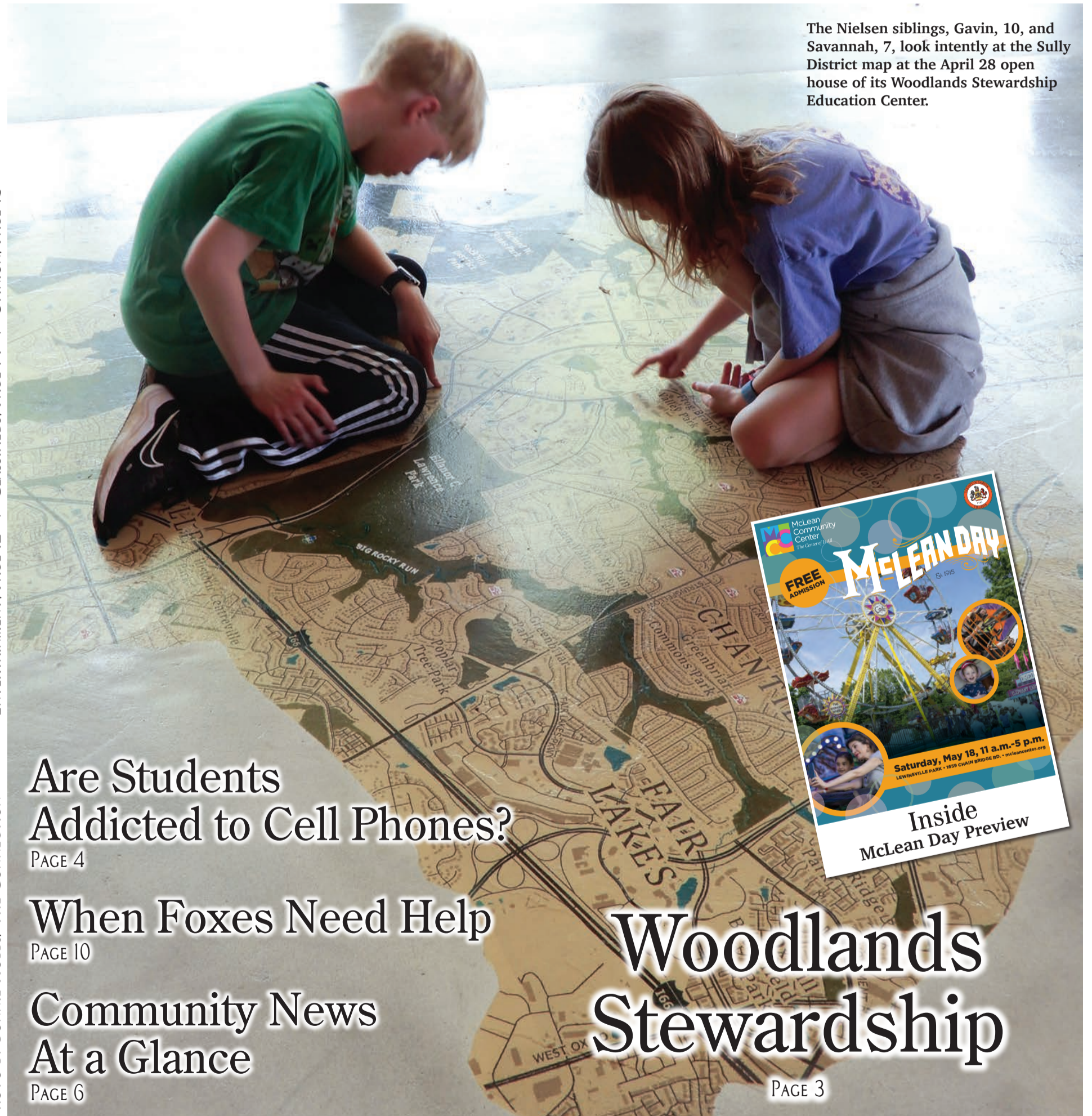


# THE CONNECTION

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

The Nielsen siblings, Gavin, 10, and Savannah, 7, look intently at the Sully District map at the April 28 open house of its Woodlands Stewardship Education Center.



## Are Students Addicted to Cell Phones?

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## When Foxes Need Help

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## Community News At a Glance

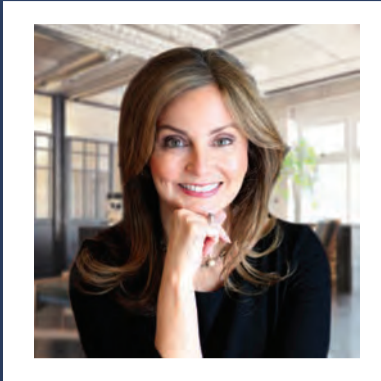
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# Woodlands Stewardship

PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ♦ OPINION, PAGE 15

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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# DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG

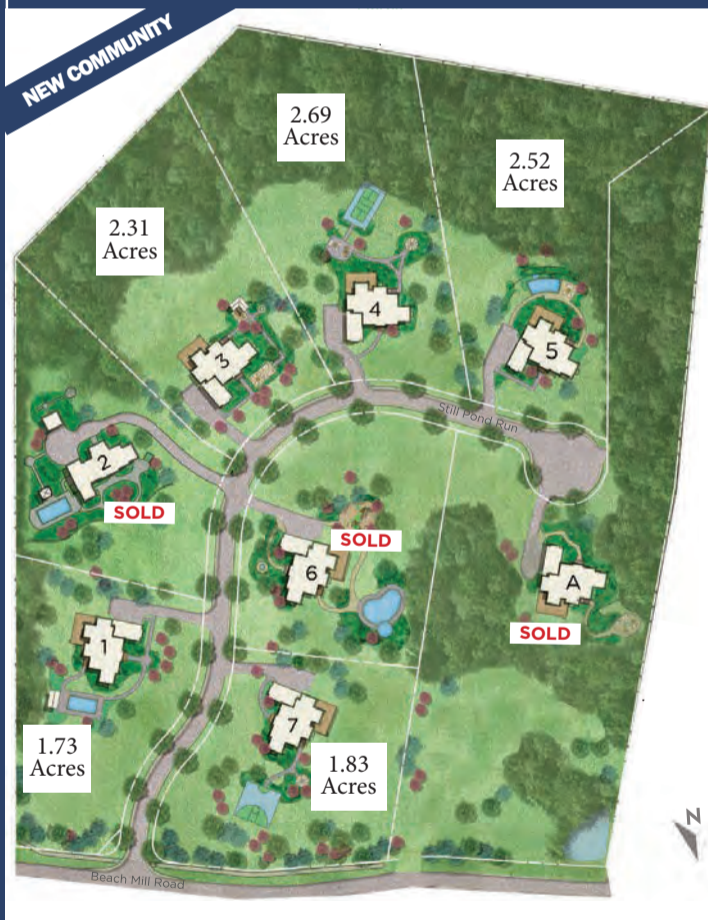


Joe Trippi, Justin Scango, Twee Ramos and Susan Canis

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The Woodlands Stewardship Education Center blends in with its surroundings.



Sangeetha Sharma and daughter Meera, 9, learning about water conservation.

# Have Fun and Learn about the Environment

## Woodlands Stewardship Education Center opens to the public.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

From first timers to frequent visitors, families flocked to Chantilly's Eleanor C. Lawrence Park for the April 28 open house of its Woodlands Stewardship Education Center. Combining education and fun, this new, state-of-the-art facility is a model of sustainability that encourages people to connect more deeply with the natural world.

"I love it," said Oak Hill's Sangeetha Sharma, who was there with her two daughters. "They've done a really good job of constructing it in a way that's good for the environment and the community." Calling it a wonderful gathering space, she said, "The building is beautiful, and they're educating people about how to take care of the environment."

Sharma noted, as well, that "On the petal logos all around the building, there's information about how they built this place in an environmentally friendly way – and how we can do similar things for ourselves at home."

She and her younger daughter, Meera, 9, were looking at a watershed-education display, while her older daughter, Leena, 11, was there with her Girl Scout Troop 51065 of Floris Elementary. Among other things, the Scouts learned how various resources may be reused.

"I made a bird feeder out of recyclable materials," said Leena. "And I also liked the room where you can click on a giant screen and learn more about nature and local wildlife."

Nestled in the woods, the 7,000-square-foot center has a shaded porch, two multipurpose spaces – one enclosed and one open – plus an education kiosk and kitchen. Inside are interactive screens with educational content, exhibit panels and change-

able artifacts. Outdoors is the LOOP (Learning Outside Observational Pod) for STEAM education and nature play. And of course, people may also go for walks on the nearby trails.

Completed in December 2023, this cutting-edge, innovative, new building at 5301 Walney Road officially opened to the public March 1 for educational programs, special events and evening rentals. It also serves as a gateway to the greater Sully Woodlands – a collection of parks, including E.C. Lawrence, in western Fairfax County. So the building's floor features a large map of Sully Woodlands illustrating to visitors how all these parks connect.

Furthermore, said Park Manager John Shafer, "Residents can find their own house on it and also see historic Centreville land-grant areas, the locations of Civil War fortifications, and the mills and farms that were here. We can use this map as a giant teaching tool, and we can even give a replica of it to parents and children so they can compare it with the modern-day map."

A project several years in the making, the center was developed by the Fairfax County Park Authority with support from the Board of Supervisors, the county Park Foundation, Eleanor C. Lawrence Park Friends, community members, private and corporate donors, plus money from a voter-approved park bond.

This structure was built according to the rigorous, sustainable-design standards of the Living Building Challenge. It's an international certification to create carbon-negative buildings that generate more energy and usable water than they consume. It's the first building of its kind in Fairfax County – and one of only a handful on the East Coast – and 50 in the entire world.

Solar panels power the facility and produce 105 percent of its energy needs. Other green elements include radiant heating, passive cooling (large doors, fans and transom vents), and a wastewater-treatment system. Any extra water is treated on site and re-



In center, Decker Pawlo, 2, tries turning the Archimedes screw while parents Mike and Rachel (in colorful shirts) and siblings Cora, 4, and Miles, 6, watch.

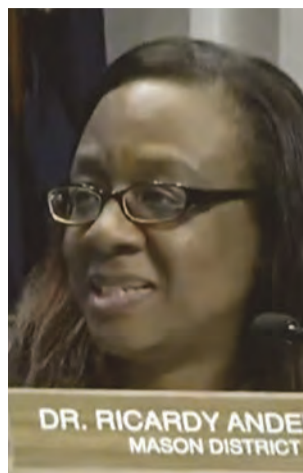


Girl Scouts (from left) Parnika Gandhi, Maya Olliver, Leena Sharma, Emily Stevens, Tapasya Kunta and Anika Awar helped children make bird feeders.

SEE WOODLANDS, PAGE 9



Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board



Dr. Ricardy J. Anderson, Mason District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board



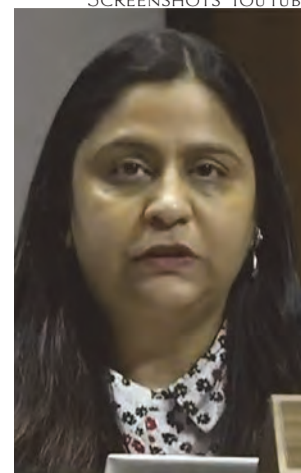
Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Braddock District representative on the Fairfax County School Board



Vice Chair Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill Representative on the Fairfax County School Board



R. Kyle McDaniel, Member-at-Large on the Fairfax County School Board



Seema Dixon, Sully District Representative

# ‘Addictive Cell Phone Usage’

Fairfax County School Board spurred to action on student cell phone use.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Driven by research from the U.S. Surgeon General, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, doctors across the country, and others that demonstrated “cell phones are destructive in multiple respects,” Mateo Dunne, the Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board, urged his 11 fellow school board members on Thursday, May 9, to take action. There is a “fierce urgency” about countering student use of cell phones in Fairfax County Public Schools.



Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid

The school board representatives encountered a torrent of internal discussions regarding the amendments, follow-on motions, and amendments to follow-on motions related to developing a pilot program for the secure storage of cell phones in classrooms and implementation of a strategic communications plan to raise awareness of the policies governing cell phone usage across high schools. As voting ensued, the board approved five follow-on motions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities, detailed in the agenda item on BoardDocs.

It began with Amendment #1, proposed by Dr. Ricardy J. Anderson (Mason District) and seconded by Kyle McDaniel (Member-at-Large), and ended with approved Amended Follow-on motion #2, a resolution directing “the Superintendent to develop alternatives to existing FCPS practices governing student cell phone usage in public schools.”

During the discussion, McDaniel noted that there had been a lot of conversation 48 hours before the meeting, and the board had worked together to develop

proposals. He thanked Dunne for working on the matter. McDaniel reported that multi-billion-dollar companies like Google, Facebook, and Meta devote “significant resources to studying the neurological effects of particular aspects of their apps, of cell phone usage, to make it addictive at a time [when] children are very vulnerable to addiction.”

Anderson added, “We have a problem, and we need to find some resolutions.”

Rachna Sizemore Heizer (Braddock District) clarified that data from the pilot and stakeholders’ input would support the development of additional options for the board when it considers Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Approved Amended Follow-on motion #2 says that for elementary, middle, and high schools, there would be “a prohibition on student cell phone usage during the school day, with appropriate exceptions for instructional activities and ... for students with IEPs, 504s, or medical conditions.” Additionally, the options developed would incorporate stakeholder input, best practices,



Fairfax County School Board in session, May 9, 2024

es, and lessons learned from other school divisions, with the superintendent presenting the options to the board by March 1, 2025. However, by majority vote, the school board must approve options that the superintendent would implement.

“Cell phone usage in schools is rapidly becoming a critical issue,” McDaniel said. “We need to know what our options are, what we’re dealing with, what works, and what doesn’t.” McDaniel asserted that consistent enforcement of the existing rules is necessary. In his Follow-on Motion #2, McDaniel urged that the superintendent work directly with principals and school-based staff to reinforce the school board’s expectation of always adhering to the cell phone policy.

Vice Chair Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill Representative) questioned the semantics of the related amendments the board was considering. She said the board would be directing the superintendent to create “policies,” yet “policies” are under the board’s purview. “I’m very sensitive about using policies ... We ask the superintendent to help us create it.”

Meren said she preferred the word practices in this case to policies and asked Division Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid if

she was comfortable with the language.

“It is true I work on regulations,” Reid said. “But I also support policy work. So I will do as the board wishes.”

The approved Amendment to Follow-on motion #2 changed the term policies to practices.

Lastly, the board approved Amended Follow-on motion #2 by Dunne and seconded by Anderson, with 11 representatives voting yes and Seema Dixon, Sully District Representative, abstaining.

During an earlier discussion, Dixon said she wanted to wait and see details of the pilot study and if they solve the enforcement issues. Seema added that the sitting principals of FCPS told her that taking cell phones away “is not a great idea.”

“Especially high school students, that just strikes this off for me.”

Following the meeting, McDaniel said in a release, “We need to know what our options are, what we’re dealing with, what works, and what doesn’t. This pilot program will answer these questions and give us invaluable data to inform future rules around cell phone usage in our schools.” He added, “We need to do a better job communicating the existing rules. That’s exactly what this motion does.”



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## Dulles Toll Road Eastbound over Route 123 Bridge Rehabilitation Fairfax County

*Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing*

**Find out** about plans to rehabilitate the Eastbound Dulles Toll Road (Route 267 EB) bridge over Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) to improve safety, increase vertical clearance under the bridge and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge was built in 1963 and later repaired in 1995. The project includes replacing the concrete deck, parapets and steel beams and repairing the piers and abutments.

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

**Review** the project information and PCE environmental document at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/TollRoad123> or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2429 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Ms. Dipali Patel, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **June 4, 2024**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

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

State Project: 0267-029-535, B657, P101  
UPC: 118396  
Federal: NHPP-BR09 (308)

## COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

### FCPS Students Awarded National Merit Scholarships

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation awarded 27 Fairfax County Public students \$2,500 scholarships in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The Fairfax County Public School winners are among 770 high school seniors who received corporate-sponsored National Merit Scholarships. Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants according to a release by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. "Each scholarship winner was evaluated on his or her academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from two standardized tests; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; a personal essay; and a recommendation from a high school official," stated FCPS.

The winning students with their probable career fields in parentheses, are: Chantilly HS: Leona Eunbi Kim (law), Siddhi Surawkar (medicine), and Jason Yoo (investment banking); Fairfax HS: Maya Kamat (medicine); Madison HS: Shivashish Das (medicine); McLean HS: Maya Pashai (veterinary medicine) and Clara Marks (mechanical engineering); Oakton HS: Aditi Bhattacharjya (law) and Nicole Deng (astrophysics); Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology: Cameron Ake (computer programming), Jacob Bowen-Glazeroff (law), Lakshmi Sritan Motati (computer science), Paul Hwang (aerospace engineering), Cierra Min (biomedical engineering), Benjamin Daniil Cohen (neurosurgery), Dylan Cheng (software engineering), Pranav Elavarthi (computer science), and Mihir Kulshreshtha (finance); Emi Zhang (computer science), Ayaan Siddiqui (software engineering), Aiden Cheong (mechanical engineering - robotics), Tristan Devictor (politics), Ronit Kapur (astrophysics), Grace Oh (medicine), Alexander O'Quinn (biomedical engineering), and Sebastian Emin Toro (computer engineering; and West Potomac HS: Lucy Marshall (law).

### Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Wins 1st Place



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Fairfax County Sheriff's deputies march in the 32nd annual Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in D.C. on May 4. From left are PFC Benedict, PFC Sapp, PFC Harb, PFC Chong, and PFC Felder.

The Fairfax County Sheriff Honor Guard team placed first in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 32nd Annual Wreath Laying Ceremo-

ny and Honor Guard Competition at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in D.C. on May 4.

Three judges graded each team 1-5 in all Honor Guard Competition Scoresheet categories. This included hats, shoes, rifles, flags, and color movements like "attention, carry colors/shoulder arms, and forward march." The Fairfax County Sheriff Honor Guard team earned the highest point total.

"We are so proud of their hard work year-round and in preparation for this event. They are an amazing team and very deserving of this recognition," the Sheriff's Office posted on Facebook.

### VDOT's Rt. 7 Shared-use Pedestrian and Cyclist Paths and Replacement Bridge

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recently announced that the seven-mile shared-use path, which runs alongside the eastbound and westbound lanes of Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive, is operational. The mostly 10-foot-wide paved path connects the Fairfax County Parkway Trail to Tysons and enhances the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists.

Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail users can now cross Route 7 safely via a newly constructed Difficult Run bridge.

FAIRFAX

### ArtsFairfax Names 2024 Honorees

Last week, ArtsFairfax announced the names of its three 2024 honorees to be lauded at the organization's awards ceremony at Capital One in Tysons on Oct. 25. Sponsorships and tickets are available at [ArtsFairfax.org/Awards](https://ArtsFairfax.org/Awards).

ArtsFairfax bestows its highest honor, the Jinx Hazel Award, on the Peterson Family Foundation. The award recognizes a person or group whose vision and dedication have influenced Fairfax County's cultural life. "Most notably, the Peterson Family Foundation has made transformative gifts to the Life with Cancer initiative at Inova and to George Mason University for the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) and College of Public Health," states ArtsFairfax.

SEE COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 8



PHOTO LINKIN

Anne E. Kline

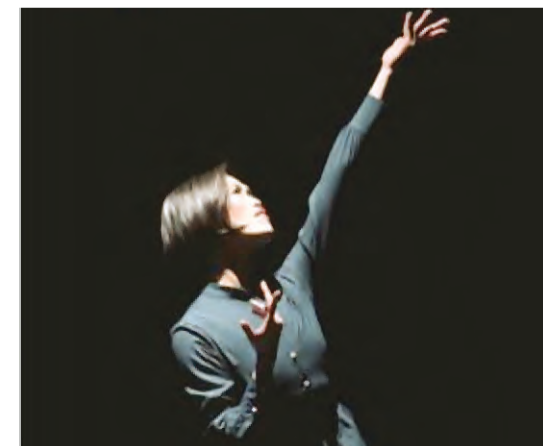


PHOTO SHU-CHEN CUFF (@SHUCHENCUFF)

Shu-Chen Cuff

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# COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 6

Anne E. Kline will receive the ArtsFairfax Philanthropy Award. She is the director of the Pohanka Family Office with the Pohanka Automotive Group and is a passionate advocate and ambassador for the arts in Fairfax. Kline is a significant contributor to Wolf Trap Opera.

Shu-Chen Cuff, a recently retired professional dancer of 27 years, receives the Arts Fairfax Achievement Award. The award honors the exceptional career of an artist in any field who has left a significant legacy for their and/or community. Among her many achievements, Cuff founded Gin Dance Company, which performed at the Atlas Performing Arts Center, Lincoln Theater, Sindy Harman Hall, CenterStage at RCC, Kennedy Center, and others.

## GREAT FALLS

### Safety Issues Raised for Leigh Road in Great Falls



PHOTO FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
A large truck overturned on Georgetown Pike in late March near the intersection of Leigh Mill Road.

At its May 2 meeting, the Great Falls Citizens Association Transportation Committee considered criteria for the Resi-

dential Traffic Administration Program managed by Fairfax County Department of Public Transportation. John Halacy, committee chair, and committee members reviewed complaints about safety in the Leigh Mill Road area.

“Speeding and reckless driving is observed on all roads in Great Falls. Members of GFCA and residents have reported numerous incidents of being run off the road by large trucks, illegal passing, and other types of aggressive driving. Leigh Mill Road residents have reported to GFCA similar incidents,” John Halacy, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association, said in a text message to The Connection.

Great Falls roads serve as convenient bypasses for busy Route 7. Residents have informed GFCA that large trucks have caused near collisions near the one-lane bridge on Leigh Mill Road.

## HERNDON

### Awe-inspiring Double Rainbow Arches over Herndon



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION  
A double rainbow crowns the Town of Herndon.

On Saturday evening, May 11, a double rainbow formed over the Town of Herndon, with the sun low in the sky and rain falling. Sunlight reflected twice in the drain drops, causing two different reflections from different angles.

Double rainbows are not rare, but they are remarkable. One fact about double rainbows may elude folks gazing at the colorful arches in the sky—at least it did this reporter. Maybe

I wasn't paying attention that day in elementary school.

A single rainbow has red at the top and blue at the bottom, but the colors in the secondary rainbow, higher and lighter than the primary rainbow, are always reversed. Go figure.

## RESTON

### Fairfax Circuit Court Satellite Office Opened in Reston



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION  
On Tuesday, May 14, the new satellite Fairfax Circuit Court office opened in Reston at the Cathy Hudgins Community Center.

Fairfax Circuit Court opened a new satellite location in Reston on Tuesday, May 14, thanks to an initiative led by Clerk of Court Chris Falcon in partnership with Fairfax County. “This expansion is a testament to our commitment to better serve the community and make Circuit Court resources more accessible, Falcon said.

The circuit court office offers marriage license application processing, access to certified copies of court records, and free notary services at the Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate, 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston. The center is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Tuesday of every month.

SEE COMMUNITY NEWS, PAGE 14

## CAPPIES

# Centreville Chantilly, Westfield Score Cappies Nominations

Continuing their tradition of outstanding, high-school theater, Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield last week received a total of 11 Cappies nominations. Under Director Patrick McGee, Centreville High's two nods were for its musical, “Cinderella” (Enchanted Edition).

Under Director Andy Shaw, Chantilly High's four nominations were for its musical, “Anything Goes.” And under Director Enza Giannone-Hosig, Westfield High's five nods were for its play, “Miss Holmes.”

The winners will be revealed at the Cappies Gala on Monday, June 10, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield thespians are competing for these awards against students from many other schools in the National Capital Area.

#### CENTREVILLE'S NOMINATIONS:

Madelyn Regan – Vocalist in a Female Role;  
Madelyn Regan – Andy Mays Rising Critic.

#### CHANTILLY'S NOMINATIONS:

David Garcia – Supporting Actor in a Male Role in a Musical;  
Grace Drost – Featured Actor in a Female Role in a Musical;  
Sam Wolff – Dancer in a Male Role;  
Mary Clare Pelczynski, Sam Wolff – Choreography.

#### WESTFIELD'S NOMINATIONS:

Zoe Brennan - Lead Actor in a Female Role in a Play;  
Yishak Kefyalew Kelkay - Featured Actor in a Male Role in a Play;  
Diya Mohanty – Stage Management;  
Vinita Adhira, Neveah Hampton, Anusha Krishnan, Eden Teni - Marketing and Publicity;  
Justin Pokrant – Bill Strauss Graduating Critic.

— BONNIE HOBBS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
In Westfield's “Miss Holmes” are (from left) Yishak Kelkay, Thomas Craypoff, Mackenzie Vance, Zoe Brennan and Gwendolyn Eagle.

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Plants will be woven into these branches, creating a screen so visitors may watch birds feeding without scaring them away.



Anna Shvedova, 3, plays with a colorful toy inside the building.



Evan McQueston, 10, holding his Park Authority swag.



Manning the E.C. Lawrence Park Friends table are board members (from left) Amy Swindell, Ellen Bliss and Jennifer Grinnell.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Woodlands Stewardship Education Center

FROM PAGE 3

turned to the natural water cycle. There's even a rainwater-reuse system in which the center's toilets are flushed with rainwater collected in a large cistern outside.

In addition, the building's interior walls are covered in reclaimed, Virginia barn wood, with the exterior covered in reclaimed sheet metal to reduce its carbon footprint. A masonry fireplace of local stone is also used for heating, and the whole operation is pollution-free.

And although the center already offers a slew of free, hands-on activities, Shafer said even more features are on the horizon for visitors to enjoy. They'll be accomplished courtesy of donations to the Park Foundation.

"We're just happy we're nearing the finish line," he said. "We're going to be adding a bike-repair station and a solar-powered picnic table so people can use their laptops and charge their phones on it."

"We're also adding trees behind the bird-feeder area so people can watch the birds without scaring them off," continued Shafer. "And we'll weave in non-native, invasive plants to create that screen. We have to cut them down and remove them from the park anyway; so by reusing them, we're making lemonade out of lemons."

As for the open house, he was pleased with the steady stream of families that kept coming to the center. "It's fantastic," he said. "It's their park and facility, so it's nice to be able to encourage them to interact with it."

Jackie McQueston was there with her son Evan, 10, who checked out the stewardship center and got a stamp of a fox on his arm. "It's our first time here," she said. "We've been to the trails many times, and the Walney Visitor Center is one of our favorite outdoor havens. And we're excited about the new outdoor nature play area here."

Karen Moore, the park's resource interpreter and school coordinator, is also thrilled that the stewardship center is now open to the public. "We've been having some school field trips and Scout groups here from the visitor center up the road," she said. "We offer merit-badge and other Scout badge programs."

Although the spring field trips are already filled up, future ones may be reserved at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl). Scroll down and click on either "field trips" or "scouts." Program registrations may also be done via [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes).

The park holds summer camps, too. They're held mostly outside and have various themes. "We do nature- and histo-

ry-based crafts, go on hikes, do experiments and also have free time to play," explained Moore. "The camps are to spark children's interest in nature and the outdoors."

"Our park has forests, meadows, streams and ponds, so they learn about the different animals that live in these habitats," she continued. "And they catch and release animals that live in the streams. Overall, we're trying to teach the public how to become better environmental stewards."

Jennifer Grinnell, president of the non-profit Friends of E.C. Lawrence Park was also on hand for the open house. Her Centreville-based company, BrandPlanet, created all the informative petal logos, artwork and signage for the center pro bono.

The Friends' mission is solely to support this park. "We hooked up local businesses with the park, and their donations helped fund the LOOP," said Grinnell. "And we host all kinds of events here with bands and other entertainment and local vendors."

All the events' proceeds aid the park financially, enabling the Friends to fund scholarships for schools so all children may come and enjoy E.C. Lawrence. "The programs cost money, and not all schools can afford them, so we're trying to help out," said Grinnell. "We're all about supporting the park while also building community among local schools, businesses and neighborhoods. That way, people can not only enjoy the park, but understand that healthy landscapes ensure healthy communities."

For information about upcoming events and programs there, go to [eclpfriends.org](http://eclpfriends.org) or [@eclp.friends](https://www.instagram.com/eclp.friends) on Instagram. Regarding the new center, Grinnell said, "It's been a long time coming and we're thrilled with it."

Meanwhile, children climbed on the educational equipment in the outdoor play area. Rachel and Mike Pawlo were there with children Miles, 6, Cora, 4, and Decker, 2, who enjoyed spinning the Archimedes screw, rotating a wheel that made water fall upward. Miles also did a fun game/science experiment through which he learned which items float or sink in a bucket of water. He said a plastic bottle filled with water sank "because I put water in it."

"We were visiting a nearby family and decided to come here and check out the new park," said his mom. "It's pretty cool, and it's nice that there are things for the kids to play on. And anything that teaches them about the environment is awesome."

For more information about the center, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence/woodlands-stewardship-education-center](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence/woodlands-stewardship-education-center).



An airy, open educational space in the building.

## State Farm Insurance

### G. STEPHEN DULANEY

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PHOTO COURTESY O. LOBALBO

A.E.R.O. helps homeowners learn to safely trap diseased foxes for legal treatment by a licensed rehabber



PHOTO COURTESY O. LOBALBO

A.E.R.O and other wildlife rescue organizations depend upon volunteers, like Debbie Koblenz, and an educated public to provide support for injured wildlife



PHOTO COURTESY O. LOBALBO

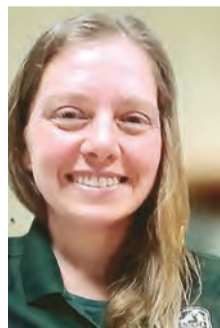
Red Fox with severe Mange infection

# Sick Foxes Get a Helping Hand

**Wildlife volunteers make a difference.**

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME



Leah Card of Virginia's DWR



Olivia LoBalbo, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who specialized in care of wild foxes

Observing wild foxes has gotten easier in recent years. Thanks to the cooperative habits of the Red Fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*), many locals report seeing the antics of the beautiful small mammals crossing trails, cavorting on lawns, digging dens under decks, playing with their kits, or just visiting suburban backyards. Often they exhibit their famed wily fox ways visiting back decks to steal the family dog's toys or food; or to get comfortable on the dog's bed. Unfortunately, along with the opportunity to see their beautiful red coats, legendary bushy thick white tipped tails, and engaging antics, we too often witness the ravages of a disease that afflicts them — mange.

For many foxes that contract mange, it will be a slow and very uncomfortable journey to death. Mange, caused by a parasite, itself is not fatal, but it can so compromise the animal's vision, coat condition, and comfort, that it is unable to hunt properly, leading to starvation; or unable to adjust to temperatures, succumbing to hyperthermia; or in weakened condition, contracting and overcome by internal parasites. Experts say that for an animal to contract mange, there may have been an underlying health issue that made the animal more susceptible. Or it may be as the result of close proximity to an infected fox, as populations are forced to share shrinking space due to habitat loss, and as family units cluster together.

Observers of foxes in distress may be moved to assist. Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Leah Card, explains that mange is endemic in the environment and to fox populations.

"It can be severe, or some foxes may get over it themselves." Card, who is assigned to the department's fur-bearing animals response, says. "Red Foxes do well in adapting to loss of natural habitat and are common in urban and suburban settings now. ... They

**"We noticed many members of the public ... attempting to treat them with medications like ivermectin or prescription flea and tick treatments. This did much more harm than good."**

— Olivia LoBalbo, licensed wildlife rehabilitator

are part of the ecosystem, have been here a long time, and it's on us to learn to live with them."

Card describes three possible choices for homeowners, and others, who encounter foxes with mange: do not intervene; contact a licensed commercial wildlife control operator for trapping and removal; or contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for possible treatment. She suggests intervention only in severe cases, because proper treatment requires removing the animal from the wild. Removal itself is traumatic for the animal. The treatment period is several weeks, during which time the animal may become habituated to humans, impacting its ability to successfully return to the wild. Severely infected animals, likely beyond successful treatment,

may be trapped and humanely euthanized, but only by certified operators, or licensed rehabbers. If you are uncertain about the level of the animal's affliction, a rehabilitator may be able to advise on the appropriate action if provided with a photograph of the animal. The public is advised not to attempt treatment, contact or to feed a mange-infected fox (or healthy animals) due to risks to both the animal and the human.

Mange is caused by parasitic mites which dig deep into fox skin, lay eggs, and leave fecal matter. The infection causes significant skin irritation and hair loss. Mites may attach to other animals as well; such as squirrels, deer, coyotes, and bears. It can spread to human hosts but does not reproduce there. While concern for pets or children might lead one to seek removal of an infected animal, it is nearly impossible to eliminate all susceptible animals from one's surroundings. And make no mistake in thinking a trapped animal will be cured and then taken to a different location. Commercial removal operators may not release animals in another location. Animals they collect must be euthanized. Animals successfully treated by rehabbers must be released at their original location.

Though some will be tempted to try to cure the painful disease themselves, DWR reminds us that the Red Fox species is not under threat and has managed to live and thrive with mange in its population. In 2004, Virginia Code made it illegal to administer any drug to vertebrate wildlife, except as a licensed veterinarian for an injured or sick animal; or as a licensed and permitted rehabilitator; a Class 2 misdemeanor for violation. In fact, both federal and Virginia laws prohibit most interaction with wildlife except for observation. While one may aid sick or injured wildlife under "good samaritan" laws, one may not treat, feed, keep as a pet, a wild animal, or even take down a bird nest while there is active nesting. Many readers may have foregone use of an entrance to their homes for months, as a wren or finch raises a brood of chicks in a door's welcome wreath.

## Easing the Conflict

One area rehabilitator has been easing this



PHOTO COURTESY O. LOBALBO

The Red Fox after two weeks of care by licensed rehabber

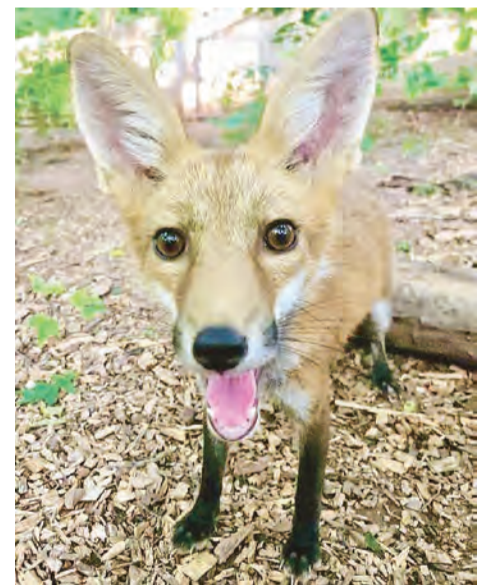


PHOTO COURTESY O. LOBALBO

The same Red Fox, successfully treated for mange, and released

wildlife-human conflict for both area foxes and homeowners. Olivia LoBalbo, has been actively involved in working with foxes in Northern Virginia for the past decade. Both federally and state permitted for wildlife rehabilitation in Virginia, the former veterinary technician initially began her licensed rehabber work raising young foxes who were orphaned and unable to reunite with an adult. She describes receiving numerous calls about foxes with mange in distress.

SEE WHEN FOXES NEED HELP, PAGE 11  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Becoming a common sight, a healthy Red Fox dries off on a sunny deck rail after a rain in Springfield

## When Foxes Need Help

FROM PAGE 10

She says, “Historically, little could be legally done for these animals, and we noticed many homeowners or members of the public, albeit with good intentions, attempting to treat them with medications like ivermectin or prescription flea and tick treatments.”

“This did much more harm than good; misinformation on this topic is still being spread today.”

Several critical issues arose from this approach. Not only was it illegal, but there were practical challenges such as foxes being a rabies vector species, accidental overdosing, improper dosing, and the fact that ivermectin requires a double treatment, which was extremely difficult to administer to wild foxes. Furthermore, many foxes presented with underlying health issues that compounded the problem of mange, which is often a secondary symptom of deeper health issues.

LoBalbo, working through the non-profit animal welfare organization, Animal Education and Rescue Organization (A.E.R.O.), and with Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources input, developed a legal and effective program to assist. The program mandates trapping, then thorough examination of each affected animal by a permitted rehabber, as opposed to environmental distribution of medications. A video on their website demonstrates to homeowners how to use humane traps, step-by-step, with a downloadable brochure for clarity.

LoBalbo explains, “Legally, only homeowners or licensed pest control companies can set traps, and while pest control companies must euthanize trapped animals due to relocation laws, homeowners can transfer them to wildlife rehabilitators for follow-up care under the Good Samaritan law. Under the program, homeowners set traps after instruction on doing so safely; rehabilitators receive the animals and administer treatment; and veterinarians diagnose and prescribe medication; including medication options

which have expanded, providing better outcomes for sick animals.”

The A.E.R.O. program relies heavily on volunteers, licensed rehabbers and volunteers assisting them; and members of the public who care about wildlife. LoBalbo shares that data collected in the program also is being used to map and study fox behavior and infection patterns in the area, including collaboration with several PhD candidates at George Mason University. Mapping that data led LoBalbo to ascertain the reason why nine foxes, presenting with broken legs and no teeth, came into her care already this year; eventually tracked to two trap-setters protecting chickens, where appropriate legal action was taken.

A.E.R.O.’s program helps animals stay in their homes, which LoBalbo says means “living with wildlife and not taking them away, later to find their abandoned young,” a better outcome for all.

### More About A.E.R.O.

“Animal Education and Rescue Organization (A.E.R.O.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned, injured, and sick native Virginia wildlife in need of help in order to survive. Our Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources licensed wildlife rehabilitators, apprentices, and care providers devote hundreds of hours to restore the wildlife in their care to good health so that they can be released back into the wild. Currently, A.E.R.O. consists of a dedicated team of six skilled at-home rehabbers, alongside multiple apprentices diligently working towards becoming full-fledged rehabbers themselves. In addition to our core team, we are supported by compassionate caregivers and volunteers who play integral roles in our mission. Each year, A.E.R.O. opens its doors to approximately 1000 animals in need of care and support.”

To learn more about A.E.R.O. efforts; to volunteer, or support their work, see <https://aeroanimal-rescue.org/>

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed. Struct. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
SCOTT	23591	600	FAIRVIEW ROAD	NORTH FORK OF CLINCH RIVER	4/30/2024
TAZEWELL	18530	601	FREESTONE VALLEY ROAD	LITTLE TUMBLING CREEK	4/30/2024
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS ROAD/RTE 610	BRANCH DAN RIVER	4/23/2024
FLOYD	7631	785	BURKS FORK ROAD/RTE 785	BURKS FORK	4/18/2024
FRANKLIN	7936	731	DUGWELL ROAD/RTE 731	BUCK RUN	4/11/2024

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

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

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

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

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

**Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

## RESTON ASSOCIATION

### SUMMER "AT THE MOVIES"

Reston Association is set for another exciting summer of movie events. "RA at the Movies" gives the community a chance to gather together in a variety of settings while enjoying movies in the great outdoors. Whether gathering for a family outing, date night, or to extend a little pool time, RA has a summer movie for all to enjoy. Movies in the Park include:

Saturday, May 18: Family Superhero Night: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Doors open: 7:45 p.m./Showtime: 8:30 p.m.

Children are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero character Browns Chapel Park, 1575 Browns Chapel Road

Saturday, June 8: Date Night: My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Newport Soccer Field, 1550 Reston Pkwy

Similarly, Dive-In Movies at some of RA's pools throughout the community let guests enjoy family-oriented films after a day of swimming. Dive-In Movies include:

Thursday, July 11: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Newport Pool, 11601 Lake Newport Road

Wednesday, August 7: Kung Fu Panda 4

Doors open: 8:00 p.m./Showtime: 8:45 p.m.

Lake Audubon Pool, 2070 Twin Branches Road

All RA at the Movies events are \$6 for RA members and \$10 for non-members. Admission is free for kids under the age of 3. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Register at [www.reston-webtrac.com](http://www.reston-webtrac.com) or contact events@reston.org or 703-435-6571.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT COLVIN RUN MILL.

### Mill tours every weekend from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 19th; June 2nd and June 16th – Mill in Motion: the mill is operating, the miller is grinding grain, the Northern Virginia Woodcarvers and a local blacksmith are demonstrating their skills. On June 16th, Father's Day, Mill in Motion welcomes fathers and grandfathers with free admission.

May 19 – Engineering Then & Now: Learn about engineers of the past, including Oliver Evans who invented the system that runs Colvin Run Mill; speak with contemporary engineers and participate in engi-



LINDA BILOTTI/THE CONNECTION

**The Into the Woods' cast reacts to an angry giant! From left: Tina Ghandchilar, Richard Jacobson, Kathleen Jo DiEmidio, Jeff Elmore, and Katherine Lipovsky.**

neering problem-solving. June 8 – Brownie Badge Day: Girl Scouts can earn two badges. June 15 and 19 – Colvin Run Before & After the 13th Amendment (12-Adult): Learn how enslaved and free African Americans helped build and maintain the mill and the Colvin Run community. Discover how, after slavery was outlawed, African Americans developed more connections to the community and created spaces of their own.

## PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

As spring blooms, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Master Gardeners extend a warm invitation to all gardening enthusiasts for a series of free Vegetable Garden Plant Clinics. These educational programs, offered in collaboration with the Fairfax County Master Gardeners and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), aim to cultivate a deeper understanding of gardening practices and foster a sense of community among green thumbs of all levels.

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: June 8, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14. Clinics will be held concurrently on each of these dates at eight locations across Fairfax County:

Pine Ridge Park, 3401 Woodburn Road, Annandale  
Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston  
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
Grist Mill Park, 4320 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria  
Grove Point Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield  
George Mason Park, 9700 Braddock Road, Fairfax  
Hogge Park, 3139 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church  
Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**Walk With Dr. Rinka Mehra.** 10 a.m. Meet at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Walk with Dr. Rinka Mehra is a new initiative aimed at encouraging families to participate in a monthly walk to promote a healthy community and encourage active lifestyles. Walk with Dr. Mehra offers participants the opportunity to engage in safe physical activity while gaining valuable health information and connecting with others in their community. Visit <https://www.themehraclinic.com/about>

## FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

The opening of the 2024 Farmers Market season is fast approaching and the Park Authority, along with dozens of local food producers, will have tons of fresh and healthy foods waiting for you at all 10 markets located throughout the county.

This year, you can expect to find locally grown produce, delicious baked goods and prepared foods at the farmers markets. Additionally, enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities from musical performances, games, and don't forget to bring your food scraps to support our community composting efforts!

The 2024 season begins April 17 with the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Market. Check out our full market schedule for the latest times and locations.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
McCutcheon/Mount Vernon  
April 17-Dec. 18, 8 a.m. - noon  
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria  
Oakmont  
May 1-Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-noon  
Oakmont Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton  
Wakefield  
May 1 – Oct. 30, 2-6 p.m.  
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale

**THURSDAYS**  
Annandale  
May 2 -Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon

Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
Herndon  
May 2 -Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon  
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

**FRIDAYS**  
McLean  
May 3-Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon  
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean  
Kingstowne  
May 3-Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.  
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

**SATURDAYS**  
Burke  
April 20-Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon  
VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke  
Reston  
April 27-Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon  
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

**SUNDAYS**  
Lorton  
May 5-Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-noon  
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton  
Visit the Farmers Market website for complete information about this year's markets – including details on SNAP benefits for eligible households available at designated locations. Contact the Community Horticulture Office at 702-642-0128.

**THURSDAY/MAY 16**  
"Wagner & Me" Movie. 1 pm. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jewish-American Heritage Month Selection. Stephen Fry's journey to reconcile his Jewish heritage with his love of Richard Wagner's music. Programs subject to change. Not rated.

**THURSDAY/MAY 16**  
McLean Project for the Arts Spring Benefit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. McLean home of Mark Lowham and Joseph Ruzzo. Join them for an enchanted evening in the beautiful backyard of Mark Lowham and Joseph Ruzzo. Co-chaired by Cynthia Steele Vance and Mandy Mafi, this sunset party will feature an exhibition by artists Chee Keong Kung and live music by DC Martini. Delegate



**The Paws in the Park Pet Adoption Event takes place Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Wolf Trap Farm Park in McLean.**

Kathleen Murphy will serve as this year's Guest of Honor.

**FRIDAY/MAY 17**  
Bike to Work Day 2024. At over 100 Pit Stops Located Across the Metropolitan Washington Region. Join thousands of area commuters for the free 23rd annual event celebrating bicycling as a fun, low-cost, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to get around. Riders can find Bike to Work Day pit stops around the metropolitan region in DC, Suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The first 16,000 to register and attend one of the pit stops will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-shirt. Pit Stop information is available at <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/find-your-pit-stop>

**FRIDAY/MAY 17**  
Pathways to Wellness. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ernst Community Center (NVCC), 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Annual Mental Health Conference/Exhibition. Workshops on mental wellness, resilience and hope, Creative uses of meditation, dance, and improvisation. Caricatures, service dogs, massages. Includes breakfast and lunch! Visit the website: <https://pathwaystowellnessconf.com>

**FRIDAY/MAY 17**  
T.G.I.F. Carnival Rides. 2-10 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, McLean. Come enjoy the carnival rides and games on Friday before the McLean Day Festival. Ride tickets sold onsite and online. Advance purchase available. To purchase tickets and more information, visit [mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://mcleancenter.org/special-events).

**FRIDAY/MAY 17**  
Porcelain Painter Sherry Matini. 11 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Art Society is honored to host local artist, Sherry Matini, President of the Northern Virginia Porcelain Artists, showing how she paints porcelain pieces to reflect her love of vibrant colors and organic forms. Ms. Matini's affinity for porcelain art blossomed during her formative years at St.

# ENTERTAINMENT



The McLean Day Festival takes place on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Lewinsville Park.

George's School in Montreux, Switzerland. There she discovered a way to communicate and express the universal language of art, a revelation that ignited her lifelong artistic journey.

## FRIDAY/MAY 17

**Stenwood's 60th Anniversary.** 5-8 p.m. At 2620 Gallows Road, Vienna. Whether you roamed the halls in the early years or recently bid farewell, Stenwood Elementary warmly welcomes back any and all alumni of the past six decades to revisit the school. RSVP to join the celebration! Go to [bit.ly/Stenwood60th](https://bit.ly/Stenwood60th), and document your connection with Stenwood.

## MAY 17-19

**"Little Women."** At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Produced nationally and internationally, "Little Women" has been praised by critics for its ambition in bringing the timeless, captivating story to vivid musical life on stage. Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy, leaving audiences filled with a sense of adventure, joy, heartache, and a lifting of the spirit. The power score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartbreak, hope, and everlasting love – the sounds of a young America finding its voice.

## MAY 17-19

**"Into the Woods."** 7:30 p.m. and 2 pm. At Good Shepherd Church in Burke. Good Shepherd Players is putting on "Into the Woods." With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine, this Tony Award winning musical first opened on Broadway in 1987. The plot has classic storybook characters, including Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack (from Jack and the Beanstalk), and Little Red Riding Hood journeying alongside a Baker and his wife, who are on a quest to have a child. Once these characters travel Into the Woods chaos ensues and they encounter a witch, a wolf, giants, and other scary things. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com>

[www.good-shepherd.net/into-the-woods-2/](http://www.good-shepherd.net/into-the-woods-2/)

## MAY 18 THRU JUNE 23

**"The Drowsy Chaperone."** At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center Performing Arts announces its newest production, "The Drowsy Chaperone," a delightful musical comedy about characters coming to life in a fictitious 1928 song-and-dance-infused performance. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$40. Visit the website [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Melodies of the Soul.** 8 p.m. At GMU's Harris Theatre, Fairfax Campus. Heralded by the New York Times as a "composer of uncommon gifts and unusual methods," English composer Anna Clyne has masterfully crafted a new musical language, drawing inspiration from the words of 13th-century Persian poet Rumi. Her composition, a captivating dance for cello and orchestra, transports listeners to ethereal realms through its enchanting melodies.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**"All That Jazz"** 6-10 p.m. At the Great Falls Grange in Great Falls. The Great Falls Grange Foundation invites you to join us for a roaring good time and "All That Jazz" at the Great Falls Grange.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Spring Garden Day—The Big Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free Admission. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This is a must-attend, free event for all gardeners! Make a day at Green Spring Gardens for our Annual Spring Garden Day and Big Plant Sale. This popular event features a variety of vendors and countless assortments of plants -- from the tried-and-true varieties to the rare and unusual. Go native with your plantings or add fruiting plants in your gardens. Get garden advice from our Master Gardeners or enjoy

local artists, food vendors or baked goods though the Friends of Green Spring Gardens Bake Sale.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Inova Saville Cancer Screening and Health Fair.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Inova Conference Center, 8100 Innovation Park Dr., Fairfax. The Inova Saville Cancer Screening and Prevention Center, Northern Virginia's only state-of-the-art cancer screening and prevention center, will host its third annual Inova Saville Cancer Screening and Health Fair. The free community event is open to all and will provide valuable information to anyone interested in learning more about their own risk factors for developing cancer, or for those who have questions about cancer screening and prevention. Complimentary on-site and take-home cancer screenings will be provided, as well as interactive, educational exhibits about cancer prevention and genetic research at Inova.

## MAY 18-19

**Tephra ICA Arts Festival.** At Reston Town Center, Reston. The Tephra ICA Arts Festival, formerly titled the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, will take place on May 18-19, 2024 at the Reston Town Center in Reston. More than 200 contemporary artists and artisans will travel from 32 states to present original handmade artwork to share with Festival audiences. The Reston Concerts on the Town summer series, presented by Reston Town Center Association, will kick off its season with a concert by Old Skool on Saturday May 18 in the Reston Town Center Pavilion, and the Family Art Park will offer fun art-making activities for art enthusiasts of all ages in Reston Town Square Park. This year's Festival will also feature several new additions, including a Sip & Stroll, Food Vendors, Guided Tours, and Artist Demos.

Schedule of Events  
Saturday, May 18  
Artist Booths: 11AM-7PM  
Family Art Park: 12PM-4PM  
Guided Tours: 3PM  
Artist Demos: 5PM



Sherry Matini will discuss her porcelain painting on Friday, May 17, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.

Danielle Hatch Performances: 1PM and 4PM | Presented by Reston Community Center  
Reston Concerts on the Town: Old Skool 7:30PM | Presented by Reston Town Center Association  
Sunday, May 21  
Artist Booths: 11AM-5PM  
Family Art Park: 12PM-4PM  
Danielle Hatch Performances: 1PM and 4PM | Presented by Reston Community Center  
To learn more about the event, visit <https://www.tephraica.org/festival>.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**BrewWorks Festival.** Noon to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The event will feature samplings of a dozen local breweries featuring local craft beers and ciders, food provided by a variety of local food truck vendors, music, and lawn games. In addition, this year's event will feature an exciting art battle, where artists compete in several rounds until an ultimate winner is found. General admission tickets are \$50. For more details visit the website at <https://www.workhousearts.org/brewworks>. In addition to beer and cider tastings, food, music, and games, guests can enjoy the newly added art battle this year. In this three-hour event, artists will compete in several rounds of fast-paced painting and drawing on canvas until the ultimate winner is declared. The event will include participation from eight local artists from the DMV area. Festival attendees can also bid on the artwork during a silent auction following the battle.

Art Battle Schedule  
Round 1 - 12:30 - 1:15 pm  
Round 2 - 1:35 - 2:20 pm  
Final Round - 2:40 - 3:35 pm  
Silent auction - 3:45 - 4:50 pm.  
During the festival, all campus buildings will be open to browse the galleries, artist studios, and Lucy Burns Museum.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**McLean Day Festival.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, McLean. Come to McLean's biggest annual festival! Great music, gourmet food trucks, games, 100+ exhibitors, sponsors, giveaways, balloon animals, magician, petting zoo, amusements, large and small carnival rides and much more! This event draws approximately 10,000+ patrons throughout the day. Ride tickets sold onsite and in advance online.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Paws in the Park Pet Adoption Event.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Wolf Trap Farm Park, McLean. Owners of six Woofie's franchises in Northern Virginia

are hosting "Paws in the Park," a pet adoption event on May 18 (rain date May 19) at Wolf Trap National Park, hoping to bring awareness for the need that local animal shelters have for "forever" families for the many animals available. Participating Woofie's include Reston/Herndon, Ashburn-Leesburg, McLean, Western Loudoun, South Riding-Aldie and Fairfax. Woofie's mobile pet services comprise a wide range of services including dog walking, grooming, nail trimming, Bed 'n Biscuit pet stays, overnight and daytime pet sitting, and other personalized services for area pet owners who need an extra helping hand or want to pamper their pets. Services are available for all types of family pets who need care. Call 321-379-8079 or visit for more information: [www.woofies.com/paws-in-the-park](http://www.woofies.com/paws-in-the-park).

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Historic Preservation Month events in Fairfax County.** Come celebrate Historic Preservation Month and step back in time at some of Fairfax County's most cherished historic properties. Join resident curators for special #OpenHouse events on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Stempson House and Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi House in Lorton. Plus, don't miss out on house tours at Ellmore Farmhouse every Monday and Thursday starting May 13. Get all the info on the website <https://bit.ly/3wycIPL>

## MAY 18-19

**Girls on the Run 5K Run.** Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia (GOTR NOVA) announces two upcoming 5K events, where program participants, families, and community members come together to celebrate the achievements of young girls and support their journey toward a confident, healthy, and joyous future. Scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at Fair Oaks Mall and Sunday, May 19 at Grace Murray Hopper Park, participants of all ages and abilities are welcome to join in the fun-filled event. This empowering 5K series instills a sense of accomplishment through completion as program participants cross the finish line. Both of the GOTR NOVA 5Ks are open to the public, welcoming runners, walkers, volunteers, and spectators to join in the festivities. Whether you're cheering from the sidelines or crossing the finish line, these events promise to be an inspiring and unforgettable experience for all. Registration for the GOTR NOVA 5K is now open at <https://www.gotrnova.org/5k>.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
By MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 8

VIENNA

**Vienna: Healthy  
Aging Options**



PHOTO TOWN OF VIENNA, VA -  
GOVERNMENT

**Attendees at Vienna's Parks and  
Recreation Department Wellness  
and Safety Expo.**

On Friday, May 10, Vienna's Parks and Recreation Department hosted 40+ professional groups at its Wellness and Safety Expo. Vienna Police Officer Celines Fitchue's scam and fraud prevention talk, Kate Mantoya's Essentrics Demo, Teresa Fletcher's joint-friendly workout demonstration, and the pickleball demonstration and open play provided valuable information.

**Car Seat  
Inspections  
on May 23**

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, May 23, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed, if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for June 6, at the same place and time.

**CALENDAR**

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**Let us know  
about an  
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

## Kendale Woods Pickleball; Another View

I am a resident who lives on Kendale Road and my house backs up to these courts. My neighbors and those on Brookcrest Drive who also have houses that back to these courts have made it clear we want these courts in our backyard. They add value to our community and simply playing somewhere else is not a viable option. These courts are adjacent to our community pool (the pool board has stated pickleball players can use their parking lot) and right next to a park so it allows for parents in the community to play while our kids are in safe distance from us.

It's also stated that these courts were lined prior to the 2021 study- while that is true what it neglects to mention is that these courts were redone and two pickleball only courts were placed in 2023. The story being told is incomplete.

It should also be mentioned that the timing of this decision raises suspicion, particularly considering the sudden proliferation of signs offering tennis lessons at these courts for a fee. It is troubling that we are being asked to sacrifice a beloved community asset so that someone else can profit.

While it is true that we can drive 5 miles and be at another court, we can't have our kids enjoy the pool while we play pickleball. The proximity to the park, pool, and our homes cannot be replicated at any other courts in Annandale. Furthermore, the board at the Broyhill Crest Pool has stated that pickleball players can use their parking lot to access these courts.

The community has spoken, and it is clear that they want these courts and that they are important to our neighborhood. We aren't ask-



Noise from pickleball courts is causing controversy.

### LETTER TO EDITOR

ing for money, more courts, or anything else, we just want to keep this valuable community asset to stay.

We have made a very simple and reasonable request that a community hearing be held to get the input of those impacted by this decision. The person offering for profit tennis lessons on these specific courts shouldn't be the only voices heard.

Please run a more balanced story with all the facts, not just the ones cherry picked by the park authority.

Sarah Wysocki

## Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy.

Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

### SUNDAY/MAY 19

**N Gauge (N-TRAK) Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge model trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 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.

### SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Holistic Health Fair.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Hosted by OmBaked CBD Boutique. The beneficiary of the event is Earth Sangha, a local native plant nursery that has been working in the conservation space in Northern Virginia for 30+ years. The fair will highlight the interconnectedness

between personal wellness and environmental sustainability. It will also feature initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship. Local vendors will showcase eco-friendly products and practices and educational exhibits will highlight the importance of preserving natural resources. Call 703-332-4474.

### SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Taste of NoVA.** 1-4 p.m. At National Museum of the U.S. Army, 1775 Liberty Dr., Fort Belvoir. Northern Virginia Magazine's Taste of NoVA event features samples from more than 40 acclaimed restaurants and sips from more than 25 wineries, breweries, and spirits sponsors. Cost: \$165/ticket for general admission and \$190/ticket VIP tickets. Group discounts available. Visit: <https://northernvirginiamag.com/taste-of-nova/>

### SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Blue Bird Art Exhibition.** 1-5 p.m. At Fairfax Marriott Hotel

at Fair Oaks. The Blue Bird Art Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to provide a platform for young artists to explore their talents, foster compassion, and contribute to the growth and enrichment of their communities. Through the various initiatives and programs, it aims to empower young individuals to become skilled artists and compassionate leaders who actively make positive changes in society. This event celebrates creativity, compassion, and community growth. The Blue Bird Art Exhibition, a unique and vibrant showcase, serves as a platform for these young individuals to share their stories, perspectives, and visions with a wider audience.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Civil War Books, Relics & Memorabilia Show.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, Rt. 50, Fairfax. Admission, \$5 Per Person. Vendors welcome. Call 703-389-1505 / 703-785-5294.

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## Creature Comforts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off hand, I don't know/can't recall the names of the pharmaceutical companies who are advertising extremely regularly (I wish I was so regular) products for toe fungus and psoriasis. What I can recall is that there are numerous products on the market these days to offer sufferers relief never thought possible. The pitches are nearly identical in tone, if not in actual word and deed. If one is to believe what is said and shown on these television advertisements, these two chronic, previously-hard-to-get-rid-of conditions are likely a thing of the past. And the present is patches, pills, creams, et cetera, and presto, you're very nearly at the promised (although not literally) land. No more itching. No more scratching. No more hiding your toes and/or arms and legs as the scales of injustice persist. (My mother had psoriasis, and though it wasn't a pretty sight, she managed to live her life. Quite unintentionally my mother's life-long struggles to find some relief from her psoriasis were realized when she stopped smoking her four packs of Chesterfield King cigarettes per day. There was no other answer. Over the ensuing months of non-smoking "cold turkey," the scales gradually disappeared, and my mother lived psoriasis-free for the rest of her life. Nevertheless, I have distinct memories of the difficulties my mother had day-to-day dealing with her condition. Fortunately, she had no similar toe condition. As an aside, I can still hear my late father admonishing my brother and I if we ever referred to my mother as 'she.'

As for the toe issue, I never saw any toes that looked affected on the order of what my mother's arms and legs looked like when she had a psoriasis outbreak. And we usually belonged to pool clubs in the summer where toes would be on full display. I should have seen something. Maybe I've blocked the memory. Toes can become nasty, I imagine. And finding a product that allows you to reintroduce your toes to the public and make peace with your sandals is likewise a solution years in the making. I will admit to being feet-and -toe-centric growing up but it was not due to any toe issue. It was athlete's foot. (Although both feet were affected.) The topical applications didn't really work. What did work was the relief my father offered. Picture this: I'm lying on the couch at a 90-degree angle to where my father is sitting on the single chair against the wall with my feet on his lap. Then he would take his index, middle fingers, and slide those two fingers back and forth along the inside of any two toes showing the signs. I got to tell you; that was heaven on earth for me. The relief and pleasure I felt from his fatherly act stays with me to this day. My father was one in a million. As the card I got him for his 65th birthday said: "When you were born, they broke the mold." (Open the card.) "You should see what they did to the mold maker." Unfortunately, there wasn't anything he could do for my mother's psoriasis. But if there were, my father would have made the effort. In later years when my mother had irreparable hearing loss and tinnitus, my parents - at my father's insistence, took regular plane flights to New Jersey from Boston to visit a doctor there who offered my mother some potential relief. (There are even products/procedures nowadays that offer tinnitus suffers some hope. I'd like to think my mother would have benefited. Getting her some relief in arrears.)

As simple and apparently effective as these two advertising campaigns to defeat (pun intended) toe fungus and cream (another pun) psoriasis seem to be, I wish, in an odd way to be so affected so that I might benefit from the new solution. It reminds of the late coach of the early 70s Redskins and mid-60s Rams, George Allen, whose mantra-type refrain was "The future is now" supporting his preference for older players. If I was a psoriasis or toe fungus sufferer, I would also feel, that after years of discomfort and perhaps even some embarrassment from these two chronic, nuisance-type conditions, the future is not only now, but also available, and not a moment too soon. Living with chronic pain and/or discomfort from psoriasis, as was the case with my late mother, or toe fungus (which I certainly can relate to due to my athlete's feet), and finally learning of a product or two - or three that could solve lifelong problems, the future is indeed now, finally. However, the frequency of these two product-specific advertisements on television is starting to get to me a bit. As I say, I can appreciate the relief these product/solutions potentially offer, I just wish the message were out there already. As with the gambling sights that are non-stop-advertised, especially during football season - and the semi related non-stop promotions for men's erectile dysfunction, to quote my late mother: "It's enough already."

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



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**SOLD!**



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

**SOLD!**



6709 Pine Creek Court  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,200,000

**SOLD!**



1562 Forest Villa Ln  
McLean, 22101  
\$1,550,000

**SOLD!**



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# MCLEAN DAY

Est. 1915



**Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
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# McLEAN DAY 2024

## District Residents Can Vote for MCC Governing Board Candidates at McLean Day 2024

### Four Adult, Two Teen Positions Open.

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A who support the McLean Community Center (MCC) will have an opportunity to meet and vote for the 10 adults and five teens who are running for seats on the MCC Governing Board at McLean Day 2024. The Governing Board election will be held at the festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

The all-volunteer Governing Board provides oversight of MCC through policy guidance, strategic planning and financial stewardship. MCC divisions include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Four adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. The adult candidates who receive the three-highest vote counts will serve three-year (3) terms. The adult who receives the fourth-highest vote count will serve a one-year, unexpired term. Youth candidates, one from the McLean High School boundary area and one from the Langley High School boundary area, will serve one-year (1) terms. Youth candidates do not have to attend these schools to serve on the board.

### Adult Candidate Personal Statements

#### Tarek Atia

I am a longtime McLean resident seeking to use my passion for the arts to benefit my community. If elected, I will collaborate with fellow board



members to advance MCC's critical mission. Throughout my career, I have leveraged my diverse experience as a journalist, entrepreneur and teacher to drive cultural engagement at home and overseas, most recently as director of a major arts and culture center at the American University in Cairo. An alumnus of Churchill, Cooper, Langley and UVA, and father of two adult sons, I am currently writing a book called "Ten Days in America's Next Great City."

#### Jonathan "Slade" Broom

I moved to McLean in 2013 with my wife, Katie. Our three children perform at the Alden Theatre and enjoy the Old Firehouse and the MCC summer camps. I volunteer in our community, primarily coaching McLean Little League. I bring two decades of public service experience. I have honed skills in international negotiations, managing large federal budgets and delivering aid in emergency situations. At CFPB, I protect consumers from financial harm, improve processes and manage organizational change. As a board member, I will focus on expanding family-focused and sensory-friendly events, listening and finding collaborative solutions and providing responsible financial management.



#### Matt Colsia

As a dedicated member of the MCC Governing Board, I've championed accessibility, modernization, and fiscal responsibility. With 26 years of Army service and deep involvement in our schools and community organizations, I bring a unique perspective and unwavering commitment to service. My



vision is to foster a thriving, inclusive community center that enriches the lives of residents. I'm excited to shape MCC's 50th anniversary celebration and beyond, ensuring it remains a beacon of learning, growth, and unity. With your support, I will continue to lead with integrity, advocate for your needs, and tirelessly work towards a stronger, more vibrant community.

#### Mike Drabyk

My name is Mike Drabyk. As a McLean resident for more than 25 years, I have watched my family grow and thrive. The benefits of being here include the McLean Community Center, the Old Firehouse and events like McLean Day. My family and I have an annual tradition where I play the carnival games at McLean Day for prizes for my wife and family. I want to do my part so others can continue enjoying this local experience as well. I ask for your vote for the McLean Community Center Board. Thank you.



#### Doug Jeffery

I moved to Northern Virginia in 1997. I attended Chantilly High School and later the University of Virginia. In 2019, my wife and I decided to make McLean our home. Since then, we welcomed our first daughter, now nearly 2, and are expecting our second this spring. I have worked for a large financial services firm in Tysons Corner for 16 years and am a CFA Charterholder. As a father and finance professional, I will make sure that the MCC produces an inclusive and family-friendly environment and that it uses its resources prudently. I am excited to serve



our community!

#### Ronald Keesing

As a 20-year resident, I feel fortunate to live in McLean. I've raised two daughters who received world-class educations here. Our family has spent countless hours enjoying local performances, events, classes, parks and the library. I believe the quality of life we've enjoyed is only possible through decades of responsible, non-partisan, inclusive leadership. Now, I'd like to give back, continuing that tradition while serving on the MCC Governing Board. I believe I have much to offer, particularly through my expertise in technology and ethics. I'm excited to continue MCC's important work bringing arts, events and education to our diverse community.



#### Lisa Mariam

It has been an honor to serve on the McLean Community Center Board for the last three years. I helped guide MCC through strategic planning and chaired the 50th Anniversary Committee. I look forward to continuing to support McLean traditions and exploring new opportunities to engage residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. With over 20 years of experience in nonprofit programs and administration, I bring a broad community perspective to represent the residents of our special tax district. I'll prioritize increasing awareness of MCC, being responsive to community needs and interests and bringing people together to strengthen our community.



SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 3



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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

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# McLEAN DAY 2024

## MCC Governing Board Candidates

FROM PAGE 2

### Michael Monroe

It would be an honor to serve McLean and I was thrilled to be asked to do so. I live, work and raise my three children here in the Langley pyramid. My finance experience over the past 20 years and relationships in multiple industries, including Hollywood, can help drive amazing activity and efficiency at MCC. I'm a graduate of Leadership Fairfax and the Political Leaders Program through UVA Sorenson, have a master's in real estate from Georgetown University and a bachelor's from James Madison University. I'm a life member of Sharon Lodge #327. I'd appreciate your vote.



### Peter Pin

It is my pleasure to submit my application for candidate for the MCC Governing Board. As a resident of McLean for 24 years and Northern Virginia for 40, I have a deep commitment to the wellbeing of our community. Having served for over 30 years as a leader in the business community, I hope to bring my spirit of innovation and collaboration along with my skills in leadership and communications to create and advance a wonderful agenda for the community. I thank those that have been here before me and look forward to serving you.



### Peggy Richardson

My name is Peggy Richardson, and I would be honored to serve on McLean Community Center's Governing Board. I've lived in the area for over 20 years and have always enjoyed being an active member of my community. Having served on several different volunteer boards such as the Women's Civic Alliance and the Arlington Community Foundation, I'm confident that my 25-plus years of experience spearheading fundraising campaigns and coordinating philanthropic events would directly benefit MCC and its constituency. As a board member, I would ensure that the programs represent the needs and wants of all the McLean community.



## Youth Candidate Personal Statements Langley High School Boundary Area Candidates

### Anastasiia Dudnik-Dubiniak

I am Anastasiia Dudnik-Dubiniak, a freshman at Langley High, and I am running for the MCC Board. My candidacy is rooted in genuine desire to enhance McLean's liveliness, vibrance and responsiveness to the diverse needs of its residents. I aim to create a lively and welcom-



ing community, uniting us all by organizing inclusive and engaging events, such as cultural festivals, movie nights, outdoor activities, parties, fundraising events and promoting teen nonprofit startups. With my fresh perspective and dedication, I intend to amplify the voices of teens, fostering a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for McLean youths.

### Sonya Thott

My name is Sonya Thott and I'm a junior at Langley High School. My ambition to incorporate cultural diversity and inclusivity within our community is the core of my campaign. I have showcased my culture via dance and music by performing at Capital One Hall and I am also very involved in my school by being an officer in Langley's student government, where I help organize school events, learn how to be an efficient leader and listen to students' opinions. With these experiences, I hope to enhance MCC's inclusivity statement further and support the betterment of the community for all.



### Luke Understein

I am running for board member because I want to make a difference in our community and promote MCC's outreach, growth and innovation as a cultural resource for residents of McLean. I am familiar with the interests of young people in McLean, and I will bring the perspectives of my peers to aid the decisions of the board. I will also make strong contributions to the committees I serve, because I have good communication and organizational skills and I am very detail oriented. So, I am asking for your vote to represent the Langley district.



## McLean High School Boundary Area Candidates

### Aanya Jain

Hello, I'm Aanya Jain and I'm running for MCC Governing Board. I was born in McLean and MCC has played a pivotal role in my active involvement within my community. I was exposed to summer activities and plays sponsored by MCC (and let's not forget McLean Day)! I realized the importance of community engagement and advocacy and am part of Raising Student Voices and Debate clubs, which strengthened my skills in diplomacy, advocacy and teamwork! By serving on MCC's Board, I'll strive to promote the magnificent programs MCC offers to those of all backgrounds and will represent my fellow Highlanders!



### Aaron Stark

My name is Aaron Stark. I'm a junior and the president of the class of 2025 at McLean High School. I've had extensive experience working alongside the MCC and oth-



SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 6

**McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**2024 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION**

**Vote on**   
**McLean Day!**

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center (MCC) strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of its 2024-2025 Governing Board.

### WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, May 17, 4–8 p.m. or Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

### REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE

1. You must be a resident of the MCC tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old on Friday, May 17, to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to four candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old on Friday, May 17, to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes: one candidate in McLean High School boundary area and one candidate in Langley High School boundary area.
4. You must bring identification as proof of residency in the tax district, such as a driver's license, passport or utility bill, or you must sign a sworn affidavit statement.

**In-person voting at McLean Day is open only to individuals who did not vote early by absentee ballot.**

**QUESTIONS?** [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

**mcleancenter.org**



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(703) 559-3669  
[info@cryoxygen.com](mailto:info@cryoxygen.com)

### LOCATION:

2674 Avenir Pl E,  
Vienna, VA 22180



# McLEAN DAY

## LEWINSVILLE PARK

1659 Chain Bridge Rd.  
McLean, VA 22101



### KEY

- Info Tent #1
- Info Tent #2
- Info Tent #3
- Info Tent #4
- Volunteer Tent
- Port-a-Johns
- ATMs
- Ride Tickets
- Ambulance & Fire Truck
- Shuttle Bus



### COMMUNITY STAGE SCHEDULE

- Art in Motion  
11 a.m.
- (the) Unruly Theatre Project  
Noon
- Art in Motion  
12:30 p.m.
- DC Synergy  
1:55 p.m.
- Teen Character Awards  
2:45 p.m.
- DC Synergy  
3 p.m.
- The English Channel  
4:15 p.m.

- TGIF Friday Night Rides**  
Friday, May 17, 2-10 p.m.
- McLean Day Festival**  
Saturday, May 18, 11-5 p.m.
- MCC Governing Board Elections**  
Friday, May 17, 4-8 p.m.  
Saturday, May 18, 11-5 p.m.

# McLEAN DAY 2024



## Avoid Parking Problems by Taking Free Shuttles to McLean Day 2024

**M**cLean, Va. —McLean Community Center (MCC) encourages residents who plan to attend McLean Day 2024 to avoid traffic and parking problems by using three satellite parking lots. Parking is prohibited at Lewinsville Park and is extremely limited on the surrounding streets. The free shuttle bus service is the best transportation option for patrons and will help relieve congestion around the park.

The free festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, May 18. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

With the help of community partners, event producer MCC has secured the use of the following parking locations. The shuttles will run between the hours of 10:25 a.m. to 6 p.m.

❖McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., patrons should meet the shuttle at the front entrance.

❖Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain

Bridge Rd., at the corner of Westmoreland and Chain Bridge Rd. Patrons should meet the shuttle at the front entrance to the church.

❖McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, across from Franklin Sherman Elementary School and Langley Shopping Center. Patrons should meet the shuttle in the parking lot at the church entrance.

All Fairfax Connector shuttles to McLean Day are air-conditioned, ADA and wheelchair accessible, have low floor ramps or are lift-equipped, have two bike racks and allow service animals. Patrons can also take Fairfax Connector Route 721 to the festival (Stop ID 5429) for just \$2 each way.

For festival updates, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map, visit: [mclean-center.org/special-events](http://mclean-center.org/special-events) or call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711. MCC's telephone will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of the festival.

## Now in its 109th Year, McLean Day Offers Refreshing Days of Family Fun in the Sun May 17 and 18

**L**ocal families are invited to come out to play on May 17 and 18 for the McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual party in the park, McLean Day. This year's festival begins with an expanded T.G.I.F. Carnival Rides event from 2-10 p.m. on Friday, May 17. Some of the new features of the full-day event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 include a beer garden, a relocated main stage and enhanced musical offerings. The festival is held at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd. Admission to the festival is free; ride tickets, food and beverages will be for sale.

### 109 Years of Bringing the Community Together

McLean Day has been in existence for 109 years. It began in 1915 as a school and community fundraiser put on by the McLean School and Civic League at Franklin Sherman School. Over the years, a host of community organizations kept it going until the mid-1970s when MCC began producing it and then moved it to its current home, Lewinsville Park, in 1988.

### Vote for MCC Board Candidates

The McLean Community Center's 2024 Governing Board Election will be held at the park on two dates this year. Voting will be held on Friday, May 17, from 4-8 p.m. during the T.G.I.F. Carnival Rides event, and on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the festival. Fifteen Dranesville Small District 1A residents are running for seats on the board. Ten adults are vying for four vacant adult seats and five teens are vying for two vacant student seats (one for the Langley High School boundary area and one for the McLean High School boundary area).

Only residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are permitted to vote in the election. For more information, visit MCC's website, [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org).

### Friday Night Activities Expanded

Patrons can enjoy carnival rides on Friday, May 17, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the park. Ticket prices vary, and some rides have height requirements. The rides are in two areas of the park, the parking lot to the right of the main entrance and toward the back of the park, where small carnival rides are located. This year, patrons can also enjoy free climbing walls, bubble ball and laser tag on Friday night. Ride tickets can be purchased in advance from Cole Rides through a link on the center's website, [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org), or onsite on Friday and Saturday.

### Saturday Festival Features

The carnival amusements and rides are a big draw at McLean Day. Large rides are in the parking lot at the right of the entrance. The Kids' Way area of the park offers ticketed rides especially for younger children. Costumed characters, including popular superheroes, will be available to interact with patrons and pose for photos. Other free activities include laser tag, Bubble Ball, two rock-climbing walls, balloon twisters, a magician and a petting zoo.

### Live Performances Onstage

Free performances will be offered throughout the festival on the Community Stage, which is now more centrally located closer to the house in Lewinsville Park. Students enrolled in dance classes at MCC will open the show at 11 a.m. by performing several routines they have learned. At noon, (the) Unruly Theatre Project, The Alden's teen improv group, will perform. MCC dance students will return to perform again at 12:30 p.m. DC Synergy's

young, hip and energetic entertainers will perform the latest songs on the chart and the best dance tunes from the past at 1:55 p.m. McLean Citizens Association will present the Teen Character Awards at 2:45 p.m. DC Synergy returns to the stage for a second show at 3 p.m. and the final performance at 4:15 p.m. will be by the English Channel Band that plays British hits of the 1960s and 70s, along with classic rock and pop. There will also be a Jugglers' Stage, located in the children's ride area, with free performances throughout the event.

### Food and Beverage Options Abound

New this year is the McLean Day Beer and Wine Garden offering a variety of beer and wine for patrons age 21 or older. In addition, some of the area's best gourmet food trucks will be on hand to serve the crowds in Lewinsville Park. At press time they include: Big Cheese (Gourmet Grilled Cheese Sandwiches), DC Slices (Cheese, Pepperoni, Meat Lovers Pizza), Frosty Softy (Ice Cream, Bubble Tea, Milkshakes, Shaved Ice), Momos and More (Momos, Chowmein, Samosas, Choila, Alu Dum), Peruvian Brothers (Chicharron, Asado, Pollo, Choripan, Fish Sandwiches, Empanadas), Ribeye Philadelphia Steak (Cheesesteaks, Chicken Steak-cheese, Hand Cut Fries, Chicken Tenders, Steak Quesadillas, Carna Asada, Cheese Fries), Sweet Frog (Frozen Yogurt, Sorbet, Ice Cream), Yummie Food Company (Vietnamese Crepe, Spicy Grilled or Fried Squid, Chicken or Vegetarian Thai Fried Rice, Chicken and Vegetable Egg-rolls).

### Transportation Options Abound

Parking is not available at Lewinsville Park on the day of the festival. Patrons can take free Fairfax Connector shuttles from three satellite locations to McLean Day. Free shuttle

buses will run from the parking sites to the park starting at 10:25 a.m. and running through 6 p.m.

### Shuttle Satellite

#### Routes are as follows:

Red - McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101, McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.

Yellow - McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101. Patrons should meet at the main entrance of the center where signage indicates.

Blue - Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.

Patrons can also take Fairfax Connector Route 721 to stop ID 5429 for just \$2 each way. All Fairfax Connector Shuttles to McLean Day are air-conditioned, ADA and wheelchair accessible, have low floor ramps or are lift-equipped. They also have two bike racks and allow service animals. For more information, visit the MCC

website, [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org).

### Sponsors Help Make McLean Day Happen

McLean Day is produced by the McLean Community Center (MCC). Community-minded local businesses enhance festival offerings. To date, this year's sponsors are: Wheat's Landscaping (Park Beautification), Fairfax County Connector (Event Transportation); Fairfax County Park Authority (Venue), Giant Food (Marketplace), MARS, Inc. (Kids' Way), McLean Properties (Picnic Tent - Food Court), Johns Hopkins Community Physicians (Picnic Tent - Kids' Way), Northwest Federal Credit Union (Balloon Twisters) and Partner MD (Climbing Walls).

### Clean and Comfortable for All

For a third year, MCC has taken efforts to help McLean Day stay clean and green by hiring a company to manage and process all the waste and recyclable materials generated at the event. Patrons are encouraged to help by using the proper bins when disposing of items throughout the event.

## Candidates

FROM PAGE 3

er McLean-based service programs, including the MCC's Youth Ambassador Program and the Safe Community Coalition's Youth Advisory Council. I've spent nearly all my life growing up in the area, so I figured it was about time to start giving back. As a member of the Governing Board, I would work to add resources and activities for older teens. Vote Aaron Stark for the MCC

### Governing Board!

Write-in candidates are allowed. Write-in candidates must receive at least 10 votes from 10 residents of the center's tax district to have their votes counted. For youth write-in candidates, the 10 votes must come from teens who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 or visit [mclean-center.org](http://mclean-center.org).

# McLean Day 2023

Celebrating Our Hometown since 1915!

Guide to Sponsors,  
Exhibitors and Food  
(See Map, Pages 4&5)

## Sponsors

Giant  
MARS, Inc.  
McLean Properties  
Johns Hopkins  
Wheat's  
Fairfax County Park Authority  
Fairfax County Connector  
Partner MD  
Northwest Federal Credit Union

Booth	Exhibitors
1	Daughters of the American Revolution Freedom Hill Chapter
2	Craftsman Auto Care
3	National Capital Lyme Disease Association
4	Family Of Nuts
5	Lewinsville Retirement Residence
6	Prince William Home Improvement
7	DC Paper Arts
8	Friends of Pleasant Grove
9	Mivaglo Aesthetics
10	Stix & Stone
11	Alyssa Mae Crafts
12	Flemings Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
13	Bulls Hardwood, LLC
14	Charles Schwab
15	AARP Livetech
16	Dolly Madison Library
17	Sand & Stone Jewelry & Crafts
18	Musicfully
19	Skin Lab Med Spa
20	McLean Historical Society
21	US Peace Corp
22	Young Engineers Fairfax County
23	Portrait Sketch
24	McLean Youth Athletics
25	Heidi Pix
26	Child's Play
27	Remark
28	Handicans LLC
29	Crumbl Cook
30	Kitchen Saver
32	Tyson's Trial Law
33	Weichert, Realtors
34	OneLife Fitness
35	Nothing Bundt Cakes
36	Enae Company
47	American Legion Post 270
48	VFW Post 8241
49	AAUW
50	Nova Spine and Rehab Center
51	Dranesville Distric Supervisor
52	Saint Thomas Episcopal

Booth	Exhibitors
53	Capital Remodeling
54	Golden Boot Soccer
55	Tutoring Club of McLean
56	Expressions Music Academy
57	McLean Trees Foundation
58	Ornamental Weldings
59	Dance Academy of Virginia
60	Argent Bridge Advisors
61	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
62	McLean Citizens Association
63	McLean Racquet and Health Club
64	Renewal By Andersen
65	Fairfax County Republican Committee
66	Mathnasium of McLean
67	Alejandra Jewelry
68	Purposely Elite Nanny Agency
69	McLean Animal Hospital
70	Brookfield School
71	McLean Baptist Church
72	Stem Tree
73	Gwen's Blends
74	Paw Mind Body LLC
75	Kids Inspiration LLC
76	Washington Sports Medicine Institute
77	My Gym McLean
78	Trinity Preschool of McLean
79	Scentsy
80	Peruvian Collection
81	Alora Pure LLC
82	McLean Community Players
83	Montessori School of McLean
84	Tooba Art Gallery
85	Adamson Woodworking
86	Riverbend Park
87	Redeemer Lutheran Church
88	Safe Community Coalition
89	MUNAY
90	LuArting
91	Bach to Rock
92	Dranesville District Democratic Committee
93	First Church of Christ Scientist McLean
94	McLean Family Dentistry
95	McLean Youth Soccer
96	Pet Wants Falls Church
97	India Imports
98	McLean Project for the Arts
99	CERT
100	Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management

## Food

- Big Cheese
- Chill and Go Ice Cream
- DC Slices
- Frosty Softy / Hazem Madi LLC
- YUMMIEFOODCOMPANY LLC / DBA "Yummy Thai Kitchen"
- Momos and More Inc
- Ribeye Philadelphia Steak
- Peruvian Brothers
- SweetFrog McLean Mobile



**McLean  
Community  
Center**  
*The Center of It All*



## CLASSES

- Fitness & Culinary Arts
- Dog Training
- Dance & Music Together
- Seniors in Action

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Holiday Art & Crafts Festival
- McLean Day
- 4th of July Celebration
- McLean 5k

## THE ALDEN THEATRE

- Professional Series
- Youth Performances
- Films & Lectures
- Summer Concerts

## THE OLD FIREHOUSE

- After School Programs
- School Break Trips
- Summer Camps
- Family Events



1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

[mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org)



 McLean Community Center

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