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Eco-landscaping: Veneeta Anand has transformed her Alexandria front and back yards into native plant gardens that attract insects like this monarch butterfly.



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PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE CONNECTION

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Creating an
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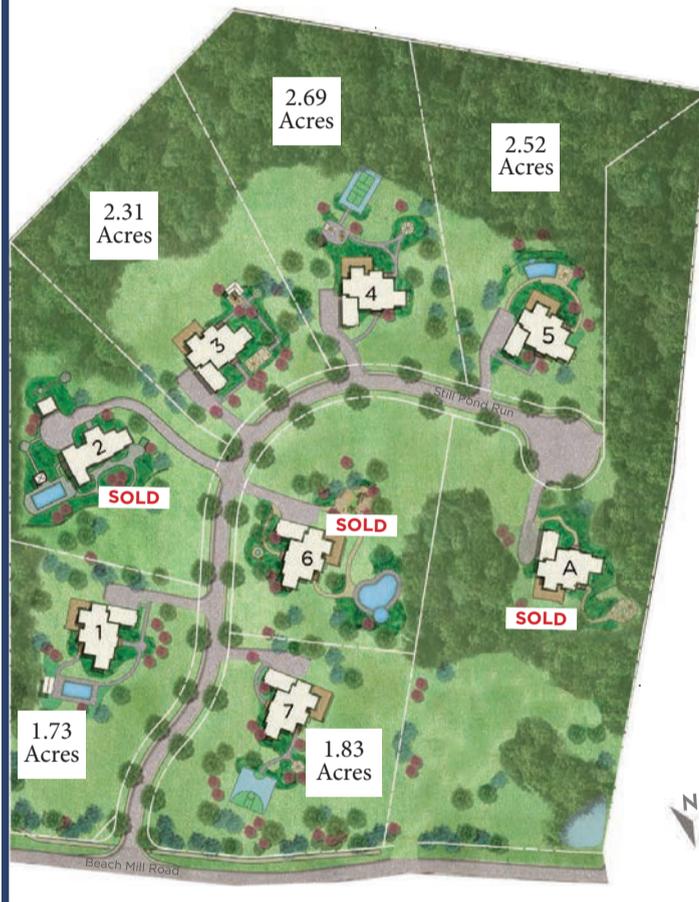
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Virginia League of Conservation Voters 2024 General Assembly Conservation Scorecard Released

Fairfax's state legislators sweep the Scorecard's honor roll.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (Virginia LCV) released its 2024 Conservation Scorecard on Thursday, June 27. The Scorecard ranks the 40 senators in the Virginia General Assembly's upper house and the 100 delegates in its lower house based on their voting records on critical environmental legislation. Virginia LCV's 2024 Scorecard indicates every Fairfax County state legislator demonstrates a strong dedication and prioritization of conservation values to protect the environment by advancing policies that are beneficial to the environment

and opposing policies that set the state back.

Of the 22 elected officials in the Virginia General Assembly who represent all, or a portion of, the citizens of Fairfax County, 19 achieved a perfect score of 100 percent, earning the honorary title of "Legislative Hero" from the Virginia LCV. The remaining three achieved a near-perfect score of 95 percent, earning them the title of "2024 Legislative Leader."

"Our Scorecard is integral to our organization's mission, and this year's edition shows just how much can change when the legislature is in the hands of lawmakers who put the environment first. We are incredibly grateful to the Senators and Delegates who worked to protect our clean air, clean water, and protected lands in 2024," said Michael Town, executive director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters.

The lawmakers representing Fairfax County who voted with Virginia LCV 100 percent of the time are Virginia Senators Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-33), Stella G. Pekarsky (D-

SEE FAIRFAX'S STATE LEGISLATORS, PAGE 16

Senators

PHOTOS VALCV.ORG 2024 CONSERVATION SCORECARD



Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-33)



Sen. Stella G. Pekarsky (D-36)



Sen. Saddam Azlan Salim (D-37)



Sen. Adam P. Ebbin (D-39)

2024 Legislative Leaders



Sen. Scott Surovell (D-34)



Sen. Dave Marsden (D-35)



Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38)

Delegates



Del. Charniele L. Herring (D-4)



Del. Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D-6)



Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra (D-7)



Del. Irene Shin (D-8)



Del. Karrie K. Delaney (D-9)



Del. Dan I. Helmer (D-10)



Del. David L. Bulova (D-11)



Holly M. Seibold (D-12)



Del. Marcus B. Simon (D-13)



Del. Vivian Watts (D-14)



Del. Laura Jane H. Cohen (D-15)



Del. Paul E. Krizek (D-16)



Del. Mark D. Sickles (D-17)



Del. Kathy KL Tran (D-18)



Del. Rozia A. "J.R." Henson, Jr. (D-19)

Highlights of Virginia LCV's Scored Legislation Patroned by Lawmakers of the Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly

LCV's positions and governor's actions.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Gov. Youngkin vetoed 201 bills in 2024, including bipartisan en-

vironmental protection legislation. Virginia LCV classified scored legislation into five categories: energy and climate, good government, land conservation, land use and transportation, and water quality.

Virginia LCV provided its position, whether supporting or opposing the bills, and compared such against Gov. Youngkin's actions, whether he signed the bills into law or vetoed them.

Michael Town, executive director of the Virginia LCV, reported in the organization's 2024 Conservation Scorecard that he saw Governor Youngkin "stack an environmental justice board with a litany of fossil fuel lobbyists and polluters after killing related legislation, forcing him to fill long-open board

vacancies and send hundreds of millions of dollars of clean energy investments to other states."

Town said that Virginia LCV will expand its advocacy work by publishing a second, stand-alone Gubernatorial Scorecard SEE LCV'S POSITIONS. PAGE 16

SAVE THE PLANET STARTING WITH YOUR YARD

Moving from Lawns to Eco-friendly Gardening



Alexandria's Duncan Library has a native plant garden.

With evolutionary advantage, native plants have adapted natural defenses to local challenges like drought and pests.

BY GLENDA BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

As the thermometer hits the 90s and the heat index creeps up over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, leaves are drooping and yards are turning brown. It may be time to rethink the American lawn.

While a manicured, green lawn may be a cherished American ideal, grass has several drawbacks, from requiring mowing, water and fertilizer to providing little biodiversity and habitat value.

Water Is Precious

June was the fourth driest on record for the Washington region, states the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reports "abnormally dry conditions ... across approximately 98 percent of the Commonwealth."

On June 24, Fairfax and 95 counties and towns were under a drought warning advisory, meaning that a "significant drought is imminent," said DEQ. It may get worse. The U.S. Geological Survey website says that "climate change exacerbates droughts by making them more frequent, longer and more severe."

Water is precious. Lawns consume around nine billion gallons of water a day, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) points out. To stay green, a 10,000-square-foot lawn requires 10,000 gallons of water every summer, reports the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Lawn and turf grass are the largest crop in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Grass is the biggest irrigated crop in the U.S., totaling

over 40 million acres, three times more than corn, reported the journal Environmental Management.

Lawns' Downside

In addition to being water guzzlers, lawns can be 85 to 90 percent impervious, meaning that the water infiltration rate into the soil is low and stormwater flows off the surface instead of saturating the soil.

"Lawns have less than 10 percent of the water-absorbing capacity of natural woodlands, which contributes to suburban flooding," states the NWF.

Polluted runoff from the land is the only growing source of pollution to the Potomac River, the Potomac Conservancy contends. Fairfax County studies show that in 2023, 83 percent of the county's streams were in fair to very poor condition, largely because of stormwater runoff.

Lawn mowers and leaf blowers create air and noise pollution. Using a gasoline-powered lawn mower to cut grass for one hour is almost equivalent to the air pollution from a 100-mile automobile trip, says Science Daily. In 2020, lawn equipment released more than 68,000 tons of nitrous oxides, equal to the pollution from 30 million cars, and 30 million tons of carbon dioxide, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found.

If Not Lawns, What?

Approaches like natural or conservation landscaping offer multiple benefits, like cost savings, less maintenance and a healthier, more biodiverse environment. Conservation landscaping encourages native plants, those that naturally occur in a region and have evolved to survive in local conditions. With

SEE MOVING FROM LAWNS, PAGE 11



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

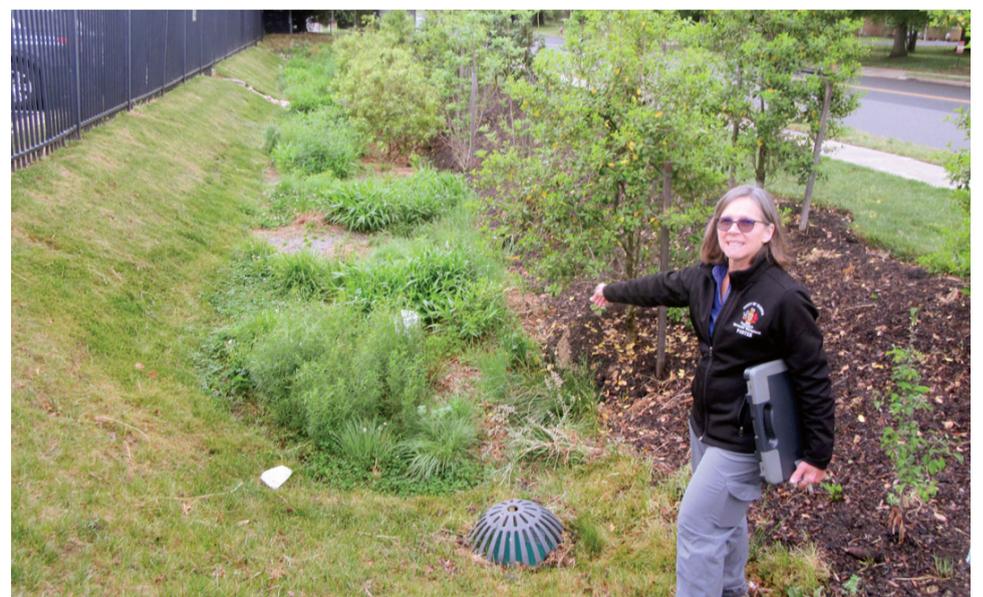
Veneeta Anand has transformed her Alexandria front and back yards into native plant gardens that attract insects like this monarch butterfly.

"Everyone who owns land has a golden opportunity to enhance, rather than degrade, local ecosystems by including ecological function as a criterion when we choose plants."

— Entomologist Douglas Tallamy



Volunteers and staff at the Hollin Hall Senior Center in Mount Vernon planted milkweed plants to support monarch butterflies. The center is an official monarch waystation.



Native plants are thriving now at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Suzanne Foster led a tour earlier this year.

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Relaxing Place for Coffee, Food and Conversation

It's The Commons Fooderie in Fairfax City's Old Town Plaza.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When husband-and-wife Usman and Hanna Saleem were looking for somewhere to open another location of The Commons Fooderie, they were delighted to find an available spot in the heart of Fairfax City.

"We're a fast-casual restaurant serving coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week," explained Usman Saleem. "And with residential homes and commercial businesses, plus George Mason and the [Fairfax County] courthouse nearby, Fairfax City has the perfect blend of customers."

Commons Fooderie is at 3955 Chain Bridge Road, across from Hamrock's Restaurant. It's also on the corner of Old Town Plaza, next to Bollywood Bistro, and is open daily from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

The Saleems are Springfield residents, and Usman is a 2008 Mason grad with a degree in business. They also have Commons Fooderies in Washington, D.C., Tysons Corner and Reston. But their restaurant in Fairfax is particularly spacious, light and airy. Indeed, said Usman, "When we first saw this space, we fell in love with the large, open windows, the street views on Chain Bridge Road and its proximity to the parking garage and to GMU."

"It's why we created the long, wrap-around tabletop under the windows to encourage people to work, study and hang out here," he continued. "We also have a comfortable nook with couches and tables where people can have a sandwich and visit with friends." Smiling, he said, "We're business on the outside, fun in the middle."

Hanna designed the interior to be a place where customers feel so welcome and at ease that they'll want to keep returning. And the restaurant itself is named in honor of a college commons. "We're all about community and a common place for gathering," said Usman. "We wanted to create an environment people would feel comfortable coming to every day."

Besides that, said Hanna, "What sets us apart from other businesses is that we come from immigrant



Usman and Hanna Saleem inside their light and spacious restaurant, The Commons Fooderie.



From left, Cousins Kathy Dutke and Liz Moran are about to have lunch at The Commons Fooderie.

families – Korea for me and Pakistan for my husband – so we can relate to everyday Americans just trying to make it. So we keep our prices reasonable."

A cup of coffee, for example, is \$3; and basic lattes range from \$3.50 to \$5. "People are excited we're here and appreciate what we have to offer," said Usman. "We've had a great reception."

The most-popular food item, said Hanna, is the spicy turkey avocado sandwich that includes provolone cheese, lettuce, red onion and spicy mayo. Following closely is The Bistro – grilled chicken, bacon, mozzarella and lettuce with honey mustard on a submarine roll.

"Everything is made to order," said Usman. "So when you order it, it's made fresh."

The gyro, club salad, cheeseburger and chicken quesadilla are hits, too. And, added Hanna, "You can't go wrong with our rice bowls." Three bowls are offered – gyro, chicken tikka and chicken teriyaki. There are also wraps, melts, vegetarian options, soups and sides such as mozzarella sticks, tater tots and onion rings. Hanna also recommends the bistro fries served with spicy mayo and parsley.

But that's not all. Breakfast offerings include a variety of omelets, including ham and cheese, spinach and mushroom, and steak – made with sliced ribeye, cheddar, mushrooms, onions and green pepper. There's also a pancake platter, breakfast burrito and breakfast sandwich. And Hanna noted that their bread and bagels are fresh every day.

As for the customers, they're giving The Commons Fooderie rave reviews. On a recent weekday, Sarah Kim, who does marketing for a tech company, was there for a busi-



Celebrating the ribbon cutting of The Commons Fooderie: In center are Hanna and Usman Saleem (with scissors) and Jon Stehle.



A few words before the ribbon cutting: From left are Usman and Hanna Saleem, Page Johnson, Jon Stehle and Tom Scibilia.

SEE RELAXING PLACE, PAGE 9



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NEWS

Melanie Zipp is Fairfax's Assistant City Manager

Melissa Shinaberry promoted to city clerk.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS COHEN

Melanie Zipp.

Women are on the move in Fairfax City's government. Not only does Fairfax have a female mayor, deputy city manager and Council members, it's also promoting some staff members to higher positions.

Fairfax City Council recently created the position of assistant city manager and appointed the City's chief of staff, Melanie Zipp, to this post. In addition, Deputy City Clerk Melissa Shinaberry was promoted to city clerk.

"Municipal government offers great careers, and I'm delighted that two such capable and committed women are being promoted to new roles," said Mayor Catherine Read. "Ms. Zipp is the steward of tremendous institutional knowledge that is invaluable to our City, and Ms. Shinaberry has honed her skills over the last five years demonstrating to our City Council members that she will make an excellent city clerk."

Zipp joined Fairfax in August 2004 as city clerk, with office administration added to her duties in January 2014. She was promoted again in September 2019 to chief of staff, while also continuing as city clerk.

In her new capacity as assistant city manager, she's providing needed coordination and oversight for several critical functions, such as Title VI administration, legislative affairs, ADA coordination, communications and marketing, and development-review ombudsman.

Zipp earned her Master of Public Administration, with a focus on local government, from George Mason University in 2016. And she obtained a Bachelor of Science, with a focus on diversity and critical thinking, from the University of Phoenix.

She completed the University of Virginia's LEAD certification program (Leading, Educating and Developing) in 2022. She also completed the Conflict Resolution for Political Leaders in 2020 and earned the Certified Municipal Clerk designation in 2007.

In making these administrative changes, the City eliminated the chief of staff job and returned the position of city clerk to a stand-alone, full-time post. Shinaberry was previously promoted to city clerk from deputy city clerk – the job she's held since July 2019.

In her role as city clerk, she serves as liaison/coordinator to the city manager, mayor, City Council, department heads, other city staff and the public. She also swears in



Melissa Shinaberry.

City officials including Council members, police officers, the fire marshal and animal-control officers.

Shinaberry's additional duties include managing records, providing administrative support to City Council, recording Council meeting minutes, maintaining the City Code, maintaining City Council policies and procedures, and supporting city boards and commissions.

Shinaberry joined the City as an administrative assistant in October 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, Cum Laude, from Strayer University, Washington, D.C., and an Associate of Applied Science in business management, administrative support and technology specialization from Northern Virginia Community College. She's also a certified notary and a certified municipal clerk.

– MATTHEW KAISER
 CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY
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FROM PAGE 6
ness meeting.

"I've been here before, and the aesthetic is modern, yet cozy," she said. "It's a nice escape from the office and, honestly, the food and drinks are phenomenal. Their menu is made by people who care, and you can tell by the love that goes into their food."

Kim likes their tuna melt the best. "It's amazing," she said. "Their bread is very fresh, and I have it without the cheese. I have a dairy allergy, so I appreciate their alternative milk. The vanilla oat-milk latte is my favorite; I try to replicate it at home, but it's never the same."

City resident Liz Moran is also a repeat customer. "I like the different seating options, and both the prices and the coffee are really good," she said. "Last time I had the tuna sub, and the bread was delicious. Today I had a chai latte, and it was excellent. I also love having another great business here in Fairfax City, and I can walk here from my home. You see people you know when you go to places in the City. There's a camaraderie and community here."

That day, she and her cousin, Kathy Dutke of Springfield, were about to have lunch there. It was Dutke's first time at The Commons Fooderie and, she said, "I love how open and airy it is. It's also convenient to get to, and I liked the free parking in the parking garage. And I'm looking forward to trying the bistro sandwich."

During the restaurant's ribbon cutting – attended by local officials and members of Fairfax City Economic Development, the Old Town Fairfax Business Association and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce – City Councilmember Jon Stehle filled

in for Mayor Catherine Read, who couldn't attend that day.

"On behalf of Mayor Read and all my colleagues on the Council, we're ecstatic to have you here," he said. "This is a cornerstone of our downtown, and it's awesome that you chose to be here. The Flats [college housing] is around the corner, and Mason students can walk to and from here."

"And by making this another place to stop in the morning for coffee and conversation, you've really helped energize our vibrant downtown area," continued Stehle. "It's exactly what we're looking for – you help bring our community together."

Then, thanking everyone for coming, Usman said how thrilled they were to be in Fairfax City. "We're locals, and this area has always been in the forefront of our minds," he said. "Besides serving really great food and drink, we're looking forward to being a staple in the community for, hopefully, a very long time to come."

Commissioner of the Revenue Page Johnson, a fellow Mason alumnus, said, "Small businesses are the backbone of our business community, so welcome. We're really pulling for your success."

"Page and I both grew up here, so we've been in Fairfax City since we were little boys," said Treasurer Tom Scibilia. "So we're happy to see the development of this area."

Furthermore, he added, "My wife and I have been looking for an after-church place to go and hang out and have coffee, so this might be a good spot for that. Our church gets out at 10:30, and the Mason kids aren't awake, yet. We're excited to have you here – welcome."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TOWN ATTAINS WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION

For the eighth year, the Town of Vienna has earned the distinction of being certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). The honor is presented to communities that take exceptional action to preserve, enhance, restore, and connect wildlife habitat while also communicating the importance of habitat stewardship to the public.

To be certified each year, communities must accumulate at least 30 points through a variety of activities. Points can be earned by having property owners in Town certify their yards with the NWF as providing food, water, shelter, and places to raise young and by conducting qualified community activities. Multiple property owners received certifications this year, and the Town of Vienna earned points by passing its Tree Preservation Ordinance, running a booth at the Vienna Green

Expo to educate residents about the program and the importance of backyard habitats to local bird and pollinator populations, removing invasive species, planting native trees on Town properties, and having a program team member on the Town's Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) among other activities.

FREE CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING FESTIVAL

Fairfax Library Foundation will reprise its highly acclaimed Children's Summer Reading Festival beginning in June with two free events scheduled at area libraries: Sunday, August 18, from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151

These activities mark the Foundation's second year hosting the free community events to encourage summer reading among preschool- and school-age children to prevent learning loss over summer break. The festival, designed in partnership with Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), will feature a wide variety of fun activities for children of all ages, including face painting, bounce houses, balloon and caricature artists, games and crafts, live entertainment, food trucks, and a photobooth. For more information about the event or the Fairfax Li-

brary Foundation, contact Xande Anderer at 571-992-4064 or xande.anderer@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org.

MCLEAN NEWCOMERS AND NEIGHBORS

The club was founded in 1969 to create new friendships, provide opportunities for socializing and acquaint residents with the community. It sponsors many group activities including: Anything with food, Armchair Traveler, Book Club, Bunco, Canasta, Crafty Ladies, Genealogy, Golf, Let Us Lunch, Mah Jongg, Mah Jongg NY Style, Movie Lovers, Museums/House and Garden Tours, Nature Walks, Restaurant Critics, Sing for Fun and Tech Forums. Application forms may be mailed to: Membership McLean Newcomers and Neighbors, P.O. Box 6166, McLean, VA 22106. Visit the website: www.mcleannewcomers.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road Fairfax County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Monday, July 22, 2024, 7 p.m.

<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/TelegraphatHayfield>

Find out about the latest planned improvements in the area of the Telegraph Road (Route 611) and Hayfield Road (Route 635) intersection. The new alternatives, which focus on pedestrian safety without roadway widening, include revising the proposed pedestrian improvements from the early 2023 online survey to reduce right of way and utility impacts; reducing crosswalk length and making Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramp upgrades. The new alternatives also include relocating the crosswalk between Hayfield Secondary School and Hayfield Elementary School, adding Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and providing pavement marking modifications along Telegraph Road between Broadmoor Street and Hayfield Road.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/TelegraphatHayfield>. The project team will make a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2907 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **August 12, 2024** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road" in the subject line.

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State Project: 0611-029-467, P101, R201, C501
UPC: 116086

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, August 12, 2024 at the same time.

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<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Travel to Heaven from Fairfax?



For those who love pastry, Just Baked's cinnamon rolls and croissants are a trip to heaven.

New bakery makes bliss with dough.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Those in-the-know, and only those in-the-know, have found transport for a brief visit to heaven. It's not through faith or meditation. This heavenly portal is tucked into the corner of the Twinbrooke Shopping Center on Braddock Road in Fairfax. The older shopping center, with several unleased units, seems too humble a place to be a way to paradise. But for those lucky enough to discover this quiet, hidden bakery, heaven is indeed only a bite away.

Behind the nondescript store front, and with little signage or advertising, most have made their way to Just Baked after reading social media posts praising the hot baked goods and the warm-natured owner/baker, Mustafa "Max" Malek. Following those posted whispers of praise, stepping inside the door of the bakery one may wonder if it's the right place, or indeed, if the shop is open for business. The shelves behind the counter and the display case are likely to be empty on any given visit. At this bakery, the goods often are truly, straight from the oven.

Max, and his baking recipes, have traveled a twisted trail more complicated than the swirl of his cinnamon buns to arrive here in Fairfax. Born in Afghanistan, his family moved to Germany when he was five years old. He remained in Germany for 30 years and took his bakery training there, earning the certification of "Master Baker"

in 1997. In 2002, he made his way to the United States after working in small mom and pop bakeries in Germany and France, learning and perfecting his recipes. He also studied business administration, anticipating, one day, having a business of his own.

In 2004, he moved from Utah to Southern California and opened a small French bakery. He baked there until the business impacts of Covid motivated him to leave California. After many past trips to Virginia to visit family over the years, he sought a location in the D.C. vicinity to begin again. He favored this area knowing many Europeans live here, who he describes as "having a 'bread culture.'"

Max describes himself as having a "passion for baking," saying he "loves to be in the food business, where you create your own ideas." He shares that his baked goods are a combination of U.S. and German recipes. For his popular cinnamon buns, his techniques recognize the "importance of creating a moist bun with a long shelf term and the right amounts of each ingredient."

Max is lauded by his customers for his warm and welcoming manner nearly as much as his tasty layered croissants. It is not unusual to see him come from the baking area to thank customers for their business and for waiting. There is often a small crowd there on weekends waiting for the next batch from the oven. Many elect to wait when the shelves are bare. Why? Imagine the most perfect flaky crust of a croissant, with near perfect creamy pastry layers still warm inside. Or imagine the equally popular cinnamon rolls amply dosed with cinnamon and butter, twirled around a buttery basted base with infused sugar.

He's added two assistant bakers to increase baked good produc-



Master Baker Max Malek with commercial equipment used in constructing his popular croissants.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Owner/baker Max Malek (right), with new baking assistant Edalatian Zakeri, prepare a tray of raisin cinnamon buns for the oven.



A recently expanded staff is ready to serve Best Bakery customers, E. Zakeri, Master Baker Max Malek, Lorna Ambulo and Erin Dutcher.

tion; his wife, Lorna Ambulo, and two new counter assistants started working in mid-June, to shorten service time for customers. They prep boxes with orders set to receive pastry as it emerges from the oven. His need for another larger oven is more difficult to satisfy, but he's looking. Just Baked is paying

its bills with one oven. Max is certain profit will come after start-up loans are paid for all the baking equipment, display cabinets, and redecorated store interior, with its new cafe furniture, and refreshed walls and flooring.

On any day, Max may be making checkered cookies, Custard Poppy-

seed Danish, Cinnamon Custard Pizza pastry, or almond croissants, along with his staples of plain and chocolate croissants, and cinnamon rolls. Go any day except Monday for your short trip to heaven. Be prepared to wait for the oven door to open. Baking can't be rushed. It's worth the wait.

SAVE THE PLANET STARTING WITH YOUR YARD

Moving from Lawns to Eco-friendly Gardening

FROM PAGE 4

this evolutionary advantage, they have adapted natural defenses to local challenges like drought and pests. Non-native plants have few natural controls.

Native wildlife need the native plants with which they co-evolved. Wildlife like insects, birds and small mammals depend on those plants for food, cover and rearing young. Many insects are specialized to feed and reproduce only on certain native plants, called host plants. Birds need those insects to feed their young.

Over 40 percent of the world's insect species face possible extinction according to a 2019 study in Biological Conservation. "Insects are the little things that run the world," said the late entomologist Dr. E. O. Wilson. Without them, the food web would collapse.

As a monoculture, "Turf offers little or no wildlife habitat compared to the diversity of plants found in an existing forest," says the Community Forestry Network.

"Lawns ... have very little benefit for wildlife," wrote Dr. Mark Hostetler, University of Florida.

Unlike grass which has shallow

roots extending only one to two inches into the soil, most native plants have deeper root systems. Native plants can help prevent erosion and by reaching deeper into the soil, can also be more drought tolerant than invasive plants.

Betsy Martin Co-Director of the Audubon at Home program, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, says, "Native plants come in all sizes and sorts, and can be suited to every garden situation and anybody's taste, whether informal or formal. Native plants are adapted to our Virginia soils and climate, and many are almost impervious to drought. That means that a homeowner can create a native garden that requires minimal watering and no fertilizer."

University of Delaware entomologist Douglas Tallamy challenges, "Everyone who owns land has a golden opportunity to enhance, rather than degrade, local ecosystems by including ecological function as a criterion when we choose plants."

How to "De-lawn"

❖ Reduce grassy areas by expanding existing beds with native

plants. Cover grass with a tarp, weed cloth or cardboard not treated with any harmful chemicals.

❖ Plant native, drought-tolerant plants. Avoid non-native plants.

❖ Install rain barrels. Reuse water.

❖ Mulch with leaves, grass clippings and pine needles to retain soil moisture. Leave the leaves in the fall.

❖ Mow high between 3.5 to 4 inches and let grass clippings return nutrients to the soil.

❖ Avoid pesticides, rodenticides and insecticides.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

The American Horticultural Society in Mount Vernon recently installed a native plant garden.

More on Eco-friendly Gardening

- ❖ Find Native Plants, www.plantnovanatives.org, <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/Plants>
- ❖ Conservation Gardening, <https://www.audubonva.org/audubon-at-home> (free advisors will visit your home)
- ❖ Replacing Your Lawn, <https://blog.nwf.org/2024/04/grow-beyond-no-mow-may-options-for-reducing-your-lawn/>
- ❖ Drought <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/water-quantity/drought>

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ENTERTAINMENT

JULY 5 - AUGUST 2024

Family Friendly Theatre at Tysons Corner Center

The Plaza, Traveling Players Ensemble - Level 1

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

Plaza Performances:

July 11:

- ❖ 4 p.m. - Improv Comedy Show
- ❖ 5 p.m. - Learned Ladies
- ❖ 7 p.m. - A Midsummer Night's Dream

July 31:

- ❖ 7 p.m. - Hamlet

In Traveling Players Studio:

- ❖ July 5 - 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice

July 26-

- ❖ 1 p.m. - Improv Comedy Show
- ❖ 2 p.m. - Orpheus & Eurydice

JUNE 8 TO AUG. 4

Workhouse Minhwa Exhibition.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Minhwa, an exploration of the essence of Korea's beauty, vibrant colors, flora and fauna, and timeless narratives. The exhibit is located in the McGuire Woods Gallery, W-16 2nd Floor. Visit the website:

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/blowing-the-winds>

PARK AUTHORITY, MASTER GARDENERS OFFER FREE VEGETABLE GARDEN CLINICS

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

Join expert gardeners at a variety of locations as they provide valuable insights, answer questions, distribute soil sample kits, and offer complimentary analyses of plant and pest issues. These clinics are scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: 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



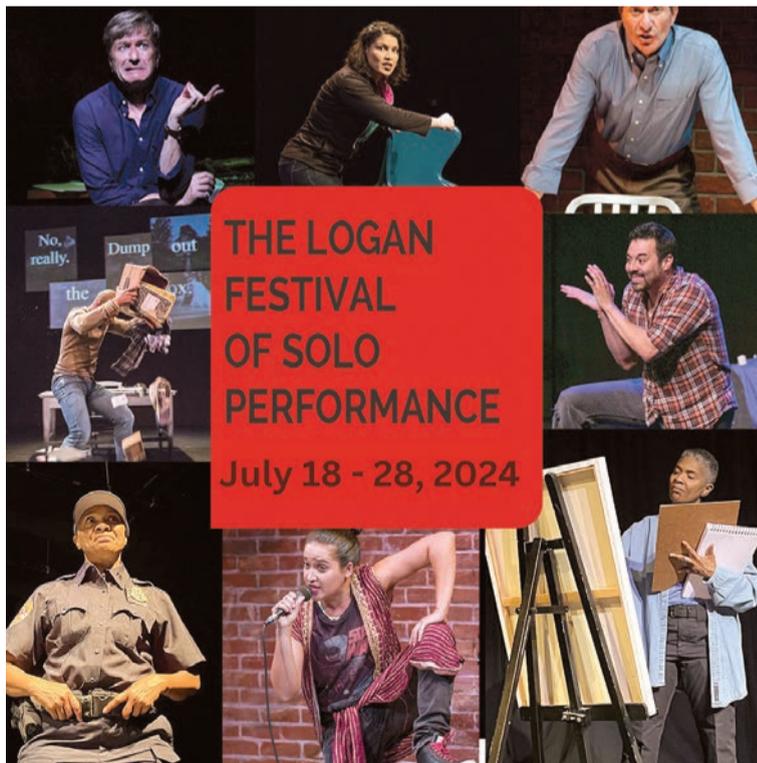
The LuminoCity Festival takes place now thru Aug. 4, 2024 at Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda.

LuminoCity Festival.

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

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



The Logan Festival of Solo Performance takes place July 18-28, 2024 at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner.

The Logan Festival of Solo Performance

At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. This innovative festival, acclaimed in The Washington Post with "three plays prove the power of one," will gather celebrated solo performers from across the country for two weeks of performances, workshops, discussions, and events. The 2024 festival will feature three dynamic productions:

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS READY FOR 2024 SEASON

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Annandale
Through Nov. 14, 8 a.m. - noon
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
Herndon
Through Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - noon
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St., Herndon (by the Red Caboose)

FRIDAYS

McLean
Through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean
Kingstowne
Through Oct. 25, 3-7 p.m.

In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria

SATURDAYS

Burke
Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke
Reston
Through Dec. 7, 8 a.m.-noon
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

SUNDAYS

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

NOW THRU AUG. 11

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

FARM HARVEST FRIDAYS

Every Friday at 2 p.m. - May 31 through October. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Enjoy live music, a guided harvest from Annie, the Giving Garden urban farmer, produce tastings, and more. Throughout the season, the farm will produce over 50 varieties of fruits,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

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Local Author Does Book Signings and Promotional Events

After 'My Time with General Colin Powell' hit the shelves last year, road trips, signing events and smiles.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

As the one-year mark approaches for Leslie Lautenslager's book "My Time with General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, and Protocol," she ventured out to the new author's world with book signing trips, publicists and notoriety she never expected. Working with her publisher, she looked to a few fellow authors who gave her valuable advice, which led to more signing events, podcasts, and speaking engagements.

"I didn't know what to expect," Lautenslager said. "It's exciting, way beyond my expectations."

Her travels thus far have taken her down to Williamsburg and Fredericksburg, a few libraries in Fairfax County, high schools and book events in Virginia. One was to her high school where she saw former classmates from years ago. In the next few months, she will be at a signing at the William and Mary University homecoming,

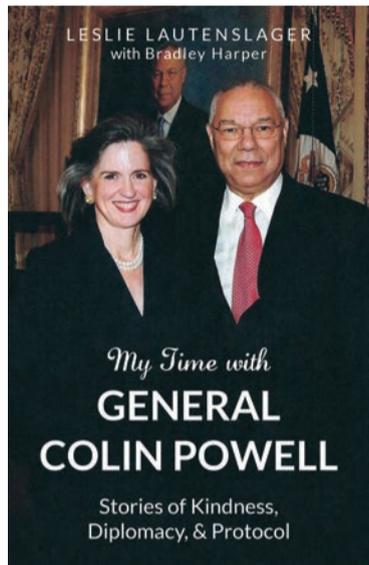
"It's exciting, way beyond my expectations."

— Author
Leslie Lautenslager

and then in Montreal, Canada. The book is nominated for the 2024 Non-fiction Virginia Literary Award, Lautenslager said.

She's been invited to speak at the Golden Gate Breakfast Club which is a club established in 1946, with a mission to "foster interest in San Francisco and to create good fellowship and understanding among its members." She'll be on their schedule alongside other authors such as Linda Sage, a criminal psychologist with a 40-year career delving into society's most heinous criminals, and Asian Art Museum aficionado Peggy Mathers, to name a few.

Lautenslager has lived in Fairfax County a majority of her life, graduated from Hayfield High School and then William and Mary College. Lautenslager was Powell's



Leslie Lautenslager's book, "My Time with General Colin Powell: Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, and Protocol," has been out for nearly one year.

executive assistant for 25 years before his death from Covid in October 2021. She has a wealth of international events that fill this book.

Book Events

Locally, Lautenslager was featured at Elaine's Restaurant on Queen Street in Old Town where she attracted over 50 people to hear her experience on Colin Powell's team. Jeffery Higgins is the restaurant owner along with his wife, and both are published authors so they know the trail ahead once a book is published. They have a few literary events a month in their restaurant to feature books and authors.

"It's a way for us to give back to the community," said Higgins. His books are in the mystery thriller category and his wife's works have a middle eastern theme. Their food is also Mediterranean cuisine based on food found in Alexandria, Egypt. Higgins remembered Lautenslager's book event. "She had a good turnout, she was heartfelt and open during our interview," Higgins said. "It was great fun," Lautenslager added.

Lautenslager encourages readers to write reviews on Amazon which feed into their algorithms and boost books up in Amazon standings. "My Time with General Colin Powell" is available at <https://www.leslielautenslager.com/>

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION



Author Leslie Lautenslager with General Colin Powell.



At the book signing in Fredericksburg this spring, author Leslie Lautenslager.



Author Leslie Lautenslager interviewing with Jeffery Higgins at a literary event in Alexandria.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer

ADVERTISING
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

PHOTOS BY FXCO



Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville) read a resolution to recognize the State champion McLean Highlanders High School Baseball Team. The team won the Virginia High School League Class 6 state championship for the first time in the program's history. The team could not attend the board meeting, but school staff and others accepted the resolution.

The West Springfield School boys' crew team won a Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association championship. The men's first varsity eight placed first for the first time in West Springfield, Spartans' crew history, and the team's season culminated in a championship.



Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield District) said the West Springfield High School boys outdoor track and field program took home the Virginia High School League Class 6 state championship.



Supervisor Pat Herrity said the West Springfield School girl crew team took the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association championship. It swept all three varsity four categories with first-place finishes in the first varsity four, the second varsity four, and the junior varsity four. The team placed second at the Statesbury Cup Regatta and finished the season fifth in the nation at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America's National Championships Regatta.

Car Seat Inspections on July 18

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, July 18, 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 Aug. 1, at the same place and time.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BSA Troop 652 Scouts still smile after a week of phone-free camping.

Without Phones, Social Interaction Increases

Thirty Scouts from BSA Troop 652, sponsored by St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean, spent a week in the woods at the Rodney Scout Reservation in the Town of North East, Maryland, and did so without the distraction of their smartphones. Gregg Ladislav, Kevin Coyne, and Matthew Loughran, the trip's adult assistant Scoutmasters, discussed the phone-free camping experience and social interaction among the Scouts with Scoutmaster Beau Schweikert.

According to Schweikert, the assistant Scoutmasters said that Scouts without phones interacted more creatively and spent more time playing field sports. The week-long overnight camping experience underscored the importance of wanting "these young men, young boys, to grow life skills and independence." Kudos to the thirty Scouts of BSA Troop 652.

— MERCIA HOBSON



Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville) recognized the Langley Boys High School Tennis Team took home the Virginia High School League Class 6 State championship. The Langley Saxons Girls Tennis Team took home the Virginia High School League Class 6 State Championship to end their undefeated season.

Board of Supervisors Recognize 2024 Spring Sports Achievements

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized the Fairfax County Public School 2024 spring sports team and individuals as requested by resolutions by Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisors Bierman, Herrity, and Walkinshaw.

— MERCIA HOBSON

'Be a Beaver Hero' Leave beavers and dam home alone.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On June 25, Fairfax County Board Supervisor Walter Alcorn introduced a board matter, saying, "We've had beaver problems in the Hunter Mill District." Relocating beavers is against the law in Virginia; beavers are considered native wildlife.

According to Alcorn, to ensure that Fairfax County residents get the required assistance and support so that beavers can thrive and coexist with humans requested that the Office of Public Affairs team up with the county's Wildlife Management team to create updated educational outreach materials that list the laws that



Fairfax County Board Supervisor Walter Alcorn, Dranesville District



FILE PHOTO THE CONNECTION

Beavers, like this one, can be found throughout Fairfax County, including in urban areas blocks from Reston Town Center, where they are causing problems.

apply to moving or removing beavers, offer advice for human/beaver coexistence, and outline the county's responsibilities and role in providing guidance regarding beavers and their activities on private property.

Alcorn described beavers as "nature's engineers." In his board material, he explained the ecological benefits of beavers and their dams, including creating new habitats that at-

SEE LEAVE BEAVERS, PAGE 15
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Sheriff's Office, ICE Square Off

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A June 27 press release by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, reported that a "Honduran national who raped a 13-year-old victim was sentenced to five years in prison for receiving child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and assaulting a federal officer." The release adds that according to court documents, Jhoan Esau Lemus Ramos, 23, illegally entered the United States in 2021, and in February 2022, Ramos contacted a 13-year-old girl through Snapchat. In March of 2022, he and the victim met in a parking lot in Herndon.

According to the release, "When the victim attempted to resist Lemus Ramos' sexual advances, he forcibly raped her." For the next several months, Ramos asked the girl repeatedly for nude or semi-nude photographs, and she finally gave in and sent them to him via her cell phone. When the girl told Ramos she didn't want to interact with him anymore, he used photographs to threaten her and force her to have sex with him. "The threats only stopped when the victim contacted Herndon Police for help. A forensic examination revealed messages between him and the victim as well as CSAM," states the release.

On July 18, 2023, Ramos was charged with Carnal Knowledge, Possession of Child



SCREENSHOT
The Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse in Alexandria serves the Eastern District of Virginia.

Pornography, and Manufacturing Child Pornography and brought to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, according to a Jan. 23, 2024, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office statement concerning the detainee.

The statement says a full check was done to see if there were any outstanding detainees or warrants for Ramos, but there were none. Served with the criminal charges, the

SEE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, PAGE 19



SCREENSHOT FACEBOOK HERNDON POLICE

Town of Herndon Police cruiser.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Adult Detention Center is operated by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, led by Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid.

Britepaths Receives Food Lion Charity Donation

Fairfax nonprofit Britepaths has received a \$2,300 donation from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger. This Feeding the Hungry grant supports community feeding partners by helping people in need increase their access to nutritious food and providing nutrition education to eliminate health risks for those experiencing food insecurity.

"In wealthy Fairfax County, one in four residents are food insecure and 41 percent of households with children experience food insecurity," said Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Many families are still struggling to put food on the table. We are grateful for the grant from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to be able to alleviate stress from our clients so they can focus on other necessities. ...

"This gift will help stabilize local families and individuals in the Fairfax County area through short-term food assistance to help them maintain financial stability while they work through a crisis," she continued. "With this award, we can empower our clients to work toward long-term self-sufficiency.



The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Founda-

tion is the philanthropic arm of Food Lion and is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity across 10 states. Established in 2001, it provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than \$18.9 million in grants. For more information, go to www.foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds.

Leave Beavers and Dam Home Alone

FROM PAGE 14

tract insects and other creatures, thereby increasing biodiversity. Beaver wetlands help absorb carbon dioxide and restore groundwater. Additionally, beaver dams can retain silt and prevent pollutants like phosphorus and nitrogen from contaminating our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Alcorn said there are ways for residents to live in harmony with beavers. Beavers can be problematic when they live in streams

or ponds in populated areas. When they harvest trees for food, lodges, and dams, beavers may demolish costly, well-established, attractive landscaping. Additionally, their dams have the potential to obstruct culverts and stormwater drains, flooding streets, homes, and businesses. Removing trees from stream banks and increasing the water temperature along shorelines can disrupt the aquatic ecosystem and result in soil

erosion.

By planting less desirable trees for beavers, covering them with metal wire, and installing flow, water leveling, and exclusion measures, residents can try to impede the beavers' innate tendency to fell trees. Furthermore, organizations offer cost-sharing plans to assist property owners in covering the costs of these mitigating actions.

Beavers may have adorable faces and use

their forepaws as hands to happily munch plants, but when they feel threatened, residents realize they are not the most amiable rodents. To alert their family members of danger, beavers slap their tails in the water, producing a loud sound that all other beavers in the area can hear. Beavers use their razor-sharp teeth to bite and their claws to swipe at those threatening their lives, territory, and young.

LCV's Positions and Governor's Actions

FROM PAGE 3

scheduled for release this fall. "This scorecard will shine a comprehensive spotlight on Youngkin's environmental record," he said.

Virginia LCV Position Support; Gov. Youngkin signed into law.

Energy & Climate: SB 253 (Surovell)/HB106 (Sullivan), Expanding Shared Solar Programs.

The legislation improves and expands shared solar access in Dominion Energy's territory. The system targets residential consumers, including renters and those with extensive tree cover who lack access to rooftop panels. Mid-scale solar installations power the system, larger than single-family units but smaller than utility-scale initiatives. SB 253/HB106 raises the Dominion Energy program's capacity to 150 megawatts, allowing certain projects on rooftops, brownfields, landfills, or dual-use agricultural facilities to be eligible for incentives determined by the Virginia Department of Energy. The bill mandates that the State Corporation Commission recalculate the minimal bill assessed to program subscribers to cover the costs of distribution and transmission services. [There is a companion bill, SB 255 (Surovell) and HB108 (Sullivan), New Shared Solar Program in Appalachian Power's (APCo) Territory.] With much effort to balance the interests of legislators, advocates, and key stakeholders, the bills passed by narrow bipartisan margins, and Governor Youngkin signed them into law.

Water Quality: HB985 (Tran), High polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon; prohibits pavement sealants that contain, civil penalty.



Energy and Climate: Establishing a Clean Energy Innovation Bank Senate Bill 729 – Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax)

Virginia LCV Position: Support; Youngkin vetoed this legislation which would have provided over 10X matches to state investment for a broad range of projects from solar on schools and electric school buses to upgraded transmission lines and climate resilience.

The law prohibits the sale of pavement sealants that contain a high concentration of toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). HB985 protects water quality from chemicals such as cyanide and coal tar in pavement sealants applied to driveways, parking lots, and playgrounds. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimated that the cancer risk for individuals adjacent to coal-tar-sealed pavement was 38 times greater than those adjacent to unsealed pavement, according to the 2024 Conservation Scorecard. The 2024 Conservation Scorecard states, "Following an extensive multi-year effort by Delegate Tran and water quality advocates, HB 85 passed the House of Delegates on a bipartisan 78-21 vote." Governor Youngkin signed the legislation into law after it narrowly cleared the Senate 23-15, with Republican Sena-

tors Stuart and Suetterlein joining Senate Democrats in support.

Virginia LCV Position Oppose; Gov. Youngkin signed into law.

Energy & Climate: SB 454 (Marsden), Electric utilities; recovery of development costs associated with small modular reactor.

Virginia LCV opined that with Virginia on a trajectory to generate all of its electricity from carbon-free sources, nuclear energy will play a role in our energy mix going forward. "Two existing nuclear plants in Virginia operated by Dominion Energy currently generate roughly 30% of our energy mix," said Virginia LCV. This legislation opens the door to adding small modular reactors (SMRs) to our energy mix. However, with no such facilities operating in the U.S. and a recently proposed project canceled due to "ballooning costs," Virginia LCV viewed the legislation



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Good Governance: Ensuring Accurate Voter Registration and Records House Bill 1177 – Del. Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax Senate Bill 606 – Sen. Schuyler VanValkenburg (D-Henrico) Virginia LCV Position: Support.

as opening the door to "an incredibly risky and speculative form of energy generation when we have the existing technology already to deploy clean and affordable renewable energy."

The legislation initially passed the Senate on a vote of 20-16, and an amended version cleared the House on a vote of 52-44-1. In its final form, as amended by Gov. Youngkin, the legislation did pass with some added consumer safeguards.

Virginia LCV Support; Gov.

Youngkin vetoed.

Land Conservation: HB47 (Siebold), Invasive plant species: requirements for retail sales, is identical to SB 306 (Salim).

HB47 passed the House 62-37 and cleared the Senate 25-14. SB 306 advanced through the General Assembly by similar margins, but Governor Youngkin vetoed both bills. Under the legislation, signage identifying invasive species for sale at nurseries and retail establishments would have been mandatory.

Fairfax's State Legislators Sweep the Scorecard's Honor Roll

FROM PAGE 3

36), Saddam Azlan Salim (D-37), and Adam P. Ebbin (D-39) and Virginia House Delegates are Charniele L. Herring (D-4), Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr. (D-6), Karen Keys-Gamarra (D-7), Irene Shin (D-8), Karrie K. Delaney (D-9), Dan I. Helmer (D-10), David L. Bulova (D-11), Holly M. Seibold (D-12), Marcus B. Simon (D-13), Vivian Watts (D-14), Laura Jane H. Cohen (D-15), Paul E. Krizek (D-16), Mark D. Sickles (D-17), Kathy KL Tran (D-18), and Rozia A. "J.R." Henson, Jr. (D-19).

"As a legislator, I'm responsible for safeguarding our environment for present and future genera-

tions—a task I take very seriously," said Siebold, @HollySeibold-VA, who received a perfect score of 100 on the 2024 Conservation Scorecard.

Scott Surovell (D-34), Dave Marsden (D-35), and Jennifer Boysko (D-38) are the three Virginia Senators to whom Virginia LCV awarded their second-highest honorary title, "2024 Legislative Leader."

"Thank you, @VirginiaLCV, for recognizing my work fighting for a more sustainable future. I will always fight for renewable energy and for a clean, healthy environment for our kids — one creek cleanup at a time," said Surovell @ssurovell.

In a special recognition, Virginia LCV honored Del. Kathy Tran (D-Fairfax) and four other lawmakers who demonstrated exceptional leadership at the General Assembly this session by going above and beyond when it comes to getting the job done for the environment with the 2024 Legislative Exceptional Leadership Award. Tran carried a bill protecting Virginians from toxic coal tar-based pavement sealants, a major source of PAHs, forever chemicals linked to several cancers, including malignancies of the digestive tract, reproductive systems, respiratory tract, urinary system, and more.

Town says in the forward of the

2024 Conservation Scorecard that they "generated thousands of messages to lawmakers and hundreds of phone calls, met face-to-face with legislators hundreds of times, and reached more than 400,000 Virginians through paid advertising and digital mobilization."

"The end goal was progress — hard-won, sometimes minimal, sometimes frustrating progress ... Virginia LCV took positions on more than 100 bills this year. Of these, Virginia LCV Scored 23 votes in the Senate and 21 votes in the House. Overall, 14 scored bills were signed into law by Governor Youngkin that we supported along with one bill that we opposed;

two scored bills died at the legislature that we opposed along with one that was carried over; and 12 scored bills were vetoed outright," according to VA LCV. The state enacted its new laws on July 1.

The Virginia LCV Scorecard looked at how the Virginia General Assembly voted on 21 important state bills, divided into five categories: (1) Energy and Climate (HBs 106, 746, 862 + SBs 25, 508, and 729); (2) Good Government (HBs 333, 1088, 1458, and SB 606); (3) Land Conservation (HBs 47 and 1100); (4) Land Use and Transportation (HBs 285, 338, 405 and SB 595); and (5) Water Quality (HBs 885, 673, 949, 985, and SJ 25).

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

vegetables and herbs, including strawberries, zucchini, beets, spinach, carrots, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and more.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: DOUBLE FEATURES

July 20. At Tysons Corner Center, The Plaza, McLean. First set: 4:00-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Summer Concert Series will offer two live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-630 p.m. and the second from 7-9 p.m. The series will feature local bands such as Party Fowl, Ca-zhmiere, Billy Twilde, and more. Come out and enjoy takeout and cocktails from our restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

FCPA'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series presents more than 190 exciting performances at 17 locations all summer long. Choose from an array of free, live performances featuring classical to bluegrass music and everything in between. Enjoy performances from outstanding local and national touring groups including:

(July 11) Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille – Frying Pan Farm Park: Embark on a musical journey through multiple genres held together by fantastic harmonies, top-notch musicianship and a killer band.

(July 18) The United States 257th Army Band – Fairfax County Government Center: Join us as “The Band of the Nation’s Capital” performs a variety of music including classical, rock, jazz and more.

(July 19) Yellow Dubmarine – Royal Lake Park: Enjoy and sing along to all of your favorite Beatles hits.

(July 20) Saved by the ‘90s – Mosaic District: Strawberry Lane: Throw it back to the ‘90s with this huge, interactive cover band.

(July 25) Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen – Frying Pan Farm Park: Experience this Grammy-nominated band perform a torrent of mind-blowing bluegrass.

(Aug. 16) The United States Air Force Strings – Mason District Park Amphitheater: Join the official string ensemble of the U.S. Air Force for an evening of music ranging from classical symphonic selections to classic rock, bluegrass and patriotic compositions.

(Aug. 18) Cheryl Wheeler with Kenny White – Mason District Amphitheater: Sing along to folk music with famed singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler and pianist and singer Kenny White.

(Aug. 23) Deanna Bogart – Grist Mill Park: Hear Deanna Bogart’s



The United States 257th Army Band will perform on July 18 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

dazzling keyboards, soulful saxophone, smoky vocals and cut-above songwriting.

(Aug. 24) Bruce in the USA – Arrowbrook Centre Park: Jam on to your favorite tunes by Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band.

(Aug. 31) Cloud Cult – Arrowbrook Centre Park: End your summer on a high note with Cloud Cult, a band known for their unique alternative-orchestral-folk-rock sound and hailed as one of the “Top 10 Green Bands” by Rolling Stone.

Performances are held outdoors and may be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation has announced its annual Summer Concert Series schedule at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. The series will feature military bands performing music from traditional patriotic tunes to contemporary works and pop hits. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets. The Museum, Rifle Range and Museum Store will remain open for extended hours until the concerts begin. Tun Tavern hours will be extended until 6 p.m. Outdoor concessions will be available during the performance. Admission and parking are free and open to the public for all concerts. Visit marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789.

SCHEDULE:

❖ Thursday, July 11: “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, whose mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, will celebrate their 226th birthday at the muse-

um with a special concert.

❖ Thursday, July 25: The U.S. Navy Band Cruisers will play pieces from across musical genres, from jazz to rhythm & blues, classic rock to pop, and their own original material.

❖ Thursday, August 22: “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band will present a varied repertoire ranging from traditional concert band selections to the patriotic marches that made it famous.

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

FREE CONCERTS AT BURKE LAKE PARK

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. every Wednesday night from June 26th through August 21st at Burke Lake Park for an incredible line-up of bands, food trucks, 2 Silos beer, and Peterson’s Ice Cream. The atmosphere is informal, so bring a picnic blanket, lawn chairs, and relax with friends and family.

SCHEDULE:

July 10 - Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille

Food truck: DC Slides

July 17 - The Magic Trio

Food truck: Babu-Ji

July 24 - The Skip Castro Band

Food trucks: DC Slides & Empanadas de Mendoza

July 31 - The English Channel

Food trucks: DC Slides & Babu-Ji

August 7 - The Road Ducks

Food trucks: Babu-Ji & Empanadas de Mendoza

August 14 - SoHo Down

Food truck: Roaming Coyote

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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Obituary

Obituary

Theodore B. Salazar



Theodore (Ted) B. Salazar passed away May 20, 2024, in Reston, Virginia. He was born in Consumers, Utah April 18, 1930, to Maria Aurelia Martinez and Eudoro Salazar, the fourth of six children. Ted spent his early childhood in the canyons and coal mining camps of central Utah before the family moved to Price, Utah. In Price, he attended Notre Dame School and Carbon County High School; class of 1948, where he was a member of the basketball, football, and track teams and discovered his talent for art in creating stage sets for the school’s

theater. While still in school, he began working as an engine dispatcher for the Denver Rio Grande Western Railroad in Helper, Utah.

In 1951 Ted Salazar was drafted into the US Army and was stationed in Japan as part of the transportation unit. He attained the rank of corporal and received an honorable discharge in 1953.

After his service, he came to Washington, D.C. to attend the Catholic University of America, earning his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees, 1963. He made the Washington area his home for 70 years, raising a family, teaching art, and being of service to many communities of the capital region.

Ted Salazar met his wife, Lois Ann Mortashed, in an art class at Catholic University and they were married in 1961 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Their marriage of 63 years was a true partnership based on a foundation of love and respect for each other, devotion to family, and their shared passion for art and teaching. Ted was devoted to his two children, Teddy and Maria. He was always available for soccer games or band concerts and expanded his support by volunteering as a cub scout den parent, a soccer coach, president of the Parent Teacher Association for Lake Anne Elementary School, and president of the Herndon High School Band Boosters. Ted and Lois were also arts and crafts counselors at Camp Winnebago in Fayette, Maine during the mid-70s, giving the family wonderful summers in Vacationland and introducing campers to a wide range of craft skills and art.

From 1960 to 1967 Ted Salazar was chairman and teacher, Art Department at Washington DC public schools, and taught at Woodson Jr High and Ballou Sr High Schools. From 1967 to 1993 he was an assistant professor of art at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. and taught a broad range of art disciplines. He also served as Chairman of the Art Department from 1983 to 1989.

In retirement he continued his love of teaching and community service by teaching English at the Neighborhood Resource Center in Herndon, Virginia, using his fluency in Spanish to help many new arrivals learn English. He later transitioned to teaching US Citizenship classes and took great pride in helping over 40 people obtain their US citizenship.

Ted Salazar was an accomplished artist creating numerous drawings and paintings in multiple mediums including portraits, figures, landscapes and abstracts; sculptures made from welded steel, carved wood, and ceramics; ceramic pottery; and jewelry using precious metals. When the Salazar family moved to Reston in 1970, Ted and Lois quickly became active in the nascent art community – they were founding members of the Reston Craft Guild and early participants with the Greater Reston Art Center (GRACE) and participated in the early Reston festivals where they sold their artwork and Ted held pottery demonstrations. He was commissioned to design and create public art works including stoneware baptismal font and holy water fonts for St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church in Reston, stoneware communion ware and baptismal font for The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Reston, and a commemorative sculpture made of welded steel and ceramic plaques for the Reston-Herndon Fairfax County Regional Library. He also exhibited his art at individual and group shows at Gallaudet, Northern Virginia Community College, GRACE, and Virginia Craft Council shows.

Ted Salazar is survived by his wife Lois (Reston, VA), children Teddy (Sarah Meyer) (Durham, NC) and Maria (Catharpin, VA), sister Virginia (Salt Lake City, UT), grandchildren Theo and Izzy, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations in Ted’s may be made to the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center at <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/ways-to-give/>

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Obituary **Obituary** **Employment**

Miriam Edith Willcox (née Johnson) of Reston, Virginia, age 101 peacefully passed away on Saturday June 1, 2024 at Tysons Woods Assisted Living Facility in Vienna, Virginia. She was the wife of the late Donald Denison Willcox for 35 years.

Miriam was born on May 21, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois to Gustav and Edith Johnson. She met her husband, Donald in Chicago and they were married in 1950. They moved to Webster Groves, Missouri in 1954 where they raised their three children, Andrew, Jared and Katherine. Miriam is lovingly remembered as a mom who always encouraged and supported her children's interests and passed on her love of the wonder and beauty of nature. In 1976, she and Donald moved to Ridgefield, Connecticut where he retired and together spent time enjoying their home, gardening, entertaining and exploring Connecticut until his passing in 1985. Soon thereafter, she moved to Warrenton, Virginia in 1989 to be near family. In Warrenton, Miriam pursued her passion for gardening and became a Master Gardener as well as served as president of the Francis Fauquier Garden Club. She volunteered at the Warrenton Welcome Center and in various community activities. She enjoyed being near her family and especially having the opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren. In 2009, Miriam moved to Reston, Virginia and continued to be involved in gardening, playing bridge and organizing charitable activities. In 2018, she moved to Waltonwood Assisted living in Ashburn and lived there until 2024 where she spent her final months at Tysons Woods.

Throughout her long life right up until her final year, Miriam was someone who was a "giver" and a "doer". Wherever she lived, she was a catalyst in forming a community within her neighborhood. She brought people together and her generosity and love emanated through all that she did. She was always ready with a plant cutting to share or a plate of home-made cookies. She embraced life and gave of her time and talents to all she knew.

Miriam is survived by her children Andrew Willcox, Jared Willcox and wife Deborah Comstock Willcox, Katherine Willcox-Bein and husband Jonathan Bein, step-son Donald Denison Willcox III and wife Laura Calk, and her grandchildren J D Willcox and Rebecca Willcox and partner Doug Burr. She was predeceased by her grandson Jonathan Alexander Bein in 2004.

Miriam will be buried alongside her husband Donald and grandson Jonathan Alexander Bein at Fountain Hill Cemetery in Deep River, Connecticut. Memorial contributions in Miriam's name may be made to Madden Open Hearts Camp 250 Monument Valley Rd Great Barrington, Ma 01230 contact info: www.openheartscamp.org and Tysons Woods Assisted Living; 2346 Greenbrier Way, Vienna, VA 22182. If by check, please make payable to Romanplatz LLC or if via Zelle please use office@tysonswoods.com Online condolences and fond memories may be sent to the family at moneyandking.com

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

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Sheriff's Office, ICE Square Off

FROM PAGE 15

magistrate gave Ramos a \$1,000 bond on each of his three charges. At 11:45 p.m., Ramos paid the bond and received his release.

On Jan. 4, 2024, according to the June 27 press release by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Deportation Officers from Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Washington, D.C., arrived at Ramos' Springfield residence with a warrant for his arrest. Ramos struck an officer in the face, "causing an injury that required stitches and left a lasting scar."

In the January 23, 2024, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office statement on the July 2023 case concerning Ramos, the Sheriff's Office statement cited not only their facts and timelines about charges brought against Ramos but a fierce rebuttal to a Jan. 8, 2024 release from U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that alleged the "Fairfax County Adult Detention Center did not honor the immigration detainer and released the ... noncitizen from custody without notifying ERO Washington, D.C."

According to its release, ICE claimed that "the Pacific Enforcement Response Center lodged an immigration detainer against him with the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center in Fairfax, Virginia. ... The Fairfax County Adult Detention Center did not honor the immigration detainer and

released the ... noncitizen from custody without notifying ERO Washington, D.C."

The Fairfax County Sheriff's office countered in their Jan. 23 statement, saying, "That [ICE] press release and the subsequent media reports [claiming the Sheriff's office did not honor the detainer] are blatantly false."

The Sheriff's office added, "Contrary to information in the [ICE] press release, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office did not charge this individual with any criminal offenses." Another local law enforcement agency [later disclosed as Herndon Police Department] brought this individual's criminal charges. In its release, the Sheriff's Office says Ramos was brought to the Detention Center at 8:45 p.m. At that time, "a full check was conducted to determine the existence of any outstanding detainers or warrants. None existed."

Three hours later, Ramos was released at 11:45 p.m. after paying bond. "In the three hours this individual was in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, at no time was an ICE detainer or outstanding warrant provided to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center."

To correct this misinformation, the Sheriff's Office released that it placed numerous phone calls to ICE media relations. "E-mails, calls, and text messages to numerous officials within ICE were sent and remain un-

answered."

The Town of Herndon Police Department posted on Facebook Sunday, June 30, 2024 its thanks to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia for "prosecuting a child rapist case, which our agency investigated."

"They recognized the severity of the crimes involved and the risk this individual posed to our community ... We applaud them for working with us to ensure this dangerous individual was prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," posted the Town of Herndon Police Department.

Ramos was sentenced to prison for receiving child abuse material and assaulting a federal officer, charges brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, it is a nationwide initiative launched by the department in May 2006 "to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse." Led by U.S. Attorney's Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, visit www.justice.gov/psc and its fact sheet at <https://www.justice.gov/d9/pages/attachments/2016/04/19/psc-fact-sheet.pdf>.

Karma is a B**ch



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few weeks back, in the second half of a column titled "Diversion Before Immersion," I went off topic and finished that initially cancer-centric column on a lighter note: back-in parking verses front-end parking. Let me state for the record, I will never back into a parking space unless there's a compelling reason to do so, the likes of which have not occurred since April-ish 1970 which was six months or so after my 16th birthday which then in Massachusetts made me eligible to apply for a driver's license.

This test required a written, multiple-choice exam followed by a driving test. The driving test involved using my car but with an MVA examiner sitting in the passenger seat directing me here or there. I believe my aversion and contempt for backward driving began on my driving test. I remember the fear circulation among us 11th graders concerned about the possibility of us novices having to parallel park without hitting the curb and/or much worse, having to perform a backwards 180 degree /three-point turn likewise without hitting a curb. The fear of successfully completing this element of my driving test has stuck with me all these many years.

Incredibly, amazingly, fortuitously - if that's even the correct word, it seemed the driving instructor who sat next me during my driving test had very little interest in requiring this brand-new-driver-to-be do anything behind the wheel of my car other than drive around a crowded parking lot and return it, headfirst, to its previous parking space. No backing up, no parallel parking, no three-point turn, nothing. The driving test was as easy as any 16 1/2 years old rookie driver could hope/imagine. Before I could even wipe the sweat from my brow, I was standing in line inside the MVA waiting for my new driver's license to be printed (no picture back then).

The reason I led you regular readers on this jaunt down my memory lane is as context for what just happened to me (while behind the wheel), in my local Giant Food parking lot. Naturally I head-first parked opposite another car - so I couldn't pull through, nevertheless I parked and went about my business. When I returned, I immediately noticed that there was no longer any car in front of me blocking my forward exit. I eagerly opened my car door and quickly sat down in the driver's seat. I then buckled my seat belt and looked up as I pressed the start-engine button. At that very moment of anticipation of being able to drive forward and not have to back up to leave, another car began backing into the space opposite me preventing me from driving forward to exit, number one; and number two, doing so by backing in, the nerve. All I could do was sit and watch. Though I wasn't hurt in the incident, it definitely felt like insult was being added to injury. All I could do was shake my head and say for the millionth time how much I don't get the whole backing-in thing. What's the benefit, exactly? The extra time it takes to back in is equivalent to the time it takes us head-in parkers to back out (no empirical study, just anecdotally) so where's the advantage I've been told exists by backers in? I was never more convinced of this folly then I was as I sat in my car and waited/watched for this driver to carefully back in while not touching the three cars that surrounded his space. Maybe if my driver's license test had been a bit more vigorous, I wouldn't have such disdain for back-in parkers? No. I still would.

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

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

August 21 - Riptide
Food truck: Roaming Coyote

KIDZ KORNER EVENTS IN FAIRFAX CITY

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

SCHEDULE:

July 15 - Miss Mollie Bubble Party
July 22 - Miss Mollies' Musical Fun
July 29 - My Gym "Olympics" theme
August 12 - Music Together Sing and Groove
August 19 - Drew Blue Shoes Magic!
August 26 - Storytime with Fairfax Library: "Ice Cream" theme

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

SCHEDULE:

July 13 - Peter McCarty "The One Man Band"
July 30 - Mad Science of DC: "Up Up and Away"
August 3 - My Gym "Olympics" Theme
August 10 - Superhero Training with "The Hulk"

August 17 - Children's Music with Marsha (of Marsha and the Positrons)

TYSONS CORNER CENTER EVENTS

❖ Farm Harvest Fridays

Every Friday at 2 p.m. - May 31 through October

Enjoy live music, a guided harvest from Annie, the Giving Garden urban farmer, produce tastings, and more. Throughout the season, the farm will produce over 50 varieties of fruits, vegetables and herbs, including strawberries, zucchini, beets, spinach, carrots, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, and more.

Summer Concert Series: Double Features
July 20 at The Plaza

First set: 4-6:30 p.m. 2nd set: 7-9 p.m.

Summer Concert Series will offer two live performance sets on each date, with the first band at 4-6:30PM and the second from 7-9 p.m. The series will feature local bands such as Party Fowl, Cazhmiere, Billy Twilde, and more. Come out and enjoy takeout and cocktails from the restaurants while jamming to your favorite groove!

SUMMER SUNDAY CONCERTS IN THE PARK BY THE ALDEN

Due to the renovation of McLean Central Park, The Alden at the McLean Community Center's Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park will be held at Lewinsville Park this year. The free concerts will be present-

ed on the porch of the historic house in the park at 4 p.m. on Sundays, June 16 through July 28. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 14, 4 p.m. Lil' Maceo
Sunday, July 21, 4 p.m. The Billy Coulter Trio
Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. Justin Trawick

WEDNESDAY/JULY 10

Pathway Homes' Artist Reception. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax. Pathway Homes, Inc. is hosting an Artist Reception as part of its 11th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. More than 83 pieces from 18 artists will be on display at this free reception that gives an opportunity to meet these talented people and celebrate their artistry. Pathway Homes is a non-profit providing mental health services—starting with safe, stable housing—to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity. Art and creativity are an integral part of recovery for Pathway Homes' residents. Artists receive 100 percent of the proceeds. The exhibit takes place and is open to the public July 2 - July 31, 2024, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Weekdays).



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6192 Hardy Drive, McLean
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SOLD!



Offered for...\$2,439,000

6025 Woodland Terrace, McLean
 GORGEOUS 2016 Arts & Crafts home with 3BR/4.5BA on 3 spacious levels located on over a half acre in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! Designed by renowned architect Dwight McNeil and built by Joy Custom Design + Build. This finely detailed home features over 5300 sq ft of living space. The back of the house transitions beautifully to the sun-filled gourmet kitchen, breakfast area, and stunning family room. Spacious main level BR with en suite. Upper level features 2 spacious bedrooms with en suites. The lower level offers a spacious family room, rec room, wine cellar and full bath. **Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean Schools!**



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SOLD!



Offered for...\$1,080,000

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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

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