. Written comments may be provided after the Public Hearing through Monday, Oct. 14.



McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
mcleancenter.org

Senior Center Rallied Around Wild West Party and Herralink

Herralink connects high-school students with residents in retirement homes.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

With the demographics in the world moving towards a large senior population, Centreville resident Audrey Solano doesn't really have downtime to relax. In October 2023, she founded Herralink, a nonprofit volunteer organization that bridges the gap between generations by connecting high-school students with residents in retirement homes.

It's a big responsibility for Solano who graduated from Centreville High School in 2022.

On Aug. 15, Herralink was behind a Wild West event at Dulles Health and Rehab, working with Analucia Rojas, the director of



Herralink volunteers helping prepare for a Wild West event with donations from Wegmans, Crumbl, and Cupcake Delivers, and Fantasy Florists.

first time in many years, making the event truly special," Rojas said.

The organization's name came through a bit of thinking as well for Solano. She dug deep into her knowledge of Nordic terms. The word 'Herra' has a Nordic background for elders or seniors and 'link' because it links elders with future generations to create connections that grow to feel like family. The students who volunteer are called Herralinkers, meaning elder helpers and they receive community-service hours for school, but both sides benefit from the interaction.

"These community events are especially important to me because they serve as an opportunity to meet the Herralink family," said Mahika Banerjee. "My very first introduction to Herralink was at their 2023 Thanksgiving event, where I felt nervous and out of place. However, with the support of my fellow volunteers, I was able to talk and get to know the residents. As a result, the community events have been life-changing for me, as they served as an exploratory ground to step out of my comfort zone while being supported by students and residents who were doing the same thing," said Banerjee, a student from Thomas Jefferson High School.

activities.

"Audrey did an outstanding job planning and organizing a Wild West-themed party for our residents. The idea sparked during

one of her regular one-on-one visits with a resident, who shared her deep love for horses. Thanks to Audrey and Herralink, that resident had the chance to see a pony for the

The History of Social Security August marks the program's 89th anniversary.

Source: AARP <https://www.aarp.org/socialsecurity>

In the fabric of society, few programs have woven themselves as deeply into the American culture as Social Security. The economic devastation of the Great Depression further exposed society's vulnerabilities, with millions of older Americans in poverty and many more at risk of financial ruin. In response, in 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law to better ensure a measure of income security for older Americans in retirement.

Over the subsequent decades, it has matured into a vital source of guaranteed, inflation-adjusted income for millions of retirees who pay in and earn their Social Security through payroll taxes they and their employers contribute throughout their working lives. Social Security also enjoys widespread support across all ages and demographic groups.

Today, nearly 1.6 million Virginians receive Social Security. Most of those age 65 or older count on Social Security as their largest source of income, and about 25% of households rely on Social Security for 90% or more of their income.

With 90% of people saying Social Security is important to their retirement security, it is helpful to understand how it was created and how it has evolved over time.

Here's a timeline of significant events in the history of Social

Security:

- ❖ Aug. 14, 1935: President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

- ❖ Aug. 10, 1939: The program was broadened to include benefits for workers' dependents and survivors.

- ❖ October 1950: Congress authorized the first cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), an increase of 77 percent.

- ❖ September 1960: President Eisenhower signed a law amending the disability rules to permit payment of benefits to disabled workers of any age and to their dependents.

- ❖ June 30, 1961: All workers are now allowed to retire early at age 62, albeit at a reduced Social Security benefit. Previously, benefits could not be claimed until the normal retirement age of 65.

- ❖ Oct. 30, 1972: President Nixon signed the Social Security Amendments making the cost-of-living adjustment automatic each year.

- ❖ April 20, 1983: President Ronald Reagan signed into law sweeping changes to Social Security aimed at addressing the imminent Social Security funding gap. These included moving up scheduled increases in the payroll taxes that fund Social Security, gradually raising the normal retirement age to 67, and making 50 percent of Social Security benefits taxable for recipients with incomes above \$25,000 for an individual and \$32,000 for married couples filing

jointly.

- ❖ Aug. 10, 1993: President Bill Clinton signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, a large deficit reduction package of tax increases and spending cuts that included a provision raising the share of Social Security benefits subject to income tax from 50 percent to 85 percent for beneficiaries with incomes above \$34,000 (single) or \$44,000 (couple).

May 6, 2024: According to the Social Security Trustees report, Social Security can pay full benefits until 2035. That doesn't mean Social Security payments would end, but they would be funded only by each year's payroll tax revenue. The Trustees estimate that would cover about 83 percent of scheduled benefit payments.

The history of Social Security is a testament to the promise between the government and its citizens. From its humble beginnings during the Great Depression, Social Security has stood the test of time, having never missed a payment, providing a foundation of retirement security to generations of Americans.

The following information illustrates how important Social Security is to Virginians:

Who Receives Benefits

- ❖ Retirement benefits: The largest group of beneficiaries in Virginia are its 1,147,511 retired workers, who account for 72.4 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries in the state.

- ❖ Disability benefits: Virginia has 199,120 residents who receive Social Security disability income, representing 12.6 percent of the state's Social Security beneficiaries.

- ❖ Spousal and survivor benefits: In Virginia, 144,084 spouses, former spouses, widows, widowers, and parents of deceased beneficiaries account for 9.1 percent of the state's Social Security beneficiaries. An additional 94,479 children, representing 6 percent of the state's Social Security beneficiaries, receive benefits.

Impact

- ❖ Economic engine. Annual Social Security benefits to Virginians pump at least \$27.6 billion into the state economy, with \$21 billion paid annually to those receiving retirement benefits and their eligible family members, \$3.1 billion via survivor benefits, and an additional \$3.5 billion paid through the disability program. Recipients buy goods and services with their Social Security benefits, increasing business sales—which help the companies making those sales and the firms that supply them. The result is more jobs and income to businesses and workers in Virginia.

- ❖ Reduced poverty. Social Security lifted 333,000 Virginians 65 or older out of poverty from 2018 through 2020. In fact, 31.8 percent of the state's residents in this age group would be in poverty but for Social Security benefits; that number falls to 7.3 percent when Social Security income is included.

Nationally, the program lifted 16.1 million people 65 and older out of poverty, reducing the proportion below the poverty line from 37.8 percent to 9 percent.

Average Benefits

- ❖ Retirement benefits: The average Social Security retired worker benefit in Virginia is \$1,598 monthly (about \$19,200 annually). The national average monthly retirement benefit is \$1,544.

- ❖ Disability benefits: In Virginia, the average Social Security disabled worker benefit is \$1,291 per month (about \$15,500 annually). The national average monthly disabled worker benefit is \$1,277.

Reliance

- ❖ At least half of income. 483,567 Virginia residents, or 36 percent of individuals 65 and older, live in families that rely on the program for at least half of their income.

- ❖ More than 90% of income. 259,474 Virginia residents, or 19 percent of individuals 65 and older, live in families that rely on the program for at least 90 percent of their income.

- ❖ Black individuals rely more on Social Security income. Overall, 29 percent of Black Virginia residents 65 and older live in families that rely on Social for at least 90 percent of their income as compared with 18 percent of white residents.

For more information about the program, visit <https://www.aarp.org/socialsecurity>

OPINION

Keeping Us Safe

Year End Crime Report and Meet the Majors.

BY SUPERVISOR
DAN STORCK



Storck

Thank you to the hundreds of communities that hosted National Night Out (NNO) this year and welcomed Team MVD and our officers to come celebrate with you. NNO provides an opportunity for our police and local stations to connect and create relationships. Community safety is our top priority in Fairfax County, and we're constantly working to ensure that our neighborhoods remain some of the safest in the nation. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) recently provided these updates.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) released its Year-End Crime Report, once again naming Fairfax County the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country.

In coordination with this release, FCPD's Year-End 2023 Crime Report (https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/fcpd-county-wide-crime-summary_q4-2023.pdf) highlights several accomplishments, including a 42% decrease in motor vehicle parts thefts, a significant reduction in fatal crashes and a nearly 40% increase in traffic summonses. FCPD recovered 1,192 firearms and increased DUI arrests by 20%, all contributing to our ongoing mission to keep our community safe. Additionally in 2023, FCPD made arrests in 70% of all retail theft incidents – an incredibly high number. These efforts are continuing in 2024.

In 2016, FCPD's Diversion First program was established to offer alternatives to jail for individuals with mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorders and developmental disabilities who encounter the criminal justice system for low-level offenses. The 2023 Diversion First Annual Report (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sites/topics/files/Assets/Documents/PDF/2023-DF-Annual-Report.pdf>) discusses the work of the co-responder program, Fairfax County Mental Health Dockets and the Striving to Achieve Recovery (STAR) program, which continue to provide alternatives to arrest, combat stigma and offer paths to recovery. It was reported that over 80% of individuals

transported to the Merrifield Crisis Response Center by law enforcement in 2022 did not have a repeat visit related to criminal justice involvement within the following year, and these numbers are consistent with the previous year. And the STAR

program in the Adult Detention Center continues to have an impact on individuals focused on recovery. In July, as part of our Summer Crime Prevention Initiative, FCPD officers removed 39 impaired drivers from our roads and issued over 658 traffic charges for unsafe driving. This year, the initiative focused on reducing impaired driving and promoting safe driving behaviors across the County.

I am pleased to introduce two new leaders who will be instrumental in our ongoing community safety efforts. Major Marisa Kuhar is the new Franconia District Station Commander. With over two decades of experience in the FCPD, including roles in patrol, Youth Services, the Criminal Justice Academy, the Department of Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 Center) and the Major Crimes Bureau, Major Kuhar is eager to collaborate with the community and officers to address key concerns like traffic and theft.

Major Matthew Luik is the new Mount Vernon District Station Commander. Major Luik began his FCPD career in 2002 as a patrol officer and has since held various roles, including detective in the Organized Crime and Narcotics Division and team leader of the SWAT Team. In May, he was promoted to Major of the Criminal Investigations Division within the Major Crimes Bureau.

Please join me in welcoming Major Kuhar and Major Luik to our community!

To learn more about these topics and other FCPD news, check out the new FCPD Crime and Traffic Data dashboard (<https://www.fcpd.org/pages/crime-data>), sign up for the police blog FCPD News (<https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/>) and follow FCPD on X and Facebook: @FairfaxCountyPD.

Thinking about a career in law enforcement? Discover the opportunities waiting for you — learn more and apply (<https://joinfcpd.org/>).

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ENTERTAINMENT

AUG. 10 TO OCT. 13

Life's a Stitch. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Life's a Stitch x4 looks at 4 very different ways that art quilts and fiber sculpture can use both humor and drama to express character and story. Website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/lifes-a-stitch>

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:

(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. Visit www.marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789.

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

AUG. 31 AND SEPT. 1

31st Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, and 12:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday. At Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The festival will feature authentic Middle Eastern food, pastries, music and dancing, as well as vendors, church tours, and activities for both children and adults. A highlight of the event is the Saturday night, 7:00 p.m. “Hafli” (“party” in Arabic) that will feature live music and dancing. Join us and learn to dance the “Dabke,” a traditional folk line dance. Visit www.MiddleEastern-FoodFestival.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 31

Local Author Showcase. 1-4 p.m. At Mary Riley Styles Library, 120 N. Virginia Ave. in Falls Church. The Northern Virginia Writers Club and the Mary Riley Styles Public Library are hosting a free local authors showcase. This fun and free afternoon event will feature 20 local authors, readings, books for sale, along with complimentary refreshments, and a raffle for a chance to win a reading bag filled with signed books. All ages are welcome, but this event is best for adults and high school aged



Koo Koo performs on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at the McLean Community Center in McLean.

children. Northern Virginia Writing Club members are diverse and write in a variety of genres offering something for every reader's taste. This is a great event to meet local authors, find a new favorite author, and even start your holiday shopping early.

SEPT. 1-2

Two-Day Model Train Event. 12-5 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew will have HO gauge model trains on display and running for two days over the Labor Day weekend. 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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

The Great Zucchini Magic Show! At 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Spend a morning filled with wonder and laughter during an entertaining magic show performed by The Great Zucchini. For more information, visit the Frying Pan Farm Park website or call 703-437-9101.

SEPT. 5-8

Tysons Library Quarterly Book & Media Sale. Tysons Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Thursday, 5 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday, 6 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 7 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, 8 Sept., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Something Country. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. At Electric Palm Restaurant, 12745 Sea Ray Lane, Woodbridge. Rockin' country that gets you dancing.

SEPT. 6 TO OCT. 27

“Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors.” At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. September: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. October: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m. Special October Twilight Performances: Dracula show combined with admission to the haunted trail that same evening. Filled with clever wordplay

and pop culture references, Dracula is a gender-bending, laugh-out-loud reimagining of the gothic classic. In the treacherous mountains of Transylvania, a meek English real estate agent takes a harrowing journey to meet a new and mysterious client, the most terrifying and ferocious monster the world has ever known: Count Dracula! Famed female vampire hunter, Jean Van Helsing, and company chase Drac from Transylvania to the British countryside to London and back. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

Lesson Zero. 8 p.m. to midnight. At The Backyard Grill, 13999 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. The music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero performs Saturday, September 7 from 8 to midnight. Admission is free and parking is available. For more information see www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

National Capital Model Soldier Society 63rd Annual Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Trophies and sponsored awards; Car/Ship/Train/Armor Club; GUNDAM Build Tables, Modeling Demonstrations, Hobby Vendors.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

38th Annual Reston Triathlon. At Lake Audubon, Reston. Push your limits and be part of this thrilling event, presented by CORE Foundation. There are three ways to get involved:

1. Compete: Test your endurance and take on the triathlon challenge!
2. Volunteer: Be the driving force behind this event—volunteers make it all happen!
3. Sponsor: Support local athletes and gain valuable exposure for your business.

Register to race: runsignup.com/Race/VA/Reston/RestonTriathlon
Sign up to volunteer: runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Reston/RestonTriathlon
Interested in sponsoring? Contact us at info@corefoundation.org

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Rec Center Open House. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Kick off the fall season by exploring everything that your neighborhood Rec Center has to offer. Come discover new opportunities to improve your wellbeing and



Experience a Sound Bath on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

forge new connections with your community by participating at the Fairfax County Park Authority Rec Center Open House event. Tour facilities and try out the amenities all day long for free.

Come find your community connections at Park Authority Rec Centers by participating in drop-in fitness classes, connecting with a workout buddy. Enjoy lap swimming in our spacious pools or unwind in the spa or sauna. Also, learn about Rec Center personal training packages tailor-made to help you achieve your personal fitness goals.

During the Rec Center Open House, visit the membership table for giveaways, and participate in fun activities, such as fall-themed arts and crafts for the kids. Check out each Rec Center website for specific information on special programming. Here are just a few examples of what to look forward to:

Franconia Rec Center: Free carousel rides, Our Special Harbor spray park, a raffle and shallow water exercise demonstrations at Franconia Rec Center (6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria).

Providence Rec Center: S'mores, popcorn and cotton candy, pool games, an art walk, numerous fitness information stations, sample swim lessons and karate demonstrations at Providence Rec Center (7525 Marc Drive, Falls Church).

South Run Rec Center: Cornhole, table tennis, pool games and a kid's sports challenge with free prizes at South Run Rec Center (7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield)

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

2nd Annual Charitable CRE Mini Golf Tournament. 2-7:00 p.m. At Capital One Complex, 11 stories up, Tysons Corner. Open to all commercial and multi-family real estate professionals in the DMV area. Fundraiser that supports the Family Youth Initiative, a nonprofit that pairs young adults aging out of foster care with mentors to help them navigate life's challenges. Visit the Website: <https://rescon-renovia-charitable-mini-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

SEPT. 12 TO OCT. 6

“The Waverly Gallery.” At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. In this 2019 Tony Award nominee for Best Revival of a Play, Gladys, the elderly

matriarch of the Green family, has run an art gallery in a small Greenwich Village hotel for many years. The management wants to replace her less-than-thriving gallery with a coffee shop. General admission tickets are priced at \$25 (limited availability), \$40 (limited availability), and \$55. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Exhibition Reception. 6-9 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Studio Building 5, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Lynn Goldstein for the opening of ‘Just Because’ at Workhouse Arts Center. Experience her abstract exploration of nature's beauty. Artist talk at 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on view from September 11 to October 6 at the Workhouse Arts Center. The Workhouse is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Visit the website: www.lynngoldstein.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Koo Koo Performs. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Often described as the Beastie Boys meets Sesame Street, Koo Koo is a dance party for the senses. Lifelong friends and collaborators Bryan and Neil tour the globe delighting fans with their high-energy music, infectious positivity and interactive live show.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Adat Reyim Gala. 8-11 p.m. At Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Congregation Adat Reyim of Springfield celebrates four decades of its congregant-led choir with a medley of instrumental and popular music, including show tunes and folk-rock tunes. Cost: \$36-\$72. Visit the website: <https://www.adatreyim.org/event/adat-reyim-choirs-40th-anniversary-gala.html>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Sound Bath. 4-5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come to deeply relax, lift, and rejuvenate your whole being. Cost is \$35. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org>

ENTERTAINMENT



The McLean AAUW Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, and feature two speakers: Kathleen Chesnutt and MacKenzie Bills.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

McLean AAUW Meeting. 2:30-4:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program topic, Gender, Women and Politics: Where Are We Now, will be addressed by two speakers: Kathleen Chesnutt, Program Officer on the Gender, Women and Democracy team at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and MacKenzie Bills who ran for the House in the Iowa legislature in 2022. She currently works for USAID as the Philanthropy Advisor. The meetings are open to the public. All are welcome.

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/>.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Tee Up for Equity. 11 a.m. At Topgolf Loudoun, 20356 Commonwealth Center Dr, Ashburn. Support United Way of the National Capital Area's Loudoun County Regional Council by joining this annual Tee Up for Equity signature event! Enjoy an afternoon of golf, raffles, and more while contributing to United Way NCA's programs that promote health, education, and economic opportunity for the Loudoun County community and beyond. Event cost: \$200. Visit the website: teeup@uwnca.org. How to register: : <https://unitedwaynca.org/tee-up-for-equity/#tab-1>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

The 17th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament. At Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Avenue, Clifton. In memory of

Erin Peterson who died 17 years ago in the Virginia Tech shooting. The faithful donations and participation have enabled them to give away 168 scholarships to date. They provide facilitation and sponsorship to the Westfield High and Stone Middle schools Young Men's Leadership Group (YMLG), and Girls Reaching for Academic & Culture Excellence (GRACE) groups. EPF Koats for Kids program provides new coats to kids at Centreville Elementary and Stone Middle Schools. EPF gave away 24 new coats this year. For registration information go to: www.erinpetersonfund.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Sorensen Gross HOPE Golf Tournament. 8:30 a.m. At Hidden Creek Country Club, Reston. Benefitting Hope for the Warriors. The tournament begins at 8:30 a.m. with check-in and a putting contest, opening ceremonies at 10 a.m., and a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start. Each entry fee includes breakfast, lunch and an awards dinner with a full round of golf. Sorensen Gross Construction Company was founded in 1925 and focuses on commercial, industrial, educational, medical, municipal, and multi-family residential building applications. Visit eventbrite.com/e/sorensen-gross-provides-hope-tickets-814094648007?aff=oddt-dt-creator.

SEPT. 20-21

Perchfest. At The Perch. At Capital One Center, 1805 Capital One Drive, Tysons Corner. Perchfest

will feature mini golf in the clouds, local music, craft beer from Starr Hill Biergarten, a local fitness class, Celebrate Fairfax's presents curated pop-up shop featuring artisans and community vendors — and with a Shrektastic twist! This weekend kicks off Broadway in Tysons Season Four at Capital One Hall with five performances of Shrek the Musical September 20th - 22nd. Visit the website: <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/capital-one-center-presents-perchfest-fall-a-shrektastic-music-mini-golf-festival>

SEPT. 20 TO OCT. 7

Circus Vazquez. At Tysons Galleria, 8025 Galleria Drive, McLean. The 2024 show features a brand-new cast, brand-new thrills, brand-new laughs and brand-new excitement! Now in its 55th year of entertaining audiences!

Circus Vazquez is currently run by the five Vazquez brothers who are the third generation of their family to manage this circus.

Circus Vazquez is currently the largest family-owned big top circus in the United States.

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



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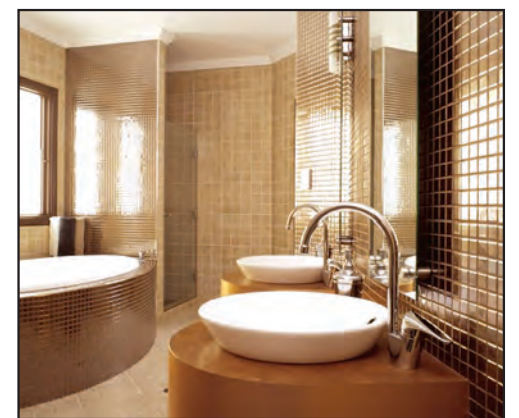


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FLY FISHING



Big trout Justin landed in the competition.



Medal winners from left, Kossler Kage, Logan Max and Justin Hardie.

Local Youth Land Bronze in Fly Fishing

WSHS grad won a fishing medal from Youth Fly Fishing World Championships.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

With all the medals flying around this summer at the Olympics, a local champion fly fisherman got in on the action too. It was Springfield resident Justin Hardee who won a gold medal as part of the U.S. Team, and a bronze medal for the individual competition at the Youth Fly Fishing World Championships in the Czech Republic.

This past summer in the Czech Republic, Justin researched fly fishing methods and got skilled with a technique called “euro nymphing.”

“I wanted to learn a new tactic that would help catch more trout,” he said, and his research worked out for the best.

For Hardee, who is now a freshman at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, it all started at Burke Lake fishing for bluegills. His father taught him how to fish with worms and a bobber, but fly fishing is a little more involved.

“I was 9 when I got my first fly rod,” he said.

After the bluegills, he moved on to fly fishing in Accotink Creek when they used to stock it with Rainbow and Brown Trout, but these experiences weren’t “big league” fly fishing experiences so he broadened his horizons, “I did a lot of my fishing in Pennsylvania,” he said.

One important step in his fly fishing career began with Orvis 101, an organization that offers free fly fishing classes. “We learned the basics of casting and tying flies,” he said. The next step for Hardee was “Fips-

Mouche,” International Sport Fly Fishing Federation that encourages the practice of sport fly fishing throughout the world. So with that experience under his belt, he found himself fly fishing down in the Bahamas catching bonefish and barracuda.

Throughout his fly fishing years, he’s met all kinds of fellow students in various settings. “We’re all fishy people,” he joked.

In West Springfield last year, there was not much emphasis on fly fishing because the Fairfax County Schools don’t offer any classes in that category. Hardee spent most of the time as captain of the tennis team. His coach Jeff Toomer noted the way he excelled on the court. “He’s personable, well-liked, smart, athletically gifted and could likely play any sport he wanted and excel,” Toomer said.

In college, he’s focusing on tennis and majoring in industrial design and physics at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. <https://usangling.org/youth-fly-fishing/>

Woe Is Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Definitely not a cancer column.) Rather, this is, to invoke Robin Leach of the mid-80s/early 90s syndicated series “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous,” and tease this column as the lifestyle of the middle-class cancer patient still surviving and not famous. Doesn’t quite have the same ring, does it? Specifically, I am a current homeowner, going on 33 years and a former renter/co-“habiter” with my wife, Dina beginning in 1977. (To quote Maurice Chevalier: “I remember it well.”) And in all that time, nearly 47 years-ish, I/we have had an electric dishwasher (I say ‘electric’ so there’s no confusion with my being the dishwasher) for approximately eight of those years. With yours truly being the by-hand dishwasher, I’ll be generous and say 95% of the time. Moreover, never once in all that time have I/we gone out/shopped online for dishwashers, installed or portable. As a result, my shopping lists have never, ever, included Cascade or Finish. Moreover, neither have I/we ever considered the features and benefits of dishwashers- and/or brands available for today’s kitchen, in all of these years. We/mostly me have managed under the duress. Well, I’ve mostly managed.

And it’s only been recently, a year or two ago, that Dina observed/suggested that maybe I should use rubber gloves when doing the dishes, that I’ve gloved up. Believe it or not - and this might interest “Ripley’s,” for most of these 40-ish years of handwashing, I’ve been washing au naturel, and I don’t mean in the buff. I mean bare-handed.

In fact, Dina is responsible for another life-changing suggestion directed my way: She suggested I buy the sturdiest, heavy duty litter scoop I could find for our minimum three-cat, maximum five-cat household of indoor cats instead of the cheap plastic ones that always break. They are a lot less expensive - or so it seems at the time. With upwards of five litter boxes in our house, using a plastic litter scoop that unlike Paul Mason’s wine, it did indeed break before its time. And after breaking a dozen or so of these cheap plastic scoops over these multiple decades (yikes!), this commercial grade scoop has solved the problem. Not only does it not break, it also doesn’t even bend. Why this upgrade never occurred to me I can only guess. Perhaps I wasn’t clear as to the long-term commitment I was a part of. Dina knew. That’s why she suggested it. Despite its frequency of use, the metal scoop has been able to meet the demand with nary a complaint - or need to replace.

Back to Dina’s suggestion to me about wearing gloves, it was another lightbulb moment for me. It simply never occurred to me as my answer as to why - in spite of the fact that the water is quite often hot when doing the dishes, I never used gloves. I know, duh! Well, as anybody knows who’s used rubber gloves when hot anything, especially when water is involved; what a difference a little rubber can make - or whatever the glove is made of (nitrile, et cetera). The only problem is, similar to the plastic litter scoops, are that the rubber gloves are generally not up to the task. Let’s just say, they don’t do the job. They are, in addition to being barely protective of the heat of the hot water, forever tearing and being poked through by silverware leading to water in the glove which is a problem. As a negative result, this in-glove water means I need to buy another pair, pronto. Then I have to start this entire process all over again. Nevertheless, until the gloves reached their usual breaking point, I managed well enough, sort of, with bare skin. I guess what you don’t know can hurt you until another voice is there to tell you otherwise.

I imagine Dina, from her perspective, likely has had other similar lifestyle-changing ideas, but I’m out of column space so ... no more. Sometimes, from the mouths of babes. Who would have think it? Obviously, not me.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

Springfield VFD, 7011 Backlick Road in Springfield. Train layouts and a kids corner will be featured. Free train appraisals and “train doctor” available at the show. Door prizes drawing hourly. Admission is only \$5.00; free for WB&A members, Firemen and Military; and children under 12 and Scouts in uniform when accompanied with paid adult.

a.m. to 6 p.m. At Eileen Garnett Civic Space, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale. This free, family-friendly festival features live music and dance, food trucks and other food vendors, children’s performances and activities, a 5-K race, beer and wine, a chili cookoff, a pet contest, local businesses and organizations, and more. Visit this page for more information: <https://tasteofannandale.com/>

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://restoncommunitycenter.com/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

2024 Taste of Annandale. 10:30

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

National Dance Day 2024. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, Fairfax City.

This free family-friendly event will feature a wide variety of dance groups performing outside at Old Town Square. Many will be teaching mini-lessons, too! This year they’ll be joined by three exciting dance groups from George Mason University including the famous Masonettes Dance Team! At 2:30 p.m., you can join us onstage as they learn the official 2024 National Dance Day routine and then perform it all together (or watch others and cheer them on!) Visit the website for more information: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact us at megan.dubois@fairfaxva.gov



The 2024 Taste of Annandale festival will take place on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.

or 703-273-6097.

FAMILY SKATE AND DANCE NIGHT

This fall, the Family Skate and Dance Nights at Franconia Rec Center will feature a lively schedule. Skaters of all ages will enjoy the festive themes, tasty food and fun music of these skate nights hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Join the fun and break out your quad skates, inline skates or dancing shoes (bring your own skates/footwear) and take a spin around Franconia Rec Center’s gym floor. Each skate night includes music from a guest DJ, as well as food, snacks and drinks

available for purchase (Please note that outside food/drink not permitted). Tickets for everyone (skaters, dancers, spectators and chaperones) cost \$10 and can be purchased in advance online. Or you buy them at the door for \$15.

SCHEDULE:

Sept. 21: Come on Skaters, Let’s Go Party! (Barbie™ themed) (6-9 p.m.)

Oct. 26: Halloween Costume Party (6-10 p.m.)

Nov. 16: Franconia Hold ‘Em Skate and Dance Night (Country Night) (6-9 p.m.)

Dec. 21: Holiday and Ugly Sweater Skate and Dance Night (6-9 p.m.)

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