

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ♦ Chantilly ♦ Great Falls ♦ Herndon ♦ McLean ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Oakton
Reston ♦ Vienna ♦ Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

Sarah Selvaraj-D'Souza, founder of Reston Strong and Mary Barthelson, Reston Strong advocate and supporter at The Hill, homeless encampment cleared on Sept. 10



Cars Star to Raise Funds for Charities

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Marking 50 Years Of W&OD Trail

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Not Guilty By Insanity

PAGE 12

Shutting Down Tented Encampments, Solving Nothing

PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 18 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 22

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD

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FOR SALE!



Offered for...\$1,550,000

1940 Foxhall Road, McLean
BEAUTIFUL 5BR/2.5BA home nestled on a quiet street in the sought-after Foxhall neighborhood. Boasting over 3700 sq ft with 4 lvls of expanded living space. Featuring multiple additions/renovations over the years; sparkling hardwood floors; an expansive family room with huge picture window and gas fireplace. The spacious kitchen includes cooktop, double oven, SS appliances, and a large breakfast room with French doors to the private deck. Upstairs is the primary BR with sitting area, vaulted ceiling and 2 walk-in closets. The 3rd lvl features 3 add'l BR's and bath. LL has 4th BR, half bath and laundry. **Kent Gardens, Longfellow, McLean!**

Under Contract!

Under contract in 2 days!



Offered for...\$1,299,000

511 Great Falls Street, Falls Church City
Welcome home to this beautiful updated 1926 bungalow with classic appeal, nestled in the sought-after Sherwood neighborhood in Falls Church City! This well maintained property boasts over 3200 square feet, with gleaming hardwood floors, double French doors, skylights, a stone fireplace and more! The main level features a classic living room, den, 2 BR's and BA, and an updated kitchen. The expanded back of home offers a huge dining room with breakfast bar and wet bar, an expansive family room w/ skylights and private primary suite— plus a luxury bath. The LL offers a large rec room. **Falls Church City Schools!**

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2024

SOLD!



6025 Woodland Terrace
McLean, 22101
\$2,350,000

SOLD!



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!

County Clears Two Homeless Encampments

Addressing encampments humanely to address needs.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Best practice guidelines could be in place for county encampment closures, but as two encampments are cleared, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has yet to approve explicit policies for dismantling an encampment.

Mary Paden of the Fairfax NAACP said its Housing Committee is drafting guidelines for closing out encampments with “respect, and dignity.”

According to Paden, as part of its guidelines, the NAACP emphasizes the need for “the county to offer an alternative if they’re going to clear people off county land or Park Authority land, they should offer them a place to go.” Consideration should be given to alternate shelters with privacy and storage. Other important practices include public notices of pending encampment closures, independent witnesses, and trained personnel to handle encampment clearances.

Paden noted racial disparities in homelessness, with approximately 50 percent of the homeless population in Fairfax County being Black, a fact verified in the 2024 Point-In-Time Count of the number of people experiencing homelessness. The county reported that 48 percent of people experiencing homelessness identified as being Black, African American, or African.

Fairfax County lacks policies that guarantee encampment residents have a clear, legal place to go and sufficient alternative and appropriate housing near or readily accessible to the needs of people experiencing homelessness, such as employment, established medical care, and family. The county is not required to notify encampment residents and healthcare/social service providers within a minimum number of days so that they can assess housing needs and meet them. And the county does not assist its homeless residents with packing, moving, and long-term storage of their belongings as they relocate to housing or alternative encampments. Often, as in the case of two recent encampment closures, personal belongings must be left behind, lost forever. People experiencing homelessness often find they have lost critical documents, medication, and more.

Fairfax County Closes Two Encampments in One Week.

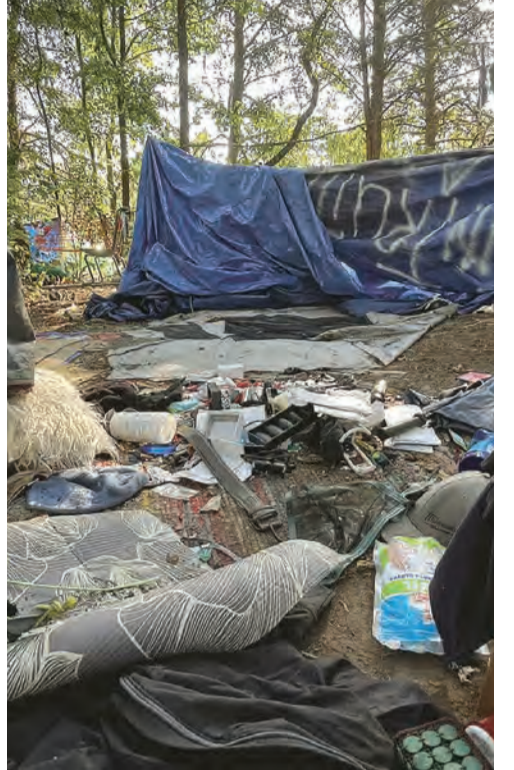
In less than a week, Fairfax County shut down two encampments, one in Reston called “The Hill” on Sept. 10 and the other at the Towers, Thaiss, and Mantua parks in Fairfax City on Sept. 4. The county procedures before and during the clearouts and the services provided to encampment residents differ.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Sept. 10, Cornerstones staff, Reston Strong members, Fairfax County officials, two county police officers, and others gathered at The Hill in Reston to wait for Fairfax County Facilities Management Department members. Fairfax County’s Allyson Pearce, who was present, www.connectionnewspapers.com



Personal possessions litter The Hill’s campsites, each a vignette of a person’s life as they experienced homelessness.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



“Homelessness is a complicated, uncomfortable, and an increasingly common community challenge.”



Reston Strong members at The Hill encampment the morning it is shut down.

said that the Facilities Management Department would determine the most effective equipment for clearing the debris in the encampment. All of the encampment residents had left the site.

However, two men scavenged the site; one named George said he was homeless, and the other identified himself as “president of tent city.” Asked if he meant “The Hill,” the man replied, “No,” and explained the other encampment, the one across the street next to the condos and the lake.

Members of Reston Strong installed a tarp in front of the encampment on Fountain Drive that read, “Humanity, not handcuffs.”

Jerry Poje, a member of Reston Strong and longtime housing activist, said, “Housing is the only solution to homelessness. It’s not about moving people into a new encampment. It’s not about moving people into a one-week overnight stay somewhere. It’s building permanent, accessible, and affordable homes for everybody. ... We need to revivify Bob Simon’s vision that all people, of all incomes, can live here now.”

Natalie Watkins said she stays at the Temporary Overnight Shelter for people experiencing homelessness who live on The Hill. When asked what changes she would like to see to improve her housing situation, Watkins responded, “I would like to see an increase in the number of bus stops around Reston, access to the Metro and residential areas, and more affordable programs from the [Temporary Overnight Shelter] and Embury Rucker Shelter, but also from the state of Virginia.”

When asked where she goes during the day when the TOS is not open, Watkins said she usually looks for organizations seeking volunteers to pick up trash.” She added, “I’m looking for work.” Later, Watkins was seen speaking with someone from Trader Joes in

SEE CLEARING ENCAMPMENTS, PAGE 4

22nd Annual
ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL
 An Outdoor Art Festival on John Carlyle Square

SEPTEMBER 14-15 300 JOHN CARLYLE ST.
 Sat/Sun 10am-5pm Alexandria, VA



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 Howard Alan Events
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NEWS

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax County Police officers R. L. Cash and M.S. Oluwa of Reston Station lend a police presence at The Hill encampment the day the county shuts it down.

Clearing Encampments

FROM PAGE 3

Reston, who stopped by to ask how Trader Joes could assist Reston Strong that day.

For years, the Hill's campsite has existed in the woods on the west side of Fountain Drive in Reston, sandwiched between Inova's Emergency Room and Sunrise at Reston Town Center. On Aug. 27, the county began the official closure of The Hill by attaching statements to its "No Trespassing" signs, stating that they would clear the premises on Sept. 10. The county ordered the removal of all belongings, declaring that anything remaining would be considered abandoned

and discarded.

In March 2024, about fifty people lived on The Hill, including some long-term residents like Pops, a senior citizen who told this reporter at the time that he spent almost two years living in his tent, including the winters. He has since secured housing in a county-owned apartment complex a short distance away. Two weeks ago, Pops said in a phone conversation with this reporter he was "doing good."

Shortly after 3 p.m. on Friday, the day before the camp's closure, Allyson Pearce

SEE CLEARING ENCAMPMENTS, PAGE 14



Life goes on with a table cloth and beauty four days before the county shuts down The Hill.



Words of inspiration by The Hill encampment artist, "SR."



MAKE EACH DAY COUNT WITH MEMORY SUPPORT

Life is about making every day meaningful. At Vinson Hall Retirement Community, our Memory Support neighborhood, The Sylvestery, delivers compassionate care and day-to-day services for older adults with Alzheimer's or dementia. Our cheery, light-filled suites, hallways and gathering spaces make residents feel at home. Offering compassionate support from our licensed team 24/7, including stimulating social activities and soothing sensory therapies, The Sylvestery is a secure, joyful neighborhood that delivers peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

Whether returning from a group outing to a local theatre or a trip to the grocery store, residents love coming home to The Sylvestery, where they know their needs are taken care of. Discover the personalized care at Vinson Hall Retirement Community. Contact us today to learn more about Memory Support and our continuum of care.



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CALL **703-935-5209** OR VISIT **VINSONHALL.ORG** TODAY TO PLAN YOUR MOVE
◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Reston Association members are encouraged to provide comments on the association's 2025 Capital and Operating budgets at this public hearing.

Thursday, Sept. 26, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
The Lake House (In Person)
11450 Baron Cameron Avenue



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

NEWS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OF NOVA PARKS



Trail users celebrate the 50th year anniversary of of the "First Ride"

W&OD Railroad Trails Marks 50 Years

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Fifty years have passed since the "First Ride" on the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Park Trail; commonly referred to as the W&OD Trail. NOVA Parks celebrated the anniversary on Sept 7, 50 years to the day after the opening event in 1974.

In remarks celebrating the event, Falls Church Mayor Letty Hardy touted the city's recent recognition rating the number one position on the inaugural list of U.S. News "Healthiest Communities in America." The two-square mile city scored highest against 3,000 communities in a survey of health, economic and education factors. A key factor in the rating was the opportunity for physical fitness activities, such those enhanced by the W&OD's 45-mile paved trail.

The trail became one of the first rail-to-trail projects in the country; there are now more than 2,400. Since the first section was paved in the City of Falls Church, the W&OD Trail has connected Northern Virginia residents and visitors to each other and their environment.



Fifty years ago, riders participate in W&OD Trail "First Ride" on Sept 7, 1974

SEE W&OD TRAIL, PAGE 7

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOVA PARKS



Bike riders enjoy the ease of trail use thru urban areas like Reston using the Wiehle Bridge



The W&DO Trail upgrades since 1974 include designated lanes for bike riders and pedestrians

W&OD Trail 50th Anniversary

FROM PAGE 6

The 45-mile trail is now an important carbon-free active transportation network that links many regional hubs, including Arlington, Falls Church, Vienna, Reston, Herndon, Sterling, Leesburg and Purcellville. More than 2 million people per year use the trail for recreation or to commute

to work, at the four nearby Metro stations, and the many schools built near the W&OD Trail.

NOVA Parks is continuously enhancing the trail to maintain its user-friendly destination for a wide variety of uses and users. Upgrades since 1974 include grade separated intersections for vehicles and trail users at different levels, and dual parallel trail lanes

— one for pedestrians and one for cyclists. An interpretive photo display will commemorate the W&OD Trail’s “first” rail-to-trail project status.

Called the skinniest park in Virginia, the park is a 45-mile paved trail route between Shirlington and Purcellville, along the former roadbed of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad. It connects North-

ern Virginia communities through the urban heartland and into the Virginia countryside for safe run, walk, cycle or skate activity; equestrians can ride the adjacent 32-mile gravel horse trail.

<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/washington-and-old-dominion-railroad-regional-park>

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Opened just two years ago, Sunrise of Fairfax is a modern, vibrant senior living community. Backed by Sunrise Senior Living’s more than 40 years of expert care, our community offers a personalized experience, complete with exciting culinary experiences and engaging programs.

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Our community has been recognized as Best Assisted Living as part of U.S. News & World Report’s 2024 Best Senior Living ratings.

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Empowering Fairfax City's Women Entrepreneurs

Luncheon will provide advice, connections, to grow their businesses.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In March 2019, Fairfax City held its second annual Women-Owned Business Luncheon. The event celebrated the accomplishments of female business owners in the City, helped them promote their companies and enabled them to both network with and support each other, going forward.

Then came the Covid-19 pandemic a year later with worldwide shutdowns. Yet throughout time, women have persisted, despite whatever challenges they faced. So even during the pandemic, women-owned businesses surged, revealing their hard-fought resilience.

However, still today, women entrepreneurs face hurdles in a male-dominated business world. Recognizing this situation and wanting to lend a hand, Fairfax City is reinstating this luncheon as a vital way to support them and foster their growth.

Featuring a bold new name, the Women's Economic Empowerment Luncheon will be held Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The venue is the Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd. in Fairfax.

Hosting the luncheon are the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority (EDA), the City of Fairfax Commission for Women (CFW), the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (CFCC), and the Old Town Fairfax Business Association (OTFBA).

"In the wake of the pandemic's challenges, the revival of this luncheon stands as a testament to resilience and commitment," said EDA Chair Beth Young, who owns her own business, Quality Information Partners. "As we join hands with the other host organizations, we reaffirm our dedication to empowering women entrepreneurs."

"This event is not just a gathering – it's a catalyst for growth, a beacon of support and a platform for collaboration," she continued. "By bringing women together and providing access to vital support services, we pave the way for success and prosperity in Fairfax City. Let us seize this opportunity to uplift, inspire and propel our women-owned businesses forward."

During the upcoming luncheon, Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read will moderate a panel discussion offering practical insights on everyday business challenges and how to



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Promoting the George Mason Small Business Development Center at the last luncheon are (from left) Sara Linus and Aung Shepelev.

reach target audiences. The panelists will be the owners of, respectively, Brooke's Bridal, Nanci Ramos; Down The Line Sports Center, Jenni Bae; and Flex Professionals, Jamie Hirschfeld.

Keynote speaker Jessica McCarthy, president and co-owner of Joy Riot, will talk about best practices in marketing. Attendees will also enjoy a catered lunch from a women-owned business. In addition, female business owners in the City will get the chance to connect with business-support services, as well as network with other women business owners.

But that's not all. In early August, the City announced a new initiative called the Women's Entrepreneur Grant Opportunity (WEGO) intended to boost women-owned businesses in Fairfax City. This program will allocate a total of \$25,000 to five women-owned businesses located in the City.

The funds will enable the grant awardees to procure consulting and other services aimed at enhancing their business capabilities. And these grant winners will

be announced and honored at the luncheon.

The event's schedule is as follows:

❖ 11:30 a.m.-noon – Meet and Greet and Exhibit

This will be a networking opportunity to explore the exhibit area where various organizations will showcase their services and



Keynote speaker Jessica McCarthy.

resources tailored to women entrepreneurs.

❖ Noon-12:40 p.m. – Lunch and Panel Discussion

Participants will feast on a catered lunch provided by a women-owned business while engaging in a dynamic learning session. Both the guest speaker and panel members will offer insights and inspiration on the importance of supporting and empowering women in business. They'll also address the challenges that women and their companies face in today's economic climate.

❖ 12:40-1 p.m. – Guest Speaker

Jessica McCarthy will offer valuable insights into the importance of women amplifying their voices. Attendees will receive information about best practices, plus hear practical examples to help them effectively be recognized in the business world. They'll also gain a variety of strategies to help them enhance their personal and professional influence, while impacting their businesses in meaningful ways.

❖ 1-1:30 p.m. – Grant Ceremony and Exhibit



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Jennifer Rose representing the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce during the previous luncheon.

The recipients of the Women's Entrepreneur Grant Opportunity will be honored. Then people may continue networking with others at the event and connect with the exhibitors and support services.

Overall, the whole event seeks to provide female business owners with important insights to help them strengthen their marketing and self-promotion efforts, while also allowing them to showcase their operations and forge the needed connections to propel their businesses forward.

"I'm proud to support the Women's Entrepreneur Empowerment Grant and the Women's Economic Empowerment Luncheon, which reflect Fairfax City Economic Development's commitment to fostering inclusivity in Fairfax City's business community," said Fairfax City EDA Chair Mitchell Cho. "These programs are not just about providing financial support, but also about creating a supportive ecosystem that helps women entrepreneurs thrive and contribute to a dynamic local economy."

To purchase tickets for the luncheon, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-economic-empowerment-luncheon-tickets-972233997057>.

HELP FOR CAREGIVERS

Free Educational Conference September 18 in Arlington Aims to Help Families Affected by Dementia

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free Alzheimer's & Caregiving Educational Conference on Wednesday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ET at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel (900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204) as part of its 2024 national Educating America Tour. The free conference is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in the field of dementia, brain health, and caregiving. To register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour. Advanced registration is highly recommended.

"Knowledge is a useful and powerful tool that can help make any situation easier to navigate, especially something as challenging as caring for a loved one with dementia," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's president & CEO. "Connecting families with useful, practical information and support that can help them now and be better prepared for the future is what this conference is all about. Whether dementia affects your family, you are a caregiver, or just want to learn more about brain health, we invite you to join us on September 18."

Dr. Raymond Scott Turner will offer healthy aging strategies to help prevent memory loss and cognitive decline, as well as explain the differences between dementia, mild cognitive impairment, and normal aging. Dr. Turner, a professor of Neurology and director of the Memory Disorders Program at MedStar Georgetown University Medical Center, will also review various treatment options and research strategies to develop more effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

Participants will learn how empowering individuals living with chronic illnesses to take an active role



PHOTO FROM ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Families affected by dementia are invited to a free educational conference on September 18 in Arlington sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

in managing their own health, symptoms, and care leads to better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced healthcare costs. Suzanne Hanas, founder and CEO of Premier RN Geriatric Care, will discuss self-care management and the chronic care model and explain how it involves cooperative goal setting and problem solving by the health care team, the patient, and their families.

To help caregivers understand how to address difficult behaviors with their loved ones, Melissa Long will teach strategies for identifying triggers, using a person-centered approach, remaining calm and empathetic, and using simple communication. Long, director of Education and Support for Insight Memory Care Center, will also explain the crucial importance for caregivers to understand positive and negative behaviors as attempts to express needs, emotions, or concerns, so that they can provide appropriate care and support.

Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day.

For more information or to register for the September 18 conference in Arlington, visit www.alzfdn.org/tour. Those who cannot participate in the conference or have immediate questions about dementia-related illnesses can connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484, texting 646-586-5283 or web chatting at www.alzfdn.org by clicking the blue-and-white chat icon in the right-hand corner of the page. The web chat and text message features are available in more than 90 languages.

Submitted by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.





ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Educating America Tour: Free Alzheimer's & Caregiving Conference

September 18 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel

900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204



To register, scan the QR code or visit alzfdn.org/tour

2024 Program Sponsors





At Club Studio in Tysons the classes are just one of many options.



The yoga and Pilates classes provide more choices.



Trampolines add an extra bounce to the workout.

Workouts Reach New Heights at Club Studio in Tysons

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The lunchtime workout enthusiasts in Tysons got another option this summer with the opening of Club Studio at 1500 Cornerside Boulevard, west of Tysons Corner Center in Vienna. The club has roots on the west coast but offers a range of exercise options that covers all ends of the spectrum.

They are a boutique club with fitness studios and upscale wellness amenities, taking an existing gym and reimagining it into a dynamic, modern and elegant fitness experience.

“A true transformation of what a fitness club can be,” they said.

They have a wide-open weight area, a lap pool, cardio deck and studio row facility with six different options for row styles.

Yoga, basketball, trampoline classes and

boxing are just a few of the options for the true workout enthusiast. After working up a sweat, there is a “recovery lab,” with a cryotherapy chamber to “enhance your aftercare with the full use of massage guns, rollers and stretch mats.” Massage guns? It’s all right there in the red light therapy room.

There’s even a hot pilates class where the

If you go....

CLUB STUDIO
1500 CORNERSIDE BLVD -A
VIENNA, VA 22182
Phone: (703) 349-7656

room is heated up to 85 degrees. Grip socks are encouraged. This 45-minute full-body toning experience has barre and dance influences paired up with traditional Pilates exercises that will leave

you feeling balanced and rejuvenated. It’s more than a vibe, it’s a lifestyle, they say.

Worth the visit.

County Executive Reviews Taxing Authorities, Including Meals Tax

On Sept. 17, during its Budget Policy Committee meeting at 3 p.m., the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hear County Executive Bryan J. Hill review information on all existing taxing authorities. Hill will report recommendations for strategies to diversify the county’s revenue base and reduce overreliance on real estate taxes to pay for county services, including funding for county public schools.

The fiscal 2025 budget included raising the residential tax rate by three cents, leaving county lawmakers searching for more revenue streams, including the possibility of implementing a meal tax. Fairfax County voters rejected a meals tax twice. Most recently, a 2016 proposed 4 percent tax on prepared meals at delis, restaurants, and convenience stores failed. However, a 2020 Virginia state law allows jurisdictions to impose a meals tax without voter approval on a referendum. Virginia law allows counties to impose up to a 6 percent food and beverage tax, § 58.1-3833.

On May 21, 2024, the supervisors directed the county executive to include options for a meals tax in a range of one-to-six percent and revenue

projections for each; comparisons with other meals taxes in the region; the timeline and cost for implementation, including estimates for businesses; and any limitations on the use of a meals tax’s revenue.

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity voted against the motion that directed the county executive to examine and report on revenue diversification options. The board voted 9-1 to consider a meals tax despite previous failed referendum in the county in 1992 and 2016. The referendums failed, with 58 percent and 56 percent opposed, respectively.

The county executive will provide a draft community outreach strategy for implementing the meal tax. As part of the implementation timeline, the supervisors anticipate that the outreach process will include substantive work with businesses, restaurants, and other businesses.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings occur in Government Center conference room 11. All committee meetings in conference room 11 are broadcast on Channel 16 and streamed live online.

— MERCIA HOBSON

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ENGLISH CLASSES

English (Beginners to Advanced), Citizenship Classes, Writing and Conversation Classes will be held at St. Mark Catholic Church Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Sept. 24 through Dec. 10, 2024.

Registration dates are Sept. 17 and Sept. 19 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Mark, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Cost is \$20 for 14 weeks, plus cost of book. A placement exam will be given. Visit the webpage www.stmarkesl.org or email stmarkesl@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed as well. Although no experience is necessary, experienced teachers are welcomed as well as classroom aides. For information on volunteering, call Monica at 703-980-9380.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ASPIRING DMV DANCERS

Perfect Pointe Foundation, Inc. is launching a need-based scholarship program dedicated to supporting aspiring dancers in the DMV region. Recognizing the financial challenges many talented dancers

face, these scholarships aim to provide financial assistance to help them achieve their dreams. Scholarship Details:

Name: Perfect Pointe Foundation, Inc. Need-Based Dance Scholarships
Frequency: Quarterly
Award Amount: Multiple awards will be given in amounts from \$100-\$2,500

Eligibility: Open to dancers of all ages and skill levels who demonstrate financial need and a passion for dance. Applicants must reside within a DC area jurisdiction that belongs to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Contact: Kendra Slatt at kendra.slatt@gmail.com. Or visit the website: <https://perfectpointefoundation.org/>

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Car Free Day 2024 is approaching, and area residents, commuters, and students in metropolitan Washington can show their support for and participate in this international event by registering online

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



FALLS FARM

MODEL GRAND OPENING!

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780 FALLS FARM COURT, GREAT FALLS, VA



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Custom build within the Falls Farm Community with the option to work with Harrison Design and James McDonald Associate Architects or choose your own architect.

DIRECTIONS: FROM I-495, GO WEST ON ROUTE 193,
5 MILES TO LEFT ON FALLS FARM COURT

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NEWS

Chantilly Man Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity

Pham was charged with attacking Connolly's staffers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Xuan-Kha Tran Pham

There's little doubt that Chantilly's Xuan Kha Tran Pham threatened a woman in his neighborhood and then violently attacked staff members in the Fairfax City office of U.S. Rep. Connolly (D-11th). But on Aug. 26 in Fairfax County Circuit Court, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Doctors representing both the prosecution and defense told Judge David Oblon that Pham, now 50, suffers from schizophrenia. As a result, they said, at the time of these offenses, he was unable to separate right from wrong. Pham is now being held at a mental health facility in Virginia where he's receiving treatment for his illness.

The criminal incidents occurred the morning of May 15, 2023. Fairfax County police said that, around 10:37 a.m., Pham allegedly approached a woman in the driveway of her Greenbriar home, asked her if she was white and chased her with a bat as she screamed and fled from him. He then reportedly smashed her car windshield.

The incident was caught on a neighbor's security camera, and – still holding his bat – Pham could be heard muttering Connolly's name as he walked away. After Pham's arrest later that day, county police charged him with committing a hate crime and felony destruction of property.

First, though, came the assaults at Connolly's office. Fairfax City Police spokeswoman Lisa Gardner said officers responded at 10:49 a.m. to a call about an active assault at 10680 Main St., Suite 140. When they arrived, she said, the staffers were "scared and hiding" in the office.

"Investigation revealed that the suspect, Xuan-Kha Tran Pham, entered Connolly's District Office and assaulted two Congressional staffers with a metal baseball bat," said Gardner. "The staffers received non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to a local hospital. One police officer also sus-

tained a minor injury and is receiving medical treatment."

At the time of the attack, Connolly was at a ribbon cutting for a food bank in another section of the county. After asking for him by name and learning he wasn't in the office, said Connolly, the assailant allegedly took out his frustration on the two staffers.

Connolly said his female outreach director was struck on the head with the bat, and a female intern in her first day on the job was hit on her side. They then fled to another office while the man broke glass windows and damaged office furnishings and computers.

Fairfax City police said Pham was taken into custody at the scene within 5 minutes of them receiving the call. The Criminal Investigations Division charged him with two felonies – aggravated malicious wounding and malicious wounding. Afterward, Pham's father told the media his son was "schizophrenic and hadn't taken his medication for three months."

Following the Aug. 26 court ruling, Connolly issued a statement regarding the matter. "It has been over a year since Mr. Pham entered my office with the intent to harm me and my staff," wrote Connolly. "As the healing process continues, I remain grateful for the community's support and inspired by my staff's incredible courage and recovery. Mr. Pham's history of mental illness is well documented and lasts today. I pray he continues to receive the institutional treatment he needs so that he does not harm anyone else or himself."

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 10

at carfreemetrodc.org. Organized regionally by the Commuter Connections program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, this annual initiative encourages those who live and/or work in the metropolitan Washington region to embrace a greener way of getting around by going car-free or car-lite on Monday, Sept. 23. Visit carfreemetrodc.org

DEER MANAGEMENT ARCHERY PROGRAM BEGINS

The Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program began Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, and runs through Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025. Under the oversight of the Fairfax County Police Department, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority, NOVA Parks, and other public landholders, the archery program is conducted in parks and other locations throughout Fairfax County. The archery program began in FY 2010 and is part of an integrated Deer Management Program to reduce and stabilize the white-tailed deer population in Fairfax County in efforts to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an overabundance of deer. These impacts include deer-vehicle collisions, potential spread of diseases, and environmental damage attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. The program was approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and is recognized as a safe and efficient method of deer population control by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR).

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide

reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

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Another **THE CONNECTION** Community Partnership

Clearing Encampments

FROM PAGE 4

emailed that 19 people remained at The Hill.

Friday night, less than four days before the Hill would be cleared, Supervisor Walter Alcorn, representing the Hunter Mill district on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, held a town hall meeting. He said The Hill offered “a safe haven” for those experiencing homelessness. It also “created issues for neighbors.” Alcorn described how the parcel with The Hill encampment is part of a larger redevelopment of Reston Town Center that would provide the community with a new regional library and homeless shelter.

Alcorn explained how, in response to the issue of homelessness, knowing the encampment had to come down, they created an alternative for unsheltered people living on The Hill. Fairfax County and non-profit Cornerstones supported the North County Human Services Temporary Overnight Shelter, open daily from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. It is a three-minute walk from The Hill encampment. The Embury Rucker Community Shelter, located a five-minute walk from the campsite, was and remains full at capacity.

Alcorn acknowledged the challenges in financing and bureaucracy for housing people experiencing homelessness. He said 300 state grants to provide more housing vouchers and services for those with serious mental illnesses should be available this fall, but it would be too late for those on The Hill. Alcorn praised the efforts of community members and representatives from Cornerstones and Reston Strong for their time and money making a difference.

Sarah Selvaraj-D’Souza, founder of Reston Strong, a grassroots organization that advocated and supported The Hill’s residents for years, announced positive news during the town hall meeting concerning the eldest residents of The Hill.

“The three seniors are sleeping in a safe hotel room tonight, and on Saturday, they will be going into a temporary housing situation ... a beautiful home, thanks to the community stepping up to make it happen and to Walter’s office for making it happen. This does not happen anywhere else in the county.”

Selvaraj-D’Souza said that members of Reston Strong, the county’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and others had been in meetings all day to pull this off. “We’ve come together to take care of our neighbors.”

On Saturday, shortly after noon, Supervisor Alcorn released a statement: “I want to thank county staff, my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, nonprofits Cornerstones and RestonStrong, and the community for all the extraordinary efforts to help unhoused people who were living in an encampment in Reston that has



A sculpture by The Hill encampment artist, “SR.”

“It will take all of us working together, grounded in a belief in each person’s dignity, to find compassionate and lasting solutions.”

become known as The Hill. This collaboration led with compassion, including opening a temporary overnight shelter. This is not the end of homelessness in Reston, but our efforts are a model for county-community collaboration to meaningfully address homelessness.”

The Pumphouse Encampments in Fairfax Circle Area

As for the “pumphouse encampment” located in the woods of Mantua, Thaiss, and Towers parks in the Fairfax Circle area of county near Fairfax City, according to a county spokesperson, the process to assist those residing in Towers Park began in late May. “During the past several months, community outreach workers – working in cooperation with the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness – have met with each person experiencing homelessness who is currently residing in the Tower, Thaiss or Mantua Parks, to assess their individual needs and connect them with customized services.”

No trespassing signs were posted on Aug. 28 at Towers Park. They indicated the designated clearing day as Sept. 4. Park Authority maintenance staff conducted the dismantling of Towers Park.

On Sept. 8, Tara Ruszkowski of the Lamb Center

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



An image of the privacy cot available at the Temporary Overnight Shelter in Reston which affords guests from The Hill a bit of privacy.



George, a person experiencing homelessness, searches through debris left behind at The Hill to share with other persons experiencing homelessness at an encampment located within walking distance.

SEE ADDRESSING ENCAMPMENTS, PAGE 15



More personal items pile up near the sidewalk of The Hill.

Addressing Encampments

FROM PAGE 14

said, “Today, the most vulnerable members of our community faced displacement as homeless encampments near the Lamb Center in Mantua Park were disassembled. We believe in the dignity of every life and are deeply concerned about where our displaced neighbors will sleep tonight.”

Ruszkowski said that many people assume individuals experiencing homelessness have housing options available to them. She added that the waiting period for beds in County shelters is often 90 days or more and the majority of those displaced from the encampment dismantling “had no alternative but to seek another outdoor location to spend the night.”

“Homelessness is a complicated, uncomfortable, and an increasingly common community challenge. There are no simple answers. It will take all of us working together, grounded in a belief in each person’s dignity, to find compassionate and lasting solutions,” Ruszkowski said.



A man who asked not to be identified loads possessions from The Hill encampment in Reston the morning Fairfax County shuts it down.



Sarah Selvaraj-D’Souza, founder of Reston Strong and Mary Barthelson, Reston Strong advocate and supporter

Can U.S. Citizens Experiencing Homelessness Vote?

Registering with no fixed address.

Even if a U.S. citizen is experiencing homelessness, meaning they have no permanent address, they can register to vote in all 50 states. According to the Virginia Voter Registration Application, “You must provide a street address or a description of where you live as a residence address.”

The 2024 voter registration deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 15. Voters have the option of registering online, in person, or by postal mail. They can also

download the National Voter Registration Form (PDF) in English and other languages.

The U.S. Vote Foundation recommends that persons experiencing homelessness list a shelter address as their “voting residence address” when registering to vote. That way, they can get mail. However, homeless registrants may designate “a specific street corner, park, or other public place as their residence.”

— MERCIA HOBSON

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.				<input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> IV

If you were **registered before** but this is the **first time you are registering from the address in Box 2**, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
---	----------------------------------	---------------	------------------	-------	----------

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live.
 Draw an X to show where you live.
 Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark.

C	Example	Route #2	● Grocery Store	NORTH ↑
			● Woodchuck Road	
			● Public School	
			X	

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

D	
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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

OMB Control No. 3265-0015

Screenshot Federal Voter Registration

CAR SHOW

Huge Turnout for Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax

More than 7,000 people attended the 25th annual Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax City.



Dan Major with his 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Coupe.



Kirsten and Basheer Ilyas, daughter Makenna, 1, and son Trey, 2, checked out this 1962 Chevy Corvette.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Posing by a 1973 Plymouth Duster owned by Springfield's Bill Harris are Chris and Jen Dary and sons (from left) Aaron, 9, and Noah, 11.



Romeo Campbell peruses this 2016 McLaren 650.



Beb Manu, Melisa Indra and their son Ben, 3, pose in front of a sleek, 2016 Corvette Z06 Coupe.



Proud owner Robert Winston with his 1923 Model T Ford that he modified into a 1950s-type street rod called a T-Bucket.

CAR SHOW

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Part of the huge crowd filling University Drive during the Labor Day Car Show on Sept. 2.



Fairfax City's Charlie Roberts displays his motorcycles. (From left) are a 1972 Honda 750 and a 1968 Honda Scrambler.



Frederick Isavian, a Fairfax High grad, checks out this spiffy 2022 Mercedes Benz AMG GT.



Fairfax resident Lei Shi and son Edward, 10, examine the engine of a 1928 Model A Ford.

Grilling hot dogs are Clifton Lions Club members (from left) Gus Koustenis, Ken Klein and Jerry Little.



The band, Eclectic Company, performing outside Fairfax City's Fire Station 3.

ENTERTAINMENT

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS POST-GAME RADIO SHOW TO BE BROADCAST LIVE AT CRAFTHOUSE

Reston Town Center's Crafthouse, 1888 Explorer Street, is hosting the official Washington Commanders post-game radio show every Sunday. Hosted by Washington football legend Fred Smoot and Commanders/BIG100-FM radio host Scott Jackson, the broadcast will be live from Crafthouse's performance stage after each Sunday game. It will be broadcast on BIG100-FM as well. The game itself will be shown on all Crafthouse TV located throughout the restaurant. Crafthouse will offer a Tailgate menu of wings, nachos, chili cheese beef brats and fried mozzarella during the radio shows. BIG100 will have drawings during the live show for pairs of tickets to Commanders games.

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>

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.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT DR. REID

Your voice matters, and Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid wants to hear from you! This fall, a series of Community Conversations will be held across the school division. These events are an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ask questions regarding Fairfax County Public Schools. Events are planned for the following dates from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:

- Monday, September 23, at Newington Forest Elementary School.
- Monday, September 30, at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.
- Monday, October 14, at Fairhill Elementary School.
- Monday, October 21, at Virginia Run Elementary School.
- Wednesday, October 30, at Herndon Middle School.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Mary Gauthier Performs. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple

22nd Annual
ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN ART FESTIVAL
An Outdoor Art Festival on John Carlyle Square
SEPTEMBER 14-15 300 JOHN CARLYLE ST.
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OUTDOOR ART FESTIVAL

- FREE ADMISSION -

The 22nd Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival takes place Sept. 14-15, 2024 at 300 John Carlyle Street in Alexandria.

DRACULA
A COMEDY OF TERRORS

"Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors" takes place Sept. 6 to Oct. 27, 2024 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

Ave E., in Vienna. Will play from her new album, Drag Queens In Limousines. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Guest Artist Series. 7-9 p.m. At Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Springfield Art Guild announces its September guest artist talk. Bryan Jernigan, an outstanding NOVA artist, will be demonstrating painting an impressionist landscape using soft pastels. The artist talks are free events, open to all. Visit the website: <https://www.springfieldartguild.org/>

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-reno-via-charitable-mini-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Sickle Cell Awareness Month Town Meeting. 5-8 p.m. At The Inova Conference Center, 8100 Innovation Park Drive, 2nd Floor, Fairfax. In honor of Sickle Cell Awareness Month, this town meeting aims to unite advocates, county agencies, and the Inova Adult Sickle Cell Center to foster partnerships and raise awareness about sickle cell disease, the sickle cell trait, and the importance of blood donations from people of color. Attendees can look forward to an engaging program featuring a variety of speakers, presentations, dinner, entertainment, and door prizes. Visit the website at <https://heartgold.org>

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremo-



The McLean Community Center will be holding a Fall Community Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14.



The Native American Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at Riverbend Park in Great Falls.



The 3rd Annual Fall Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 at Tysons Corner Center in McLean.

ny. 7 p.m. At Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. To honor the six residents of Great Falls and all others who lost their lives and suffered in the 9-11 attacks and the aftermath. The keynote speaker will be Vice Admiral Lou Crenshaw, United States Navy (Retired). A return performance by singer Erin Gantt will feature patriotic songs. Parking is available in the library parking lot. In case of rain, the ceremony will move to the Grange. Limited seating and shelter will be provided. Attendees are encouraged but not required to bring portable chairs. Visit www.gffreedom.org.

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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Sculpture NOW 2024. 7-9 p.m. Opening Exhibition Reception. At McLean Project for the Arts. McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) and the Washington Sculptors Group (WSG) will open Sculpture NOW 2024. A non-thematic exhibition of

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

Local Artists' Work Is on Display at The Virginian

Via a partnership with the Fairfax Art League (FAL), The Virginian Senior Living Community is putting the work of local artists on display. Thirteen FAL artists are currently exhibiting 33 diverse pieces of art at The Virginian at 9229 Arlington Blvd. in Fairfax. It's an eclectic mix of landscapes, abstracts, portraits and other genres spanning a wide gamut of mediums such as oil, acrylic, pastel and watercolors. The exhibition may also be viewed online at <https://www.fairfaxartleague.net/the-virginian-exhibition>.

The Virginian's residents actively participate in the exhibition by judging the artwork. They award the "Best in Show" with a \$400 prize, as well as two "Honorable Mentions" with \$100 each. Art lovers interested in purchasing any of the showcased artwork may do so in person at The Virginian or

through FAL's online store.

The judging and reception for the current exhibit will be held Sunday, Sept. 15, from 3-5 p.m. It's open to the public, and the artists will be in attendance. Then a new exhibition will go on display Sept. 21 through December, offering fresh and inspiring works for the community to enjoy.

National Dance Day is Sept. 21 in Fairfax City

The City of Fairfax will celebrate National Dance Day 2024 on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in Old Town Square, 10415 North St. This free and family-friendly event will showcase a wide variety of dance genres from area dance groups, and several will offer mini dance lessons after their performances. All ages are welcome.

❖ Performance Schedule

10 a.m. - Welcome to National Dance Day 2024
10:15 a.m. - Bella Ballerina & Lesson
10:45 a.m. - Morgan Legacy Irish Dance & Lesson
11:15 a.m. - The Fairfax Ballet
11:30 a.m. - Halau Hula Dancers & Lesson
Noon - The Masonettes Dance Team & Lesson (GMU)
12:30 p.m. - BREAK
12:45 p.m. - Salangai Arts (Indian, Classical)
1 p.m. - Fairfax Academy
1:15 p.m. - C4 Performing Arts
1:30 p.m. - Azucar Latin Dance & Lesson (GMU)
2 p.m. - Urbanknowlogy 101 & Lesson (Hip Hop/GMU)
2:30 p.m. - Learn the official National Dance Day routine with Becky Sorto.
2:50 p.m. - Perform this routine with everyone onstage or elsewhere in Old Town Square.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 23

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

new works finished within the last two years, Sculpture NOW includes pieces by more than 60 members of the Washington Sculptors Group working in a wide array of media and approaches. MPA and WSG will host an Artist Talk on Saturday, September 21 at 11 a.m., and a Tea & Talk on Thursday, October 24 at 11 a.m. All events are free and open to the public. Sculpture NOW runs through October 26, 2024. Visit www.mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Snack and Paint Night. 7-9 p.m. At the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, love snacks or just want to get your hands dirty with some paint, come on down to the Old Firehouse for our Snack & Paint Night. Led by a professional art teacher, you will be able to create your own masterpiece with your family while having tons of fun doing so. All materials and snacks are included in the fee. Preregistration is recommended.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

3rd Annual Fall Festival. 12 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. General Admission is free and open to the public. VIP Wine Tent + Tasting Experience Tickets Now On Sale. VIP ticket holders will enjoy tastings from 10 Virginia Wineries, receive a souvenir tasting glass and personal charcuterie box from Pauleen's. Enjoy live music from 9th gear trio, Craft beer sampling courtesy of Barrel & Bushel, Pumpkin painting, Giving Garden guided tours, Vendor market featuring 12 local makers, Face painting, Photo booth, and much more. <https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events/Details/573427>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Native American Festival. 10 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Experience the spirit of Virginia at the Native American Festival. Performance by the Rappahannock Native American Dancers and Drum group. Virginia tribal vendors will offer traditional crafts. Learn about present-day events and cultural heritage. Witness hands-on demonstrations, including bow and arrow use.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

The Slambovians Perform. 8 p.m. At

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC. FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A 2025 SAVE RIDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF ITS GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CASE NO. PUR-2024-00103

On August 23, 2024, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("CVA" or the "Company") completed the filing of an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission"), pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), known as the Steps to Advance Virginia's Energy Plan (SAVE) Act, for approval to implement a SAVE Rider for calendar year 2025 ("2025 SAVE Rider"). Pursuant to Code § 56-604 E, the Commission must issue an order approving or denying the proposed 2025 SAVE Rider adjustment within 90 days of the filing of a complete application.

CVA represents that its SAVE Plan is a program designed to accelerate the replacement of certain components of its gas distribution system infrastructure to enhance system safety and reliability. The Company states that the Commission approved the Company's Phase 5 SAVE Plan subject to Staff's recommendations. CVA represents that its 2025 SAVE Rider is billed as a fixed charge each month and is designed to recover "eligible infrastructure replacement costs" as defined in Code § 56-603.

CVA states that has separately filed for approval of a base rate case ("2024 Rate Case Application") in which the Company requested, and was granted, Commission authorization to implement its proposed base rates on an interim basis for service rendered on and after the first billing unit of October 2024. The Company represents that rates and charges proposed in the 2024 Rate Case Application will include recovery of costs associated with all SAVE in-service plant expenditures made through September 30, 2024, and excludes anticipated SAVE-related expenditures from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. As a result, the Company represents that the SAVE Projected Factor will be set to zero concurrent with the implementation of interim base rates effective the first billing unit of October 2024.

In this proceeding, CVA requests recovery of SAVE-related costs incurred after September 30, 2024, including SAVE-related investment; the SAVE-related construction work in-progress balance at September 30, 2024; and any SAVE-related revenue requirement not recovered in base rates. CVA proposes the 2025 SAVE Rider to be effective the first billing unit of January 2025.

The Company further states that the proposed 2025 SAVE Rider comprises two components, a Projected Factor and a True-Up Factor. CVA states that it is requesting a True-Up Factor revenue requirement is \$2,077,775, and a Projected Factor revenue requirement is \$6,028,485, for a total 2025 SAVE Rider revenue requirement of \$8,106,261. According to the Application, the 2025 SAVE Rider rate calculations are based on a \$73.7 million projected SAVE eligible capital program for 2025; projected 2025 costs associated with the Company's Advanced Leak Detection and Repair Program; and the true-up of the recovery of the actual SAVE cost of service for the calendar year 2023. The Application notes that the Company used the same methodology as approved in Case No. PUR-2023-00119 to allocate the SAVE Plan cost of service to determine the projected rate applicable to each rate schedule. The Company states that the proposed 2025 SAVE Rider will reduce the annual bill for an average residential customer using 64.9 dekatherms per year by \$10.68, a 0.9% decrease, when compared to the rates in effect on June 29, 2024.

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

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

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), the Commission has directed that service on parties and Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Application may be viewed on the Commission's website or obtained, at no charge, by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Esquire, and Victoria L. Howell, Esquire, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836, or tbellis@nisource.com; victoriahowell@nisource.com.

On or before October 15, 2024, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission's website: scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to submit comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00103.

On or before October 15, 2024, any person or entity wishing to participate as a respondent in this proceeding may do so by filing a notice of participation with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5 20 80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00103. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before October 15, 2024, any interested person may request that the Commission convene a hearing in this matter by filing a request for hearing electronically via scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file electronically may file a request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Requests for a hearing shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2024-00103.

A copy of any notices of participation and requests for hearing shall be sent to counsel for the Company.

The Company's Application, the Commission's Rules of Practice and the Commission's Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 19

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. The Slambovian Circus of Dreams bring their rootsy rockin' show to Jammin' Java. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

NARFE Meeting. 1:30-3:30 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Active and retired federal and postal service employees: Want to hear how NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employee Association) works every day to protect your earned benefits? Join them for refreshments, networking and a great opportunity to meet Virginia chapter and Virginia Federation leaders to learn more about NARFE and how its programs may benefit you. Reservations requested but not required. To register, contact Nancy Palmerino at nancyolive0110@yahoo.com by September 9.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Fall Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. Join your friends and neighbors at the best sale of the season! Shoppers will find fabulous bargains offered by 50 vendors, including household items, electronics, clothing, music, books, children's items, and collectibles. Visit Kids' Row, where 5- to 15-year-olds sell their gently used treasures— toys, games, sporting equipment, and other items. Shoppers can enjoy music by a live DJ, and apple cider donuts, hot cider and coffee by Mama's Donut Bites.

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 Sept. 11 to Oct. 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>

SEPT. 14-15

22nd Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At



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



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



300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. Presented by the nation's top art festival producer, Howard Alan Events (HAE), the Annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival throughout the decades has become a hallmark staple event for residents and visitors alike. Ranked by Sunshine Artists Magazine as one of the top art festivals in the nation, local and national artists will display their works in a prestigious show encompassing fine jewelry, exquisite works of art and handcrafted apparel and decor. Art enthusiasts discover spectacular paintings, life-sized sculptures, jewelry, glasswork, photography, ceramics and more. All artists will be on site for the duration of the festival, allowing visitors to discover the inspiration behind each original piece. Admission for patrons is free, and ample parking is available. Saturday, the Art League will once more host the annual "Ice Cream Bowl" fundraiser with tasty treats served in lovingly crafted ornate bowls.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

The Accord Symphony Orchestra. 4 p.m. At Oatlands in Leesburg. Tickets are \$50 for VIP, \$20, for tent and \$15 for lawn. Rain date is September 22, 2024. Youth under 15 are free. With BRAVE, The Accord Symphony Orchestra will take audience members on a captivating musical exploration of the assertion, "Those who are brave are free." From Beethoven's Coriolan Overture to Spirituals sung by The Carter Legacy Choir, the concert will draw together musical moments celebrating the bravery of the human spirit. Tickets can be purchased at www.oatlands.org, or calling 703-727-0670.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Sound Bath. 4-5:30 p.m. At Work-

house 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>

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/>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

N Gauge Model Trains on Display. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have N gauge model trains 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. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

'SURVIVE UNPLUGGED' AT SULLY HISTORIC SITE

Dive into the past with the Park Au-



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

thority's "Surviving Unplugged" series at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. It's where history comes alive through hands-on activities that teach you the secrets of sustainable living and self-sufficiency. Whether it's foraging for wild edibles or mastering the art of ancient crafts, these sessions will leave you inspired to incorporate timeless skills into your modern life. Sessions are \$15 per person for each class.

Pots and Paints: Sunday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Learn more about how to craft and fire clay pots without modern technology, as well as how to make paints and pigments from natural materials.
Knots and Rope: Sunday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Master the ancient art of rope making and knot tying in this unplugged survival class. Learn to make ropes from string and tie essential knots for shelter, rescue, and many more.
Weaving and Wool: Saturday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Explore the world of textiles before department stores. Enjoy a make-your-own experience with working wool into felt and learn basic weaving techniques to make useful items.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Five Hills Garden Club Meeting. 11 a.m. At Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna. The Five Hills Garden Club will hold its first meeting of the season. The program will be on arranging displays with natives and other locally grown flowers by Ellen Frost, owner of Local Color Flowers. Members of the community are invited to attend the program.

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=oddtcreator.

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 Shrekastic twist! This weekend kicks off Broadway in Tysons Season Four at Capital One Hall with five performances of Shrek the Musical Sept. 20 - 22 Visit the website: <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/capital-one-center-presents-perchfest-fall-a-shrekastic-music-mini-golf-festival>

SEPT. 20 TO OCT. 7

Circus Vazquez. At Tysons Galleria,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 21
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



The Perchfest will be held Sept. 20-21, 2024 at Capital One Center in Tysons Corner.

FROM PAGE 20

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. Featuring incredible performers from Mexico, Columbia, Guinea, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and the U.S. All-human cast (no animals) Presented in the largest big top tent

currently touring in the U.S., and it's air-conditioned!

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Thai Festival. 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Join in a vibrant celebration of Thai cuisine at the food festival hosted by the Thai Restaurant Association of America (TRAA). As a non-profit organization created by restaurant owners for restaurant owners, TRAA is dedicated to supporting the Thai restaurant community across the United States. This festival aims to showcase the diverse flavors and rich traditions of Thai cuisine while advancing the quality and awareness of Thai food. It's also an excellent opportunity



Circus Vazquez performs Sept. 20 to Oct. 7 at Tysons Galleria in McLean.

nity for networking, education, and promoting a thriving business environment for all those connected to the world of Thai restaurants.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Old Firehouse Block Party. 1-4 p.m. At The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Come celebrate the Old Firehouse's 34th Anniversary. From 1990 to 2024, OFC has served the community—first as Fairfax County's first fire station and now through programs for youth, such as the After School Program and 5th & 6th Grader Dances. This open house/festival features a variety of free games, crafts, music, food, amusements, giveaways and more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

WB&A Northern Virginia Toy Train Show. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Greater 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.

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 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

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

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Legals

ABC LICENSE

Bread N Me Cafe Inc trading as Bread N Me Cafe, 1751 Pinnacle DR, McLean, Fairfax County, Virginia 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application - Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Consumed On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Eun Hee Youm, President. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Legals

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 91') on the utility pole at VEPCO #2035 off Colonial Farm Rd, McLean, VA (20240407). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 98.5' and 99.5') on the transmission pole at 13630 Bellerose Drive, Chantilly, VA (20240436). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

Barry D. Laurent, DDS announces his retirement and the sale of his practice to Julia Lokitis, DDS. Dr. Laurent has practiced General and Cosmetic Dentistry for 41 years in his Tyson's Corner office located at 8292 Suite B Old Courthouse Rd. Vienna, VA 22182, and he wishes to thank his patient family for the opportunity to have provided their dental care over the last four decades.

Dr. Lokitis is excited to welcome you to the new home of Northern Virginia Dental Solutions. She has 14 years of experience in the dental field, with a degree from University of Maryland and a residency at York Hospital. Her goal is to provide high-quality dental care in a comfortable and welcoming environment. She looks forward to meeting you and helping you achieve a healthy and confident smile.

Dr. Laurent and his staff welcomes Julia, and if you would like to call the office at 703-893-1603, Michelle, our office manager, will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

CALENDAR

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

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 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.)

SPICE UP YOUR FALL WITH FOOD EVENTS IN FAIRFAX PARKS

Indulge your taste buds and embark on a culinary food and drink journey through Fairfax County parks. Whether you want to dress up for a tea party, learn what plants in your yard are edible, or explore the world of campfire cooking, they've got the activity you're looking for! Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-noon.



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

Practical Plants - Foraging for Herbal Remedies: Riverbend Park, \$12, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024, 10-11 a.m. or 2-3 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, 10-11 a.m. or 2-3 p.m.
Animal Tea Party: Frying Pan Farm Park, \$10,

MONDAY/SEPT. 23
DBIA Mid-Atlantic Region Annual Golf Tournament. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At 1757 Golf Club, 45120 Waxpool Road, Dulles.

Golfers Registration:
Individual: \$190 (\$225 after 9/13)
Foursome: \$760 (\$850 after 9/13)
Owner's: \$75
Note that it is a:
9:00 am Shotgun Start
Captain's Choice (Best ball)
Continental Breakfast, Lunch on the Course and Reception will be provided
Register here: bit.ly/4c4C5Yu

TUESDAY/SEPT. 24
Tennis and Pickleball. At River Bend Golf and Country Club. Grab a partner and join us for a fun and competitive day of tennis, pickleball and socializing. Compete in the women's tennis tournament in the morning or coed pickleball in the afternoon. Trophies will be awarded to the winners. You can also come and watch the tournament action or cheer on the Tennis Pros as they play an exciting exhibition match in the afternoon. Following the afternoon session, there will be a reception with appetizers, beverages, music and more!

SEPT. 26-29
Annandale Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Fall Book Sale. Offering a preview sale on Wednesday evening, September 25, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a \$20 entry fee per adult. Visit the website: georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27
Cold War Virginia. 12-1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Francis Gary Powers as he discusses his new book, Cold War Virginia, and how the Workhouse site fits in the mix. Books available to purchase on site; signing follows talk. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/learning-lunch-cold-war>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28
Harvest Happenings. 10 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Celebrate autumn with your family locally! Harvest Happenings is an indoor-outdoor festival with live entertainment, a petting zoo, crafts and games. Patrons can visit our pumpkin patch and purchase a pumpkin to decorate.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28
RA's Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. At 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive (near the Reston Wegmans), Reston.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28
G34.3 Brewing Oktoberfest! 12-9 p.m. At 8532 Terminal Road, Suites L, M, N, Lorton. Visit the brewery for a day filled with beer, food, and fun as they celebrate the Bavarian tradition in style. Get ready to enjoy a wide selection of craft beers brewed right here on site, along with delicious German-inspired cuisine from the Alpine Chef to satisfy your cravings. Don't miss out on live music and door prizes throughout the day.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28
Fall Into Wellness. 12-3 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

Kickstart your morning with Food For Others annual 5K from 8-11 a.m. From 12-3 p.m., experience an afternoon packed with wellness activities including an Aerie Offline/American Eagle Athleisure fashion show, engaging wellness demos, giveaways, raffles and activations from Tysons Corner Center retailers. Stay active with trainer-led workouts featuring a Mommy & Me Fit4Mom Class, Pilates Demo with Club Studio, One Life workout and Lululemon led cool-down. Refuel with complimentary bites from Barrel & Bushel's new lighter menu.

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/SEPT. 29
Nike Missile Air Defense Talk. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Alan McKie will speak on the Nike missile air defense system at Lorton. Sponsored by the Burke Historical Society.

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19
9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. TDMV Ride 8:30 a.m.; Youth and Family Ride at 9 a.m. Starting and ending at Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Early bird special! Register for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon by August 31 for a discounted rate and be guaranteed a pair of Tour de Mount Vernon socks! #Tdmv2024 Register now: <https://buff.ly/46VNVtx>

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.

As My Later Mother Would Say: "It's Enough Already"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since I have the time - and interest, in watching the daily new shows, I'm prepared to write a Kenny-column about the experience. There seems to be two phrases that the talking heads use/overuse repeatedly: "inflection point," and "permission structure." I cringe every time I hear them. It seems regardless of station - and irrespective of point of view, I am hearing these phrases, constantly. Almost as if there's a reward for using them.

On the one hand, the phrases have become the everyday jargon of the news coverers and of those whose opinion on that everyday news is sought after/printed, et cetera. The regularity with which I hear these two phrases reminds me of my 10th grade Western Traditions teacher. The class was ostensibly for 10th grade history, but my teacher was also an Art History teacher so much of our class was spent discussing/analyzing works of art.

The teacher whose name I can't recall (though I remember he was a man) spoke rather quickly and often on subjects/material with which I had limited knowledge (and patience/interest if truth be told). "As such," and in a moment, I'll explain why I began the sentence this way, some of us students were somewhat bored and trying to pass the time. The teacher was often speaking at length as the students would be taking notes. "Generally speaking," and I'll explain why I inserted that beginning, we were sort of looking for something to amuse us/pass the time. And what we came up with was the "as such" scoreboard. Why? This was a real-time tallying of the number of times the teacher uttered two distinct phrases. The two phrases? Do you need to ask? They were "As such," and "Generally speaking." If I remember correctly, "as such" could sometimes be heard upwards of 20 times in a one-hour class. "Generally speaking," not nearly as much. Still, its use/recurrence was too notable to ignore, just not on par with "as such."

Oddly enough, I did so well in this class that my teacher referred me into honors history where I remained for the balance of my high school years. It was my first and only honors class. An honor, I thought/felt and the first time a Lourie from Athelstane Road made such a grade. Being that there had been only one other Lourie from this address to precede me, it was hardly the world's greatest accomplishment. Nevertheless, it was certainly an accomplishment for an Athelstane Lourie, and I was proud to be so honored.

The honors history teacher had a word or two himself that he spoke repeatedly. It was when he was talking politics. He would call Democrats "Stuck-whistle liberals." I was amused but not quite sure I appreciated or even understood the total scope of the teacher's slight. However, he did use the phrase more often than any other (oddly enough I can't remember if he had a phrase for Republicans, seems like he would have). But not enough that it led to its unique scoreboard. Besides, the students in this class were a bit more focused - or at least not focused on the kind of childish pursuits some others (yours truly) were, so class was less amusing and more serious. Still, first with "Western Traditions" and then "Honors History" I did learn something, and not simply about art or history.

As I watch/listen to the news programs, I am reminded about 10th grade. "As such," I am very sensitive/alert to verbal redundancies and am often amused by them, regardless of whether I had to "permission structure" to do so, "generally speaking."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 19

Free Document Shredding and Food Drive, Sept. 28

The Woman's Club of Fairfax is holding a free, document-shredding event and food drive on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. It'll be in the parking lot of Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run in Fairfax. There's a limit of five boxes of documents per person, and three-ring binders are not accepted. At the same time, Woman's Club members will collect donations of non-perishable food items for the high school's food pantry for students in need.



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