

THE CONNECTION

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

Volunteers QueSchae Blue-Clark and Yvonne Kane demonstrated athleticism and strength reaching high to remove invasive porcelain berry vines in Laurel Hill Park.

Sorority Sisters Volunteer for Environment

PAGE 10

4 Pedestrians Killed in 10 Days

PAGE 3

Clydesdales Drop by Frying Pan

PAGE 12

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 3 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



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FOR SALE!

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Sunday 2-4pm**



Offered for...\$1,199,000

2307 Barbour Rd, Falls Church
 BEAUTIFUL updated 5BR/3.5BA home located in Dale View Manor neighborhood. This brick home has been renovated with a newly expanded 5th level primary en suite and expanded front area of home. The main level features living room with fireplace; sun-filled dining and gourmet kitchen with walk-outs to the deck and carport. Gleaming hardwood floors on 3 levels with 2 BR's with full-size BA on each split level and a spacious lower level rec room with gas fireplace, laundry room/storage, half bath and walk-up to backyard. Generous backyard with deck/shed. Convenient location! **Shreewood, Kilmer, Marshall Schools!**

**BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2024**

FOR SALE!

OPEN SUNDAY



Offered for...\$1,375,000

6239 Kellogg Drive, McLean
 GORGEOUS 5BR/3.5BA colonial home on 3 finished levels in sought-after Potomac Hills community! This welcoming home has a updated gourmet kitchen, dining area with bar area, and spacious living room with fireplace and walkout to back patio. Add'l walk-out to a covered private patio with skylights and ceiling fan from the dining room. The third level offers an updated private ensuite with a beautiful bath. There are 3 add'l BR's on this level with a hall bath. The first level features a family room or bedroom with a fireplace and updated bathroom. Private backyard with patio and decks! **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**

Under Contract!



**2049 Rockingham Street
McLean, 22101
\$4,695,000**

FOR SALE!

***OPEN HOUSE*
Saturday 2-4pm**



Offered for...\$1,474,900

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 features SS appliances, and a large breakfast room w/ 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 BR's and bath. LL has 4th BR, half bath and laundry. **Kent Gardens, Longfellow, McLean!**

SOLD!



**6144 Farver Road
McLean, 22101
\$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!

Four Pedestrians Struck and Killed in Ten Days

Supervisors to consider lowering the speed limit to 20 and 15 mph on some roads.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As of Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, Fairfax County Police detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit continue investigating four fatal pedestrian crashes within the last ten days bringing the year's total to 15 pedestrians killed by drivers in Fairfax County. Drivers struck and killed one pedestrian on a sidewalk, another within a crosswalk, and two outside crosswalks and in roadways.

It is a "crash" not an "accident." "Crash" indicates the incidents are preventable, according to a guide, created from a study out of Texas A&M University, that reduces victim blaming and elevates crashes as a preventable "public health concern."

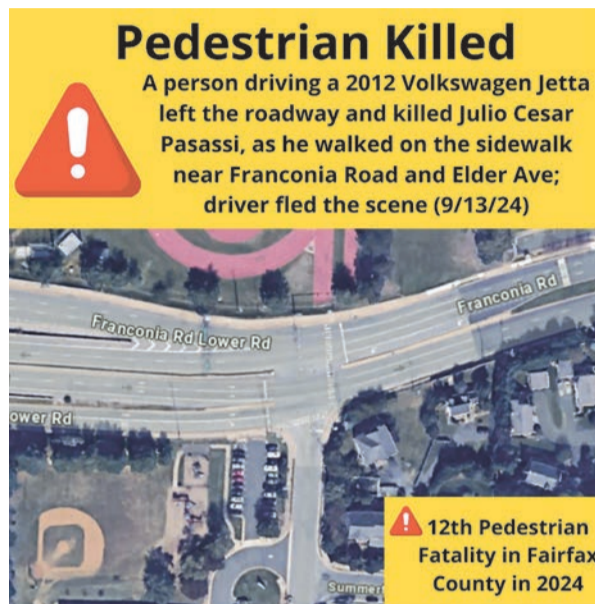
Discussing World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in 2023, Anna Ricklin, MHS, Health in All Policies Manager at the Fairfax County Health Department said, "We have analyzed the past eight-and-a-half years of traffic crash data and see traffic safety, especially for pedestrians, as a health issue that requires a multidisciplinary, systems level response."

This crash marked the 15th pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County in 2024: An 80-year-old Vienna pedestrian was hit and killed by the driver of a truck in Oakton on Saturday morning, Sept. 21. Police report that officers from the Fair Oaks Police District were called to the junction of Hunter Mill Road and Lynnhaven Place at 8:42 a.m. In their preliminary investigation, detectives concluded that Choon Kook, 80, of Vienna, entered the crosswalk at the junction of Lynnhaven Place and Hunter Mill Road. The driver of a Ford F-150 trying to turn into Oakton Shopping Center from Hunter Mill Road struck Kook with his vehicle. Kook was transported to the hospital and later pronounced deceased. According to police, the driver stayed on the scene and was not speeding or drunk. Investigations of the circumstances surrounding the incident are ongoing.

This crash marked the 14th pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County in 2024: On the evening of Sept. 21, Tracy Roane, 56, of Centreville, was hit and killed by a driver of a Nissan SUV traveling northbound on Route 29 just past White Post Road. Roane was walking in the northbound lanes of Route 29, not in a crosswalk, according to police. Around 8:19 p.m., officers responded to the location for a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. Additional vehicles struck Roane while he was still in the roadway, according to the police report. He was declared deceased, and all drivers remained at the scene. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor for the drivers, and speed is under investigation.

"This would be the first time we've seen a reduction below 25, I believe probably in history."

— Jeff McKay, chairman



FX FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS
The 12th pedestrian crash of 2024 in Fairfax County

tion. The pedestrian's alcohol remains under investigation, according to police.

This crash marked the 13th pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County in 2024: On the evening of Sept. 19, Oscar Daniel Martinez Granados, 24, of Woodbridge was hit and severely injured by the driver of an Acura sedan traveling east on Old Keene Mill Road. Granados was transported to the hospital and was pronounced deceased on Sept. 21. Police determined that Granados walked into the eastbound lanes of Old Keene Mill Road, not in a crosswalk. According to detectives, alcohol does not appear to be a factor for the driver, and speed is still under investigation. The circumstances surrounding the crash are being investigated.

This crash marked the 12th pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County in 2024: Early on Sept. 13, Cesar Pasassi, 43, of Springfield, who was walking west on the sidewalk alongside the eastbound lanes of Franconia Road was hit and killed by the driver of a 2012 Volkswagen Jetta. The driver drove off the roadway onto the sidewalk. Officers responded to the scene around 6 a.m. The driver of the Volkswagen abandoned the vehicle at the scene and fled before police arrived.

Anyone with information about these crashes is asked to contact the Fairfax County Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Drivers should stay alert and watch for pedestrians, particularly in busy areas and at night. Drivers must respect crosswalks and never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk, as pedestrians may be crossing that you can not see. Stick to the speed limit. Fairfax County authorities urge pedestrians to use designated crosswalks whenever possible, obey traffic signals and check for oncoming traffic before proceeding. Stay visible; if walking at night, carry a flashlight or use a phone's flashlight.

SEE LOWERING THE SPEED LIMIT, PAGE 19

Time To Walk to End Alzheimer's

Health and long-term care costs for people living with dementia are projected to reach \$360 billion this year and nearly \$1 trillion in 2050

It's Walk to End Alzheimer's season, and hundreds of Northern Virginia residents will unite this weekend in a sea of purple to raise awareness and funds for the Alzheimer's Association. Walks will take place on the National Mall in DC on Saturday and at the Reston Town Center on Sunday. Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Among those returning to walk this year is Centreville resident Tracy Cheifetz, captain of Team Amy's Army. The team of family and friends has been participating in the Northern Virginia Walk since 2018 in honor of Cheifetz's mother, Amy Shimkus, who died with Alzheimer's in March 2022. "My Mom was a nurse. She participated in drug trials and knew that they would not help her – but might help others someday," says Cheifetz, who shares her time and enthusiasm for the cause as a member of the Northern Virginia Walk planning committee. She encourages people to participate. "If you know someone who has or had Alzheimer's, the Walk is a great way to honor them. I walk to raise money and hope that one day we will end Alzheimer's."

Natasha Carnell of Alexandria will be walking on the National Mall in honor of her mother, Marty, who is living with Alzheimer's. Carnell knows how hard caregiving can be. "What keeps me up at night is thinking about how many individuals living with dementia do not have access to the same level of care and commitment as Mom does" says Carnell, who serves on the DC Walk planning committee. "I am proud of the work we are doing to raise much needed funds for continued research towards a cure and am hopeful for our collective futures."

The number of people affected by Alzheimer's is staggering. Nearly 7 million Americans are currently living with the dis-



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

2023 Northern Virginia's Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, Reston Town Center

ease, and more than 11 million family members and friends are providing their unpaid care. Health and long-term care costs for people living with dementia are projected to reach \$360 billion this year and nearly \$1 trillion in 2050.

"There has never been a greater need for the community to join in the fight against Alzheimer's disease by participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's," said Kate Rooper, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Funds raised through the Walk will provide information, education and support to people living with Alzheimer's and their families and caregivers, while also contributing to advancing critically needed research."

In addition to the Walks in DC and Northern Virginia this weekend, the chapter will hold Walks in Old Town Manassas on Oct. 19 and at the National Harbor and in Winchester on Oct. 26. Participants will learn about resources, support and volunteer opportunities. They also participate in a poignant Promise Garden ceremony — an experience that signifies the solidarity of the Walk participants in the fight against the disease as each person holds a Promise Garden flower representing their personal reason to end the disease.

Participation in Walk to End Alzheimer's is free. Walkers are encouraged to raise funds. Visit alz.org/ncawalks or call 800.272.3900.

Fairfax City Kicks up its Heels on National Dance Day

Various genres and cultures celebrated the fifth annual National Dance Day on Saturday, Sept. 21, in Fairfax City's Old Town Square.



Young performers from Bella Ballerina dancing to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

The Masonettes Dance Team strikes a pose after performing.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



Members of the Fairfax Ballet performing gracefully onstage.



Assistant teacher Lara Travis (second from right) and the Halau Hula dancers (from left) Korra, 9; Rosaline, 8-1/2; and Pralisha, 9.



Salangai Arts doing a classical Indian dance routine.



Fairfax Academy Dance students perform a jazz number. From left are Robson Barnett, Megan Doughty, Jacob Ocampo, Leanna Wallace, Pauleen Kibling and Libby Hansen.

SEE MORE NATIONAL DANCE DAY, PAGE 15



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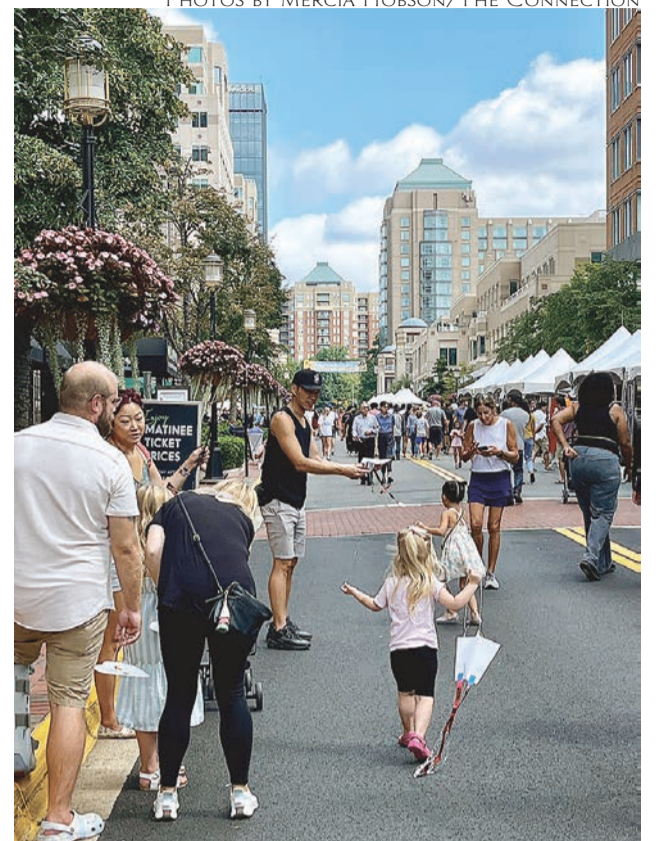
COMMUNITY



Joined by Krishnan of India and Nandini at the Reston Multicultural Festival, Janet of Ghana comes dressed in attire that reflects pride in her cultural roots.



Performers entertain on one of the two stages.



Against the backdrop of the street banner in Reston Town Center, two children play with the kites they made at one of the community booths.

Reston Multicultural Festival Celebrates Diversity

Organizers stressed inclusiveness and joy, expressing pride in expanding the festival's reach and diversity.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the annual Reston Multicultural Festival returned to Reston Town Center. This year's festival was the Reston Community Center's last presentation under the direction of executive director Leila Gordon. It capped a quarter century of discovering the community's many cultures and artistic expression in a public celebration.

Gordon said the event had something for everyone, regardless of age. In vivid costumes, street performers and others told stories and performed dances that spoke to children, teens, adults, families, and seniors alike. While cultural demonstrations and conversations showcased by community organizations informed adults, other family activities catered to youngsters.

Gordon said the festival's premise has

stayed the same for 25 years. "We began wanting to showcase Reston's diversity and welcoming spirit, and while we have certainly changed a lot in the 25 years since we started, the premises of celebrating diversity and Reston's inclusive spirit have remained constant."



Leila Gordon

"Celebrating diversity and Reston's inclusive spirit have remained constant."

— Leila Gordon,
RCC Executive Director

Gordon said they choose "a multicultural festival" over multiple individual cultural festivals because their community is so diverse and embraces a multitude of ethnicities and cultures. Other communities might exhibit less diversity, leading to a preference for a singular cultural focus. There is no "best way" to honor diversity — each community develops its own method organically, said Gordon.

RCC handled language hurdles through their website which could provide quick translation, Gordon said. So if someone could not understand English-language materials on site,

RCC's media booth could help check the website schedules and listings in the patron's language.



A line forms at one of the children's activities.

Reston Community Center, Reston Town Center Association (RTCA) and BXP (previously Boston Properties) hosted the event. Robert Goudie, executive director of RTCA, said that supporting Reston Town Center as a welcoming place for all is core to their mission, and they talk about that on their web home page.

Goudie said RTCA, RCC and BXP added the Pavilion and Market Street to Town Square Park to make it a "more robust festival," an exciting opportunity. The expanded footprint enhanced the festival's universal

appeal and allowed them to include Sip & Stroll to improve the audience experience. Organizers stressed inclusiveness and joy, expressing pride in expanding the festival's reach and diversity. Goudie said that it is "a celebration after all."

"Adding even more voices and dimensions and bringing this joy to even more people are all good things," Goudie added.

Considering future festivals, Gordon said, "I know the festival will continue to grow in the coming years just as our multicultural community grows."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Donate Supplies to The Lamb Center

The Lamb Center, a nonprofit, daytime drop-in center for the homeless, is in urgent need of the following supplies: Lemonade mix (powder); family-sized boxes of cereal, coffee creamer, 13-gallon trash bags with drawstrings (unscented only - used for laundry); bleach; small, travel-sized bars of soap; paper towels; disposable, heavy-duty cutlery; T-shirts (all sizes); and socks (lightweight, black and white). Always needed, as well, are gift cards in \$25 or \$50 denominations to Aldi, Walmart, Target, Safeway or Giant.

All supplies may be brought to The Lamb Center at 3160 Campbell Drive in Fairfax City. Donation hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Saturday, from 9-11 a.m. People may also help The Lamb Center by making monetary donations at https://www.thelambcenter.org/ways-to-give/give-online/?blm_aid=1512449.

Free Document Shredding, Food Drive, Sept. 28

The Woman's Club of Fairfax is holding a free, document-shredding event and food drive this 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.

Coffee with a Cop on Oct. 2

Fairfax City police officers will participate in National Coffee with a Cop Day, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 8-10:30 a.m. The public is invited to stop by Main Street Bagel at 10268 Main St. in Fairfax to share coffee, friendly conversation and even a bagel or two.

Help Britepaths Stuff the Bus Online

With 24 percent of Fairfax County residents experiencing food insecurity, they really need the community's help. As part of its mission to stabilize families and support children, Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths provides services to clients in need through its Farmers Market initiatives, grocery-store gift cards, and Food4Thought program. To help Britepaths Stuff the Bus to fight hunger, go to <https://britepaths.org/civcrm/contribute/transact/?reset=1&id=2>.

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Fairfax Walk
September 29, 2024
Fairfax City Hall
afsp.org/Fairfax



American
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Another **THE CONNECTION** Community Partnership

ECO-AWARDS

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Owners of this Vienna house recognized for their eco-efficiency measures



Maryam Dadkhah and Shawn Achziger take energy and natural wildlife conservation seriously

Saving the Planet, One House At a Time

Could you do more to achieve eco-efficiency?

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Though many of us aspire to do more for the environment by managing our energy usage and waste, the learning leap and concerted effort it takes to be eco-friendly in our living space leaves most doing less than they would like. One Vienna couple is working harder, and accomplishing more. Others, including the Town of Vienna, are taking notice. Meet Dr. Maryam Dadkhah and Shawn Achziger.

A frequent speaker at town meetings and under consideration for Tree Commission membership, Dadkhah shares suggestions on natural planting ordinance and deer management changes she hopes Vienna will make to improve the wider town environment. The couple recently hosted a small gathering at their property for elected officials and friends, to show the several measures they use at their home, and that could be adopted by others. Even small measures, they say, can add up as big help for the environment. Mayor Linda Colbert and council members Chuck Anderson and Howard Springsteen accepted their invitation to learn more about the measures used at the Dadkhah/Achziger home.

The Town of Vienna encourages home energy conservation through its Eco-Efficient Homes recognition program, managed by its Conservation and Sustainability Commission. Established in 2015, nominations are accepted from any resident or business and consider, for example: "installation of grid-connected solar panels or shingles; participation in Solarize Vienna; new houses or major renovations designed and built ... for energy efficiency and conservation of resources; advanced technologies such as geothermal heating/cooking and solar heat collectors; stories about steps to reduce total energy consumption and waste." The town recognized its first three homeowners and one business on Sept. 23.

Dadkhah and Achziger are among the homeowners recently recognized by the Town for eco-efficiency. They have installed solar panels and solar energy battery storage, achieving a 137 percent offset in their electric energy consumption, according to their provider, Dominion Energy. They use double paned windows and replaced their door with a tighter one. They drive electric vehicles and use a battery powered lawn mower. Their cistern and rain barrel system collects 220 gallons of water for use in yard care. During summer droughts, they also take the extra measure of collecting shower water before it heats to supplement plant watering. They regularly compost kitchen scraps, using a combination of methods: open air composting, with piled green and brown materials; direct composting, into the garden bed when vegetable growing conditions allow; and an EMO or effective microorganisms method, done indoors with multiple Bokashi containers, rotated for best fermentation.

Fencing, a considerable expense, is a necessity here, as the Town of Vienna has not yet addressed its deer management problem. Deer can be seen boldly munching on any unprotected plants in yards and along streets, even during the day and within sight of human activities. Dadkhah cages plants in open areas except those varieties that deer avoid, such as thorned plants. The town council had tentatively scheduled a review of deer management in February 2025. Advocate Avril Garland warned that waiting so long to begin would allow at least two more breeding seasons, which could be expected to increase the town's deer population exponentially. Council members agreed and now are expected to address the issue in their October work session.

While discouraging deer, the Dadkhah/Achziger backyard provides inviting habitat for other creatures. Their landscaping provides room for mounding soil in a few spots; an inviting habitat for snakes to discourage small mammals from enjoying the compost



Maryam Dadkhah uses native plants in her landscaping with caging as protection from Vienna's plentiful deer population necessary even in her front yard

bin or vegetable garden. Several vessels offer water for birds; the native plant gardens provide valuable food for birds and insects, as well as striking beauty. Vienna's current vegetation ordinance is seen by some as too restricting for native plant landscaping. Like many, Dadkhah, who takes on the plant role for the couple, has sections of traditional warm season grasses, a nod to her husband who likes a yard look. They are removing more grass in favor of native plants, little by little. She is introducing native low-growing sedges to gradually replace grass in more open lawn areas. The mosquito traps they use capture only mosquitoes, their eggs, and larva, not moths and other flying insects, to reduce the mosquito population on their property without chemical dangers (Dalen Skeet-O-Trap).

Could Dadkhah and Achziger's do any more? They plan, but have not yet scheduled, a professional energy use audit. Achziger shares that they did consider adding a green roof to their garage. A green roof uses a layer of plants to reduce heat, purify air, reduce energy use, and capture carbon. Research revealed, however, that it would be a considerable expense to reinforce the existing garage support structure, given

ECO-HOUSES TYPICALLY INCLUDE SOME OR MOST OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ❖ Higher than normal levels of thermal insulation
- ❖ Better than normal air-tightness
- ❖ Good level of daylight
- ❖ Passive solar orientation (glazing oriented south for light and heat)
- ❖ Thermal mass to absorb that solar heat
- ❖ Minimum north-facing glazing to reduce heat loss
- ❖ Mechanical ventilation with heat recovery system
- ❖ Heating from renewable solar, heat pump or biomass
- ❖ Photovoltaic panels, small wind turbine or electricity from a 'green' supplier
- ❖ Natural materials (avoidance of PVCs and other plastics)
- ❖ Rainwater harvesting
- ❖ Grey-water collection
- ❖ Windows with double or triple-glaze and vacuum layer
- ❖ Solar panels or wind turbines
- ❖ Geothermal heating and growing plants on the roof to regulate temperature, quiet the house, and produce oxygen
- ❖ Vegetable patch outside for food production
- ❖ Composting toilet

the significantly increased weight-bearing needs. Grey water collection would require a separate piping system. Nor did Dadkhah and Achziger find the idea of a dry composting toilet appealing.

For more on the Vienna recognition program, see <https://www.viennava.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1514/637437190421970000>. For more ideas on becoming energy efficient at your home, see Department of Energy's guide, *Tips on Saving Money and Energy in Your Home*

<https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/energy-saver-guide-2022.pdf>

VIENNA'S SEPTEMBER 2024 ECO-EFFICIENT HOME RECOGNITIONS Maryam Dadkhah and Shawn Achziger, 609 Alma St SW

Installed extensive amounts of native pollinators and native vegetation in front and backyard with deer fencing protection. Property has EV charging, Ipsun Solar roof panels,

SEE ECO-AWARDS, PAGE 9
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ECO-AWARDS

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Dadkhah's seed library, where people exchange or take seeds, is popular with gardeners of all ages

FROM PAGE 8

and battery storage; cistern and rain barrel collection system. Practice composting.

Damon and Natrisha Sanchez,
605 Gibson Dr SW

Implemented energy efficiency improvements including, for ventilation, better insulation in attic, and door seals; and drinking water treatment. Also installed solar power via Ispun Solar, and composting via Compost Crew



Native wildflowers grown in mass add color behind deer fencing

Susan Stillman,
214 Ayr Hill Ave NE

Intensive energy efficiency improvements including a bank of solar panels on the roof, all-electric appliances, LED lighting, triple-paned windows, and extensive amounts of insulation. Has heat-pump water heater. Native Eastern Star sedge in lieu of traditional lawn grasses. Certified as a Plus ZERO 2021 Design Certification (the industry standard for net zero energy design for existing buildings).

David Peabody and Izumi Kitajima from Peabody Fine Architects

Recognized for the design implementations at 214 Ayr Hill Ave NE.



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AKA Sisters Serve Local Park

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Local chapter works to improve environment.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Members of a Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority local chapter took on an environmental service project at Laurel Hill Park again this year. The AKA letters, and pink and green colors, were on display as the members arrived equipped with gloves and garden shears to work in managing invasive plants in the park. Specifically, they restored a historic rail car once used by the Occoquan Prison to move materials through the grounds. The rail car rests along the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail where the rail line once ran. Thanks to the work of the sorority ladies, the car, which had been barely visible behind extensive invasive plant growth on its protective fencing, was made visible again.

The group's organizer for the service session, Lynbea Toombs of Alexandria, says the group undertakes multiple environmental projects. In May 2023, the group



AKA's pink and green colors were dominant during the sorority's volunteer session, for Morgan Powell, Sandy Danquah-Newmann, and Tameika Square.

assisted in preparing the park's Central Green Pollinators' Garden for Spring growth by removing spent plants and dried stalks. (The Connection, May 3, 2023) Local site leaders have welcomed the group and their enthusiastic spir-

it of volunteerism in other tasks, such as tree planting.

AKA is the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority. The group was founded on Jan. 15, 1908 at Howard Univer-
SEE LOCAL CHAPTER, PAGE 11



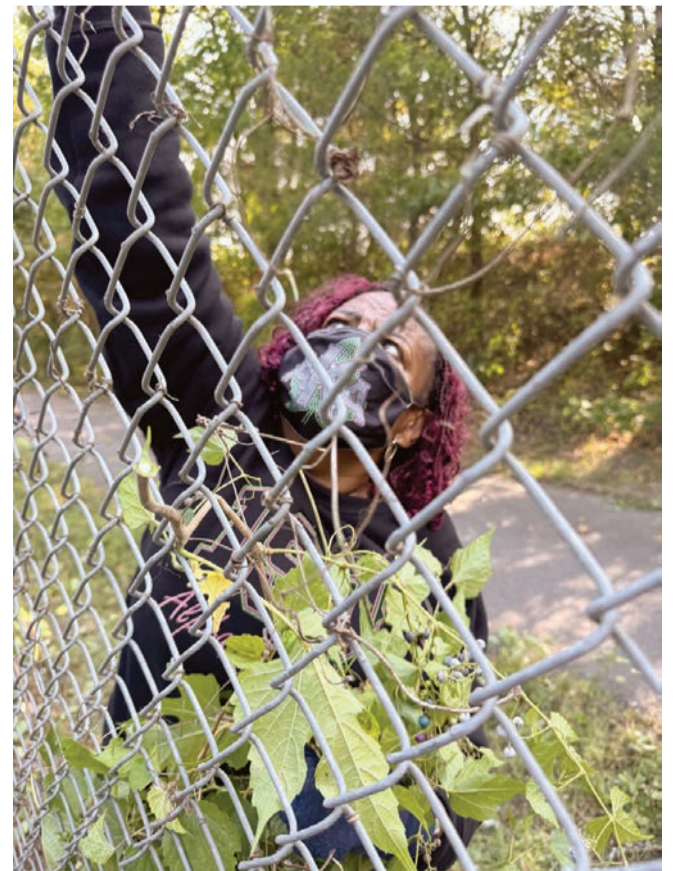
Sisters worked side by side to restore the visibility of the site's historic rail car; foreground, Lucinda Scott-Willoughby and Heather Jenkins.



QueSchae Blue-Clark and Yvonne Kane demonstrated athleticism and strength reaching high to remove invasive porcelain berry vines.



Aurora Borghi and Angela Carter teamed up for athletic ups and downs worthy of a collegiate cheer team.



Phyllis Thibodeaux declares the work good exercise as she stretches to remove vines from the fencing.

Local Chapter Works to Improve Environment

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 10

sity in Washington, D.C., “to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women.” The Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of AKA serves the communities of Springfield and Lorton. Many are graduates of Howard or Hampton Universities. The national sorority’s membership includes successful women in many fields, including Kamala Harris, the first female Vice President of the United States and current nominee for President.



Shenece Harris cutting lower growth poison ivy.



AKA members pose with PVT members in front of the now visible historic rail car.



Unexpected things, like a rat snake skin were discovered and some plant knowledge gained.



Yvonne Kane, surrounded by her sorority sisters after winning a Park Volunteer Team appreciation.



New bonds formed as AKA sister Angela Carter teamed up with PVT member Aurora Borghi.

A bit of good natured competition ensued as Angeles Hemingway declared she pulled the longest vine.



The famous Budweiser Clydesdales overnighted at Frying Pan Park, taking liberty in the arena to the delight of their many fans.

Swing horse, Vince, gets finishing touches to his braid work in his stall before standing for photos with visitors

Rockstar Clydesdales Visit

Frying Pan Park stables iconic horse team overnight.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

To say the Budweiser Clydesdales are popular is as inadequate as saying a Clydesdale is just another horse. The fan circle for the impressively large animals encompasses those who love horses, football, baseball, beer, Super Bowl ads, Americana, and more. So it should come as no surprise that when Anheuser-Busch and the Fairfax County Park Authority invited the public for a meet and greet with the famous Clydesdales, many braved the rain and made the trek to Frying Pan Park. It was enough to back up traffic on Old Ox Road, necessitate opening the site's auxiliary parking, and for long lines to form waiting to see or be photographed with the iconic horses.

Ten members of the Budweiser's East Coast Hitch are in town with their handlers and Dalmatians for the Congressional Brewing Contest at Nationals Park in D.C. The event, now in its seventh year, brings members from both sides of the aisle "to find common ground over brewing." The contest, which began in 2017, pits teams of two legislators, with opposite party affiliations, to compete for the Brew Democracy Cup, and a sizable donation made to their selected charity. During the year, six legislator teams work at Anheuser-Busch

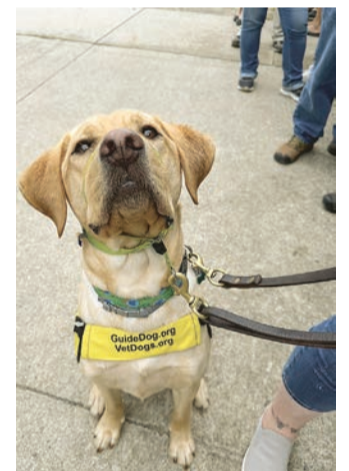
breweries across the country to design their own beers. The 2024 winners for their "Coastal Shine" beer are U.S. Reps. David Rouser (R-NC) and Rick Larsen (D-WA). Anheuser-Busch donated \$75,000 to six charities benefiting farmers. The 2023 winners were U.S. Reps. Mike Carey (R-OH) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA).

As any other out-of-towners here for an overnight stay, the Clydesdales were in need of accommodations. Frying Pan Park, which includes the working Kidwell Farm, and is often the site of equestrian competitions and 4-H events, also offers stabling at \$20 per stall in a large modern barn. Although the local facilities may be more like roughing it than their classy quarters at the 300 acre Warm Springs Ranch near St. Louis Missouri which the Clydesdales call home, the park facilities made overnighting far easier for the handlers. The horses have overnighted here on other occasions. Their schedule this time provided an opportunity to interact with the public at the park.

Two horses were given liberty in the site's large indoor arena to be viewed by their admirers. The public also could walk through the stabling area to see horses in their stalls, and another horse, Vince, was braided up to



Tom, regarded as the team's 'clown' personality, relaxes in his overnight stall at Frying Pan Park



Guide dog in training, 15 month old, Henry was officially at the event to build his crowd skills, but could he be hoping to be discovered by talent scouts?

colossus for a photo and pat, and to wonder at his size and gentle nature.

The Clydesdale breed is much admired for size and calm disposition. They were prized in past decades as working farm horses, and are still in high demand today by police departments for patrol in urban settings and crowd control. They can be more than twice the weight of other horses, at 2,000 pounds, and pull two times their body weight. Together the eight Budweiser Clydesdales pull the 7,000 pound, equally iconic beer wagon.

East Coast Hitch manager Dave Thomas says they travel with ten horses, about 45 weeks per year; with one day off per week. The horses are selected for the



Budweiser graciously held a meet and greet with photo op for admirers while visiting the Metro area



East Coast Hitch manager Dave Thomas, with team members Vince and Shannon

teams based on standard size and coloration. Once on the team, the horse will take one of four different positions. Wheel horses are the biggest and strongest; Body horses are smaller but powerful; Swing horses cover the most distance on turns; and Lead horses are the smallest and most agile. As one looks at the team in the traces, the size differences can be noted, gradually increasing front to wagon. Horses that don't make the team may remain on the ranch to assist in training young horses or to learn special skills that might be needed for performances, such as those seen in Budweiser commercials.

Thomas shares that each member of the team has a different personality. He says, "We like to think we run the show, but we get to be pretty good friends." When asked if there is a team clown, without hesitation he names Tom. Apparently Tom is noted for his antics in the field, when at liberty, and his instigation of other horses to act playfully.

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Frying Pan Park's resident draft horse, Jeff, grazes in his pasture, unaware of the hoopla and rock star treatment going on nearby

The many Budweiser Clydesdale ad fans know that although the Dalmatian dog is the iconic breed for association with the beer wagons and fire trucks, Labrador Retrievers have been frequent stars of the seasonal ads in recent years. A yellow Lab named Owen stole our hearts in the past ad story when he rescued the wagon team trying to make their way on a snowy night (See Mount Vernon Gazette, February 15, 2024). Though Owen is a professional actor, 15 month old Henry, in training as a guide dog, was in the crowd during the Clydesdales' visit, maybe envisioning a starring role on screen. Perhaps he doesn't know that if he passes guide dog training, he's already a star? For information about raising a guide dog puppy to change a life, see puppy.guidedog.org.

Whoever the players, we all look forward to the next ad story.

By the way, if Thomas knows whether there will be a Budweiser Clydesdale Super Bowl commercial for the next game to delight fans, he's not saying. But with a twinkle in his eye, he says of the Clydesdales, "they know all the positions for playing football."

**Soapstone Connector
Fairfax County**

Public Information Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7 p.m.

South Lakes High School
(use Door #1 to access the cafeteria)
11400 South Lakes Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Find out about plans to extend Soapstone Drive (Route 4720) north by approximately half a mile from Sunrise Valley Drive (Route 5320) to Sunset Hills Road (Route 675) via a new bridge over the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267), Dulles International Airport Access Highway and Metrorail Silver Line. The new roadway will include two lanes (one in each direction), a painted median, on-road bike lanes, shared-use path on the east side and sidewalk on the west side. The new roadway will have capacity for four lanes (two in each direction) without a median but will open to traffic with two lanes and a painted median. The project also includes upgrading the traffic signal at Sunrise Valley Drive and Soapstone Road and, if deemed warranted, installing a new traffic signal at the new road's intersection at Sunset Hills Road.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information and meeting details on the project webpage (<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/Soapstone>) or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2768 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **November 1, 2024** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Khalil Minhas, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Soapstone Connector" in the subject line.

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

State Project: 4720-029-349, B649, C501, D611, P101, R201

UPC: 112479

Federal: STP-5A01 (916)



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Criminal Trial Underway for Ex-Fairfax County Officer

On-duty shooting and killing of unarmed shoplifting suspect.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Only once before in the history of the Fairfax County Police Department has a police officer faced charges for shooting and killing someone while on duty. That incident was a 2013 police shooting by Adam D. Torres of an unarmed man, John B. Geer.

On Sept. 17, the criminal trial of Wesley Shifflett, former Fairfax County police sergeant, began in the fatal shooting of a man suspected of shoplifting sunglasses. Shifflett

faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and reckless weapon discharge. Shifflett fatally shot unarmed shoplifting suspect Timothy McCree Johnson, 37, on Feb. 22, 2023.

Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced on Oct. 12 last year that a special grand jury indicted Shifflett on felony charges. Before Shifflett's trial, Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Randy I. Bellows granted prosecutors' request to acknowledge that Johnson was unarmed when Shifflett shot him in court hearings — information that Shifflett's attorney had sought to exclude from trial.

Jury selection began and concluded on Tuesday, Sept. 17, seating twelve. Opening statements and testimony began on Wednesday.

The testimony continued until Thursday, when it abruptly paused. Shifflett's counsel, Caleb Kershner, filed a motion for a mistrial after the prosecution put the second FCPD officer involved in the shooting on the witness stand without his lawyer present in the courtroom.

The fatal shooting of Johnson occurred at night outside the busy Tysons Corner Center after Shifflett and Officer James Sadler

responded to suspected shoplifting of sunglasses, according to The Connection on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. The officers chased a suspect, later identified as Johnson, in a foot pursuit out of Tysons Corner Center mall to a parking garage, down its stairwell, through the garage, across a pedestrian overpass, and toward Rt. 7, finally heading into a small wooded area. Pops of gunfire sounded on the released body camera video as the officers fired their weapons. Johnson was struck in the chest once.

According to the police-worn camera footage, Johnson says, "I'm not reaching for nothing. I have nothing ... I'm shot, man. Hurry." Other officers rendered aid until Fairfax County Fire and Rescue arrived.

Governor's Use of Power & Authority Questioned

Sparked by Executive Order establishing cell phone-free education K-12 public schools.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

For the school year 2024–25, a cell phone pilot program will launch at select Fairfax County Public Schools middle and high schools. The pilot tightens previous school board policy.

Middle school students will lock their cell phones in their personal magnetically sealed pouch and put them in their backpacks to be unlocked at the end of the day, while high school students will place their cell phones into a cell phone storage unit at the beginning of each class.

Superintendent Michelle Reid said that it would provide the division with "invaluable data to inform future rules around cell phone usage in our schools."

Meanwhile, Virginia's governor issued an executive order to create "cell phone free education" to go into effect January 2025. And members of the Virginia Senate have introduced Senate Bill No. 738 as a more collaborative approach.

"Virginia's Constitution does not give the Governor control over Virginia schools and his Executive Order is as effective as sending a letter to each school system," said Senate Majority Leader Scott Surovell.

On Sept. 17, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released its Final Guidance for cell phone-free education in Virginia's K-12 public schools. Youngkin directed the VDOE to solicit public opinion regarding cell phones in schools. VDOE created definitions of "cell phone-free education" and published model implementation plans to inform public school systems' cell phone policies.

The next day, on Sept. 18, three members of the Vir-

ginia State Senate Democratic Workgroup on School Mobile Phone Policy prefiled Senate Bill 738: Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; student cell phone possession and use for the 2025 legislative session convening on Jan. 8, 2025. Sen. Stella G. Pekarsky (D-36) of Fairfax is the chief patron of Senate Bill No. 738.

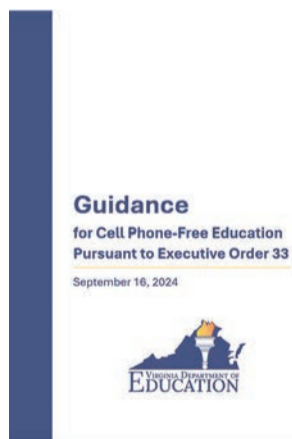
"As the former School Board Chair of the largest school division in the Commonwealth, I understand it is imperative that we strike the right balance through legislative action," said Pekarsky. "Giving school boards, localities, and communities the tools to implement these policies to ensure their needs are met is the common sense way to accomplish distraction-free education for all."

SB 738 seeks to establish clear, age-appropriate policies for cell phone use in schools, emphasizing the need for collaboration among various educational authorities through local school board control.

"If Governor Youngkin wants to make truly binding and effective education policy, it requires the collaboration and involvement of the General Assembly, the Virginia Board of Education, and each local school board, which is constitutionally vested with the power to run their local systems," Surovell said.

SB 738 directs each school board, not the VDOE, to develop and each public elementary and secondary school to implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones by students on school property during regular school hours.

The bill restricts student cell phone use during regular school hours; aims to prevent distractions and disruptions to the learning environment; ensures administration implementation and enforcement of the policy, minimizing conflicts with teachers' instructional responsibilities; allows exceptions for students under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan; prohibits suspension, expulsion, or removal from class due to policy violations; and violations involving disruptive behavior must be addressed following school board regulations.



VDOE
Guidelines for Cell Phone-Free Education



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where former FXCO deputy served

Former Fairfax County Deputy Sentenced to Over Six Years in Prison

Provided contraband and info to inmates; drugs for cash.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office announced on Sept. 19 that former deputy Robert T. Sanford Jr., 37, received a 78-month prison sentence for smuggling drugs and contraband into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. According to court documents, Sanford was a correctional officer at the ADC from May 2021 to June 21, 2023.

"Robert Sanford preyed on the vulnerabilities of people in his care," said Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

According to a release by the Department of Justice, Sanford provided contraband to an inmate, including a cell phone, distribution quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, and Suboxone, as well as latex gloves and glue to conceal the contra-

band. The inmate trafficked the drugs to other inmates. Sanford also provided the inmate information about cell searches, cell blocks, strip searches, and drug-sniffing dogs. In addition, "Sanford distributed drugs to women who lived in and prostituted themselves out of an apartment that Sanford leased," states the release by the Department of Justice. A strip search of Sanford's co-conspirator in May 2023 found a cellphone, charging cables, 92 counterfeit oxycodone pills, 174 strips of Suboxone, and over three grams of cocaine in his underwear.

On June 5, Sanford pled guilty to providing drugs and other contraband to an inmate at the Fairfax ADC in exchange for bribe payments. He faced a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each of two counts of conviction, stated the U.S. Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Morgan Legacy Academy of Irish Dance entertains.



Masonettes Dance Team members have children reaching for the sky during an onstage dance lesson.

Fairfax City Kicks up its Heels on National Dance Day



Doing a contemporary dance are Fairfax Academy students (from left) Molly Beach, Naomi Wilde, Courtney Phan, Ryan Coffey, Chloe Surber, Alex Coleman, Elena Garcia, Amari Brothers, Derrian Booker, Gabby Nino, and Rachel Steinhelmer.



Performing a cool, hip-hop routine are Fairfax Academy dancers (back row, from left) Libby Hansen, Leanna Wallace and Jacob Ocampo; and (front row, from left) Megan Doughty, Robson Barnett and Pauleen Kibling.



Azucar Latin Dance Club dances to "Vamo' a Cocinar."

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Lara Travis teaches some simple hula moves to children from the audience.

ENTERTAINMENT



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



Haunted Wine Tours will be held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 31, 2024 at The Winery at Bull Run in Centreville.

NOW THRU 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>

NOW THRU 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 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.

NOW THRU OCT. 6

"The Waverly Gallery." At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Thursdays at



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

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.

"SURVIVE UNPLUGGED" AT SULLY HISTORIC SITE

Dive into the past with the Park Authority'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.

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.

SEPT. 20 TO OCT. 7

Circus Vazquez. At Tysons Galleria, 8025 Galleria Drive, McLean. The 2024 show features a brand-new cast, brand-new thrills, brand-new laughs and brand-new excitement 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. The circus features performers from Mexico, Columbia, Guinea, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and the U.S. All-human cast (no animals) <https://tickets-center.com/search/Lerner-Town-Square-at-Tysons/Circus-Vazquez-tickets>

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.

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.)

ANIMAL TEA PARTY:

FRYING PAN FARM PARK

Indulge your taste buds and embark on a culinary food and drink journey through Fairfax County parks. 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,

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>

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

Late Night Research. 5:30-11 p.m. At City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Conduct after-hours genealogy research in Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to connect you with resources. Research independently or attend genealogy classes. Email: Christopher.Barbuschak@fairfaxcounty.gov

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

Mariam Homes GALA. 7-11 p.m. At Fairfax Country Club, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. They raise money to build homes for disabled individuals. Cost is \$100. Visit www.marianhomes.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Creepy Crawlly Fun. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lake Accotink Park, 5660 Heming Ave., Springfield. Bug Fest—an exciting, hands-on event that celebrates the fascinating world of insects – whether you're intrigued by butterflies, beetles or creepy crawlies. This family-friendly event offers a variety of interactive games, activities and learning opportunities for people of all ages.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

U.S. Army Chorus Concert. 6-7:30 p.m. At Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The Army Chorus performs a free concert at Westwood Baptist featuring a variety of patriotic, pop, Broadway, folk and classical music as the church celebrates its 60th anniversary. Visit the website: westwood-baptist.org

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

ENTERTAINMENT



A Talk on Indonesia will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024 at Reston Regional Library in Reston.

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. Kick-start 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

Fairfax Out of the Darkness Community Walk. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fairfax City Hall, Fairfax. This gathering will support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education, research and support for survivors of suicide loss. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

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.

SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 31

Haunted Wine Tours. Sunday to Thursday. 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. At the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Hwy., Centreville. Join in a lantern-led journey through the historic grounds. During this one-hour outdoor walking tour, sip on our acclaimed Virginia wines as you encounter the spirits of the battlefield as they come to life, sharing their chilling stories of long ago.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 2

Blood Drive. 1-5:30 p.m. McLean Volunteer Fire Department is partnering with Inova Blood Donor Services to host a blood drive at the station, located at 1455 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Sign up to help the community replenish its vital blood supplies! Here is the link for signing up: https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/33648

OCT. 4 TO NOV. 2

Workhouse Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus Halloween night. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Back for its 11th season, one of Northern Virginia's most popular Halloween events is bringing even more scares (and laughter) to its creepy outdoor walk-through trail. The Haunt will lead guests on a frightening journey that brings them along the abandoned, historic buildings of the former prison, where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights and sounds that are not for the faint of heart. This year's theme, Twisted Tales of Terror, features more than a dozen creepy live-action scenes portraying classic fairy tales gone wrong, including Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Pinocchio and more. To keep everything moving along, guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry. While waiting for their timeslots, or following their trail experience, guests can enjoy Halloween fun in the Rizer Pavilion: DJ-mixed music (Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween Night); refreshments at the bar, including Halloween-themed alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks; sweet

and savory food truck treats; and Halloween art and trinkets in the Haunt Pop-up Shop. Tickets are on sale now; prices start at \$25 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

FRIDAY/OCT. 4

Talk on Indonesia. 1-3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join in a discussion of the relationship between Indonesia and the United States. It is based on the FPA article "Invisible Indonesia," which is accessible through the web link or at the library. Leading the talk will be Ambassador David Merrill, President of the U.S.-Indonesia Society. Visit the link: Great Decisions: Invisible Indonesia - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home (fairfaxcounty.gov)

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Oktoberfest. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Historic Church Street in the Town of Vienna. Oktoberfest celebrates its 15th anniversary this year with the biggest festival yet! More vendors, more food, great music and entertainment, plenty of free kids' activities and locally-sourced beer and wine selections. Oktoberfest will feature live entertainment on three stages: Beer Garden, Town Green, Center Street Beer Garden Stage; Large Beer/Wine Garden featuring: Caboose Brewing Company, Hawk and Griffin, Norm's Beer and Wine, Settle Down Easy Brewing, and Vienna Vintner. Visit the website: www.viennaoktoberfest.org.

OCT. 5-6

LEGO-Based Train Show. Saturday noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club (WamaLTC) members will hold a two-day LEGO based train show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. All trains, buildings and scenery in the display are built from LEGO bricks. Donations of unwanted LEGO pieces and sets are appreciated to help support WamaLTC's efforts to bring fun and education to all ages through its activities. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military



The Vienna Oktoberfest takes place Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 in the Town of Vienna.

(active & retired), \$4. For more information on the museum and show events phone 703-425-9225. Visit the website: www.fairfax-station.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Historic House Tours. 10:30-12:15 p.m. at Sunrise at Silas Burke House, 9619 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Burke Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Silas Burke House will be open on October 5 with free tours. Reservations not needed.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

2024 SOCO Marching Band Invitational. Gates open at 1:30 p.m. South County High School will be hosting 14 bands from across the region for an awesome day of music. Check out the schedule of events here: https://schedules.competitionsuite.com/435b17ca-1fda-4e74-b42d-519741ea3123_logical.htm

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

2024 Annual Vienna CROP Hunger Walk. 12:30 p.m. Begins and ends at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The walk is approximately 3 miles and takes about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. A shorter route is also available. The Vienna Walk's proceeds support the local relief efforts of The Committee for Helping Others (CHO), which provides food and emergency assistance to local residents at its facilities in Vienna and Oakton, and the international hunger relief activities of Church World Service. There is no fee to walk, but walkers are encouraged to donate or to find sponsors who will make donations to support their efforts. You can even form your own team. To register, donate, or for more information, go to Vienna CROP Hunger Walk.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

2024 Friends of Reston Fall 5K. At Browns Chapel Park, Reston. Join the Friends of Reston for their 4th Annual Fall 5K, to help raise funds for their scholarship and enrichment programs. All proceeds for this event support the Friends of Reston, a 501(c)3 supporting organization of Reston Association. Race will start at 8:00 a.m. Registration Fees: 5K - \$45 September 1 through October 1; \$50 October

2 through Race Day. 5K (14 & Under) - \$30 September 1 through October 1; \$35 October 2 through Race Day. Online registration will close on Thursday, October 3 at 8:00 p.m. Visit <https://potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2024-friends-of-reston-fall-5k>

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

The Heart Collectors. 7:30 p.m. At Earp's Ordinary, 10420 Main Street, Fairfax. From acoustic harmony lead ballads to Bowie-esque sonic soundscapes, Australian four piece 'Epic Folk' group The Heart Collectors capture the essence of inspiration, honesty of love, and the nature of the cosmos in their music. Info at <https://focusmusic.org/shows#sun-10-6-the-heart-collectors-fairfax>

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Miles for Migraine. 9:30-11:30 a.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. This is a 2-mile Walk, 5K Run and Relax event to support Migraine and Headache Awareness, Treatment and Research. Come connect with your local migraine and headache community, listen to speakers and visit sponsors in the festival area. Dress up in your best purple flair for a chance at a fun prize. Visit the website: <https://dc.milesformigraine.org/>

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

Guest Artist Speaker. 7-9 p.m. At the Springfield Art Guild at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. The Guild will welcome the next guest artist to the monthly meeting. The speaker will be Cindy Packard Richmond, an award-winning artist in both pastels and oil. Everyone is invited to attend.

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Best of NoVA Soiree. 6-10 p.m. At CrystalView Event Center, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Fairfax. Dress to impress and enjoy a night on the town celebrating the best that Northern Virginia has to offer. Tickets include an open bar and samples from all participating restaurants, including select Best of NoVA winners and top restaurants featured in Northern Virginia

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

Magazine. This event, empowered by Project Purple, also will celebrate The 50 Most Influential people in NoVA, appearing in the magazine's October 2024 issue. Visit bestofnovasoiree.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Arctober Fest. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. This free, family-friendly event offers a unique opportunity to dive into the fascinating world of archaeology and learn about the incredible archaeological resources found in Fairfax County. Arctober Fest visitors will engage in an array of interactive, hands-on activities guided by expert archaeologists.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Clifton Day. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the Town of Clifton, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Now celebrating the 56th year of Clifton Day, the annual town event celebrates the beauty and charm of the beloved town of Clifton. Join in experiencing the magic of arts, crafts, entertainment, and food they have in store. Live music, children's activities, pony rides, a beer and wine garden, and other delicious food and beverage choices add to the fun. Visit the website: www.Cliftonday.com

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.



A Fall Festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024 at Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Center in Lorton.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Fall Festival. 2-5 p.m. At Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Center, 10800 Belmont Blvd., Lorton. Fall Festival - food, cider, pony rides, live music, pumpkin painting, family friendly games. Cost is \$100. Call 703-402-3613. Visit the website: <https://simplechanges.org/events/fall-festival/>

Grandma, a fishing trip with James. When the balloons begin to drift away, James is devastated until he discovers he can share those balloons one by one.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Halloween Trivia Night. 7-10 p.m. At Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept., 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Join in a spooky, 21+ adults-only night of food, fun, facts, and festivities! Bring your competitive spirit and fact-filled brain, and start planning your Halloween outfit for the costume contest! Winners take home prizes and their pride. Purchase tickets here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/LVdUwtimQtjGYB-5BzwxQ_Q Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/halloween-trivia/>

MONDAY/OCT. 14

Touch-A-Truck. 9 a.m. to noon. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. It's "What do you want to be when you grow up?" coming to life. Touch-A-Truck is a free event that gives kids a chance to explore their favorite vehicles. Quiet hour: 9-10 a.m.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

"The Remember Balloons." 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is hosting the world premiere of this new performance based on the book "The Remember Balloons" by Jessie Oliveros and illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte. The dance theater work is directed and choreographed by Dominic Moore-Dunson with an original score by Theron Brown. James' Grandpa treasures his balloons, each representing cherished memories—his wedding with

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. 8:30 a.m. Starting and ending at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Riders will enjoy a fun ride through the many Potomac Bank's historic, ecological and cultural sites in the southern and central parts of the Mount Vernon District. The route consists of paved roads, paved trails and has some challenging sections. The event is rain or shine. Kickoff at 8:30 a.m. Short Route 20 miles; Long

Route 40 miles. Youth and Family Ride Kickoff at 9 a.m. Youth Route 3 miles. Visit FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

OCT. 19-20

Great Falls Studio - Studio Tour 2024. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. 21st Annual Great Falls Studio Tour. Studio tour map and brochure link - <https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/studio-tour-2024-home>

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Project Community Connect Resource Fair. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus. PCC connects community members with assistance programs and support organizations that can help meet their diverse needs, whether rent relief or reliable food bank locations. At this event, they offer fliers, conversations with community partners, job opportunities, and more, and accept donations to support resource programs. During the resource fair, they also host a street outreach program to meet community members where they are. They provide pre-prepared care packages and have volunteers available to direct individuals in obtaining additional resources. The outreach program connects individuals to vital community resources, including rent assistance, medical care access, mental and physical health services, food and housing resources, and more.

NOV. 8-9

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

The Positive Effect



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What a difference a week can make. Meeting with my oncologist this past Monday, we listened anxiously, and what we heard was a great report: "No PET/CT evidence of disease progression or new disease." If it wasn't the best ever scan result, then it was in the top two (we once received a "partial stable remission" during the heavy-duty chemotherapy daze when grasping at straws, euphemistically speaking, became a way of life - and avoidance of death) but I'm not quibbling or keeping score.

We were pleasantly surprised - and extremely happy, as the oncologist reviewed some of the details that led to the radiologist's finding (see above). The scan - and lab work were both compared to previous data. Dina and I were both kind of giddy, incredulous almost as to what we were hearing. In addition to the scan results, recent lab work was also discussed. It showed improved kidney function (which meant the threat of dialysis was not nearly so imminent) and a reduction in my thyroglobulin (a measure of cancer activity) from a previous peak, was yet another indicator that my thyroid cancer cells were trending in a good direction - for this moment anyway. It seems, my oncologist said, that the new medicine he prescribed is having the desired effect. I'm not cured, but neither is my body, specifically my lungs and kidneys, breaking down.

The report and the oncologist's demeanor while sharing/explaining all this encouraging news was way more than Dina and I could have hoped for. Having ridden this emotional rollercoaster for 15-plus years, we're sort of committed to a Goldilocks-type of anticipation/outcome: not too high and not too low. I take my medical results; the good, bad and the ugly, in a sort of stride.

However, 15 years and seven months of this worry has kind of thinned out our capacity to take it all in that stride. Given the added burden of treating the underlying thyroid cancer without exacerbating my new chronic kidney disease (an unfortunate side effect of the previous papillary thyroid cancer medicine I took for three years - which was working until it wasn't) seemed at the outset a bridge/outcome too far to cross. Apparently, it isn't and this most recent "Impression" from the radiologist indicates for the moment at least (oh, what a moment!), there's more life ahead than death.

As for that life, we're finishing up this appointment, with smiles all around as the oncologist exits the examining room to retrieve our visit paperwork from the printer. A few minutes pass until he returns. He knocks on the door and pokes his face into the room as he hands us our paperwork. Smiling broadly, he points to the top of the first page where has written and circled A+ and once again expresses his happiness at this initial result. Never before during our 15+ years in the cancer wars has anything of real substance like this happened where the oncologist seemed happier and more encouraged than we did. We were on cloud 9-ish as he left and said good-bye. Bounce in our step? More like walking on air. I have to admit, I'm not taking that news/grade in stride. It's too much. Besides, I deserve it. I've been on the front lines of death since Feb. 09. I'm going to allow myself to bask.

The only minor problem: I may not know how to bask. When you've repressed/locked in the vault something as bad as a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV with a "terminal" prognosis of "13 month to two years," it's challenging to say the least to open the spigot of that emotion and see the positive. But as my late brother Richard would say: "I'll take a win whenever I can get one." And so shall I. Who says you can't teach and old dog new tricks?

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

To Consider Lowering the Speed Limit

FROM PAGE 3

Slowing Down

House Bill 1071 could lower speed limits to 15 mph on some roads in the county. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering lowering the speed limit to 25 mph but not less than 15 mph on highways within its boundaries in business or residential areas. On Sept. 17, the board held a brief preliminary discussion on House Bill 1071 at its transportation committee meeting and plans a more in-depth discussion in October.

"This would be the first time we've seen a reduction below 25, I believe probably in history," Jeff McKay, chairman of the board of supervisors said. "One of the places that might be interesting to look at is any community that petitioned for traffic calming, but didn't qualify for some reason."

McKay cautioned where a pilot pro-

gram goes must be a location it can safely be implemented. "Some of our roads are 25 [mph], now just because of their topography. It's very difficult to go 25; I mean, literally you'll get run off the road."

Vanessa Holt, traffic engineering section of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation explained Va. House Bill 1071, effective July 1, allows any county city or town in Virginia to lower speed limits by ordinance on highways within its boundaries, provided they are indicated by lawfully placed signs. Localities must notify the Commissioner of Highways of any changes in speed limit. The supervisors will discuss the bill further at its transportation committee meeting Oct. 29.



XCO SAFE STREETS

The memorial site of where a driver caused a crash that killed two girls in a 2022 pedestrian crash on Blake Lane, dubbed "Vienna's racetrack," according to a petition.

As part of World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims on Sunday, Nov. 13, grieving families, crash survivors and others across the nation including those in Fairfax County will call on local, state and federal leaders to implement proven safety solutions.



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