

THE CONNECTION

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

It's October!

PAGE 6

Breaking Ground On Inova's New Hospital

PAGE 3

When Closing an Encampment

PAGE 12

Milestones at Orange Hunt & Other Schools

PAGE 13

Honoring 25 Years Of Service For Equity

PAGE 10

FAIRFAX COUNTY
OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18



The Fairfax County Supervisors present the county's former chief equity officer, Karla Bruce, with a resolution to honor and recognize her 25 years of service.



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JD and ED Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

Per MLS

Under Contract!



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

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

Under Contract!

Under contract in 2 days!



Offered for...\$879,000

2910 Cleave Drive, Falls Church
STUNNING 3BR/2BA brick ranch is sought-after Hillwood neighborhood in Falls Church. This fabulous, move-in ready gem has been fully renovated with complete custom updates throughout the home! The custom kitchen features custom cabinets, quartz countertops, ss appliances and stylish subway tile backsplash. Light, bright, and airy throughout, this contemporary home features a spacious living room w/ fireplace and built-ins and large primary en suite with updated bath. Two add'l BR's and updated hall bath. The dining area leads to a walk-out with a lovely deck and level backyard for entertaining. **Just moments to FCC!**

FOR SALE!



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

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

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2024

SOLD!



2049 Rockingham Street
McLean, 22101
\$4,350,000

For Sale!



1940 Foxhall Road
McLean, 22101
\$1,474,900

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

SOLD!



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

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

NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Rodney Lusk amongst the crew breaking ground on the new hospital off Beulah Street in the Kingstowne area of Fairfax County.

Inova Hospital Project Underway in Franconia

Officials break ground for full-sized hospital in growing area.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In the growing Franconia area, a groundbreaking ceremony was recently held for a new full-sized hospital on the corner of Beulah Street and the Springfield-Franconia Parkway just outside Kingstowne.

The 110-bed hospital will be on a plot of land that is next to the current Inova Healthplex that has served as medical needs for the residents of Franconia for the past 15 or 20 years, but the healthplex is more like a clinic since it has no beds for long-time patients

and it can't accommodate the same level of medical operations as a hospital.

"The Inova Franconia-Springfield Campus will ensure more families in our community have access to high-quality, compassionate care closer to home," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay at the Franconia-Springfield groundbreaking. "These projects highlight Inova's commitment to partnering with local governments to strengthen healthcare delivery and improve health outcomes for all of our residents."

"We're looking at future growth," said Inova spokesperson Melissa Portez Ridy, referring to the growing community of Kingstowne on the east and the redevelopment of central Springfield on the west. There are road projects on the books, a data center halfway finished on Loisdale Road, and apartments going in at Springfield Town



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Staff from Inova Mount Vernon Hospital pose for a photo in front of a rendering of the new Inova Alexandria Hospital Sept. 30. Shown are Inova Mount Vernon President Roberta Finch, Inova Mount Vernon Chief of Nursing Alquieta Brown, and Inova Mount Vernon Chief Medical Officer Bete Hannah.

Center so the population of the area is growing. The hospital will be within walking distance to the existing Springfield-Franconia Metro Station on the blue line.

Inova also broke ground for a new hospital at Landmark, a former shopping mall that is a few miles up I-95, which will replace the aging Alexandria Hospital on Seminary Road. Together the two facilities will replace the existing Inova Alexandria Hospital.

All these changes will have some impact on medical coverage for the surrounding area.

"Inova's commitment to providing greater access to world-class care runs deep, as we invest billions back into the community to enhance healthcare services and ensure that our neighbors have access to the care

they need for generations to come," said Dr. J. Stephen Jones, President and CEO of Inova Health System at the groundbreaking at Landmark.

The Inova Franconia-Springfield Campus will be equipped with advanced emergency care, surgical services, and specialized inpatient care. The current Emergency Room in the HealthPlex will remain in place until emergency services can move to a larger space in the new hospital. The former ER space will be renovated for other community healthcare services after the move.

DPR Construction will lead the construction efforts, and the hospital is expected to be completed in 2028.

For more information on Inova's eastern region development plans, visit <https://www.inova.org/easternregion>.

Join Us for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

Get ready to pedal your way to a good time in the Mount Vernon District! Join me and Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) for the 9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride on Saturday, Oct. 19, starting and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. This annual event will be packed with adventure, family fun and a little challenge, all set against the backdrop of our area's historical and cultural treasures.

Here's what you need to know:

The main TdMV ride kicks off at 8:30 a.m., giving cyclists the option of tackling a

40-mile or 20-mile route. Riders will explore key locations of the southern and central Mount Vernon District, highlighting the Potomac Banks historical, ecological and cultural sites. Whether you're a biking enthusiast or just looking for a fun ride through beautiful landscapes, this is your chance to pedal through paved roads and trails while enjoying a little extra challenge through South County.

Fairfax County Police and ride monitors will be on hand to help keep you safe and on the right path, so all you need to focus on is enjoying the ride! The ride will end with live

SEE TOUR DE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 9



Riders getting ready for the Tour de Mount Vernon at the Workhouse Arts Center in 2022.

Jury Convicts Former Officer of Reckless Discharge of Firearm

Ex-FCPD officer found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Friday, Oct. 4, a jury made up of eight women and four men convicted former FCPD Sergeant Wesley Shifflett, 36, of reckless handling of a firearm, related to the shooting death of Timothy McCree Johnson, 37, on February 22, 2023. The jury found him not guilty of involuntary manslaughter. Felony reckless discharge of a firearm carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. It acknowledges Shifflett bears some criminal responsibility in the shooting death. A sentencing hearing is set for Feb. 28, 2025. Caleb Kershner, Shifflett's attorney, said he plans to appeal.

"I hope it gives the Johnson family some closure to know that they are not alone in seeing that Mr. Shifflett did not act in accordance with the law," said Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano.

Shifflett and another officer chased Johnson, suspected of shoplifting two pairs of sunglasses from Nordstrom, in a foot pursuit from the Tysons Corner Center mall into a dark, wooded area. Shifflett testified, "[Johnson] tripped and did a barrel roll and as soon as he tripped, he came up on his knees and was facing me ... He just looked at me and didn't respond to commands. He then reached into his waistband and was moving back and forth." Shifflett testified he was the "most scared" he had ever been.

Shifflett fired his gun and a bullet from his gun hit Johnson once in the chest. The police body-camera footage confirms Shifflett saying, "Stop reaching," after he fired. Other officers rushed to Johnson and rendered aid. Police found that Johnson did not have a weapon. Johnson was pronounced dead at the hospital.

"Unfortunately, we have a two-tiered system of justice where some people's lives and liberty are worth more than others. And certainly, there are still institutional barriers to holding law enforcement officers accountable when they break the law," said Descano. He explained that Virginia

law allows officers, but not prosecutors, to present evidence to a regular grand jury, giving police more power at the critical prosecution stage.

"I want the people of Fairfax County to know that whether it is in the community, in the courtroom, or in the halls of power in Richmond, we will continue to fight for a fair and just system that meets the needs of all our community members," Descano said.

Shifflett's attorneys argued he was doing what he was trained to do and put a law enforcement officer on the stand who said officers are trained to fire twice when they believe they are in danger. "He was acting in self-defense ... He was acting to preserve his own life, that's not even close to negli-

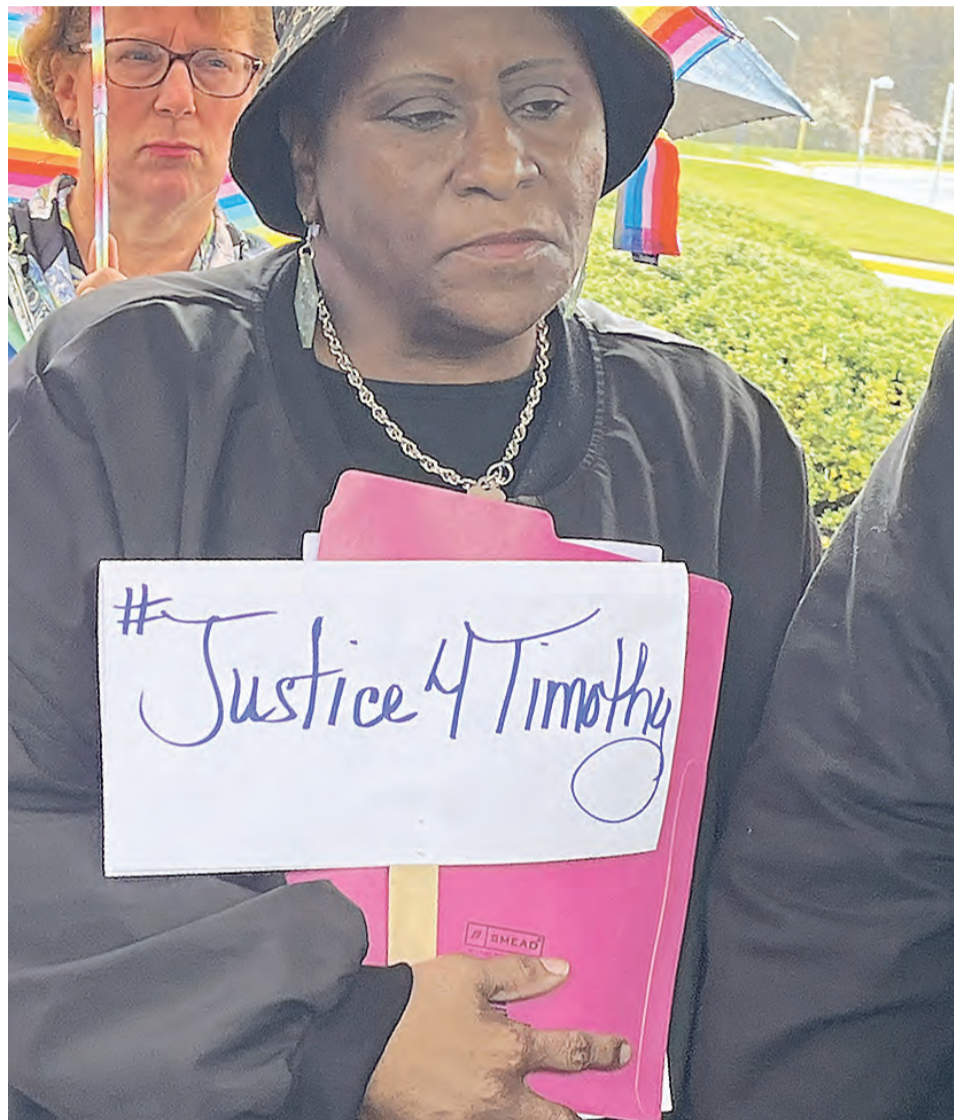


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION [FILE PHOTO 2023]

Victim's mother Melissa Johnson at the Fairfax NAACP Rally for Justice

"I hope it gives the Johnson family some closure to know that they are not alone in seeing that Mr. Shifflett did not act in accordance with the law."

— Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano

gence." Kershner said during the case.

Melissa Johnson, Timothy's mother, said in a televised statement after the court's verdict on Friday that most Black and brown families who find themselves in the same situation do not even get this far. She highlighted what "they have achieved in this wrongful death case in 590 days is unprecedented, and it is a miracle."

Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis fired Shifflett soon after the shooting.

The trial encountered near mistrials, according to Johnson. Defense lawyers filed, then withdrew, a motion for a mistrial after a witness testified without his lawyer present. Jurors watched a portion of police body-camera footage of Shifflett telling his

supervisor he told Johnson to show him his hands — a command he never gave during the pursuit.

The court refused to admit that portion of the video as evidence. Later, the lead prosecutor experienced a medical emergency, delaying the proceedings for a week.

Johnson said that they witnessed the firing of the white ex-Fairfax County police officer in the death of a Black unarmed man. "We have had to request a special grand jury indictment. We have gotten a speedy trial and all of the instances that have come up against us since this case and this trial began, up until today's jury verdict, all of this

"Certainly, there are still institutional barriers to holding law enforcement officers accountable when they break the law."

— Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano



SCREENSHOT

Shot and killed: Timothy McCree Johnson

in only 590 days together."

Johnson thanked Descano and his team. "The Commonwealth has shown to do what is right ... even when doing so meant poking the Blue hornet's nest. Today's verdict has afforded Mr. Shifflett a second chance, a benefit that my son, Timothy McCree Johnson, was not afforded."

"We stand for 'Justice for Timothy', and today we accept the jury's verdict," Johnson said. "I forgive [Shifflett] and I have no malice in my heart toward him. He knows the truth and that is between him and his Maker."

Look Back at 'Justice for Timothy,' April 1, 2023

Melissa Johnson stood for two hours at the Fairfax NAACP Justice Rally outside the Fairfax County Government Center on April 1, 2023, The Connection reported. "My heart is broken ... I volunteered to add my voice to help this go a little bigger and broader. Yes, this is about Timothy, but this is a justice rally for us to petition the leaders of this county here to do the right thing, for the right reason."

What was most difficult for Johnson, she said, was that, as a mother, she watched the police body-camera footage. "I witnessed my son's testimony as he lay there after being shot. Timothy yelled out, 'I don't have anything in my hand.'"

... "Remembering my son's last words, before he took his last breath, he said to that officer, 'Hurry, hurry.' I say that to you ... Chief [Davis], 'Justice.' I say that to you, Supervisor McKay; I say that to you, Commonwealth's Attorney Descano. Hurry, hurry. Justice is calling. Hurry ...

This is why I am here. Timothy's right to due process was taken away from him when both officers, not under any danger, imminent or otherwise, willfully made a decision to pursue him, unholster their guns, and fire their weapons."

To learn more about the Fairfax County Police Department General Order governing the use of force, review General Order 540: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/chief/generalorders/go_540.pdf

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LET'S MAKE
**A HOME,
 TOGETHER**

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MAKE EACH DAY COUNT WITH MEMORY SUPPORT

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

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

COMMUNITY

Fairfax Fall Festival: Food, Crafts, Music

48th annual celebration is Saturday, Oct. 12.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Entertainment Schedule

When the leaves start changing color and the weather cools down, it's time for the Fairfax Fall Festival.

This year's event, the 48th annual, is Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in downtown Fairfax City. The fun includes three stages of live entertainment, food, crafts, beer gardens, plus children's rides and activities.

Admission is free, the festival happens rain or shine, and there are activities for all ages. (Except for service animals, pets are discouraged.) Vendors and the carnival will close at 5 p.m. But the musical entertainment will continue with the Sudden M-Pac Band performing pop, R&B and funk songs from the 1970s, '80s and forward, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, at University Drive and North Street.

SEE FAIRFAX FALL FESTIVAL, PAGE 7

❖ SPECIAL, FEATURED PERFORMERS

4081 University Drive (next to Fire Station 3)
11 a.m. & 2 p.m. - Haus of Marzipan
A dazzling combination of aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance.

❖ MAIN STAGE

University Drive and South Street
11 a.m. - Part-Time Cowboys
3 p.m. - The Reflex

❖ OLD TOWN SQUARE STAGE

10415 North St.
10 a.m. - Main Street Community Band
Noon - La Unica (Irish-Latin music)
2:30 p.m. - Revel Without a Cause

❖ CHILDREN'S STAGE

4020 University Drive (parking lot)
10 a.m. - Vox Pop
10:45 a.m. - Groovy Nate
11:30 a.m. - Morgan Legacy Irish Dance Academy
12:30 p.m. - Tene Band
1:15 p.m. - Bull Run Cloggers
2 p.m. - Silly Goose and Val
3 p.m. - Center for Ballet Arts
3:45 p.m. - Clown Cabaret: Kids Edition
4:30 p.m. - Bach 2 Rock



Fall Festival Activities & Attractions



The 2024 Fairfax Fall Festival map.

Music, Children's Activities, Parade, Pets and Awards

32nd annual Centreville Day is Saturday, Oct. 19.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Come one, come all - the 32nd annual Centreville Day is Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in Historic Centreville Park. The free event is at 5714 Mount Gilead Road (off Braddock Road, across Route 29 from the IHOP) and offers fun activities for the entire family.

"Bring your friends, families and neighbors to celebrate community and history," said Centreville Day Planning Committee Chair Cheryl Repetti. "There are several new activities this year, such as a Walk to End Hunger, an Eco Expo and even a mobile nature center."

The festivities also include a parade, ghost tour, trick-or-treat trail, crafters and other vendors, live entertainment, tasty food, safety expo, pet revue and children's activities galore. And during the 10 a.m. opening ceremony, Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and Fairfax County Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole will honor Centreville Day's Citizens of the Year, Nick Anderson of Stone Middle School and Gina Richard and Eric Cox of Cox Farms.

Organizing the parade is American Legion 6 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ OCTOBER 9-15, 2024

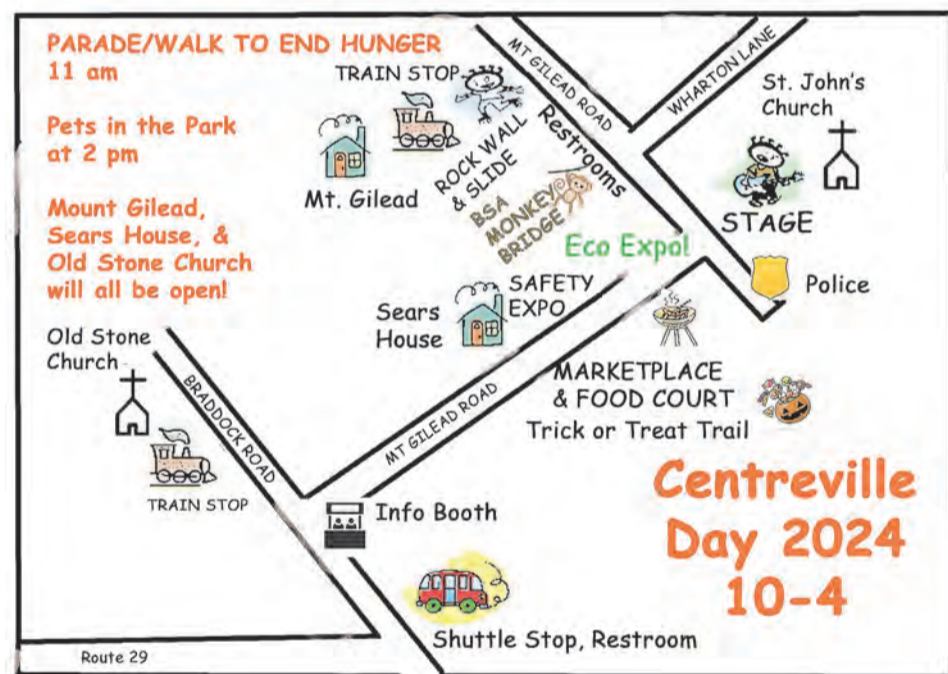
Post 1995, and participating will be fire, police and sheriff's personnel, McGruff the Crime Dog, various Scout groups and dancers. Centreville's Himanvi Panidepu - the first Indian American to be named Miss Virginia USA - will lead the parade.

Participants will gather near Wharton Park Court, with the parade stepping off from Wharton Lane at 11 a.m., passing the stage shortly before noon and continuing along Mt. Gilead Road to Braddock Road. Individuals and families are welcome to decorate a bike or scooter and join the fun; costumes are encouraged.

The parade will finish with the Walk to End Hunger. Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is organizing it to raise funds to mitigate food insecurity in the local area. Participants will be wearing special T-shirts. To join them in their quest to help end hunger, register with WFCM at www.wfcmvva.org/walk. Or simply bring donations of non-perishable food to the WFCM booth on Centreville Day.

In addition, Goodwill, which is sponsoring the Centreville Day stage, will also be collecting clothing and other thrift-store donation items. Go to www.CentrevilleDay.org to learn where its truck will be located.

Stage performers throughout the day will include RearVue (formerly known as the



COURTESY OF CHERYL REPETTI

Map of the 2024 Centreville Day activities.

VaDeatles), Mixed Greens, Centreville Dance Academy, Harmony Road Strings, Wushu Academy, and the Korean Dance and Autoharp Ensembles. The emcees are Jonathan Cooper and Kristyn Marrott.

Attendees are also invited to sample the diverse flavors at the event's food court. Vendors there will include Taste of Asia, Srithon's Kitchen, Southern Fish Fry, Kona Ice, Snowie Nova, and Sweet-Frog yogurt.

At 2 p.m., the Rotary Club of Centreville and Chantilly will host the popular

SEE CENTREVILLE DAY, PAGE 7

Entertainment Schedule

9:45-10 a.m. - Magic Hand Orchestra (Harmony Roads)
10-10:40 a.m. - Opening Ceremony Performers - Magic Hand Orchestra and the Mount Olive Baptist Church Choir
11 a.m. - Parade
12:15 p.m. - RearVue music
12:15-12:25 p.m. - Parade Awards
12:25-12:45 p.m. - Blessing of the Pets (St. John's)
12:45-1:15 p.m. - Centreville Dance Academy
1:15-1:30 p.m. - Chroma Harp Korean Women's Ensemble
1:45-2 p.m. - Harang Sori Korean Folk Dance Group
2-2:30 p.m. - Pets in the Park
2:30-3 p.m. - Northern Virginia Wushu Academy
3-4 p.m. - Mixed Greens (rock band).

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A children's ride at a previous fall festival.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Fall Festival

FROM PAGE 6

More than 400 crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue. And at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department will host Sparky's Harvest Bash with Sparky the Fire Dog teaching children fire prevention and safety.

"The Fairfax Fall Festival is an event our region looks forward to each year on the second Saturday of October," said City Mayor Catherine Read. "We have wonderful artisans, food vendors, music, rides for the kids and many local organizations. It's a celebration of everything we associate with this season of the year, and all are welcome to this free community event."

A wide variety of food will be offered at two food courts – one on Sager Avenue and the other on University Drive next to the fire station. And two more food vendors will be at Old Town Square, 10415 North St. And a trio of beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive

and Sager Avenue.

The Children's Stage in the Truist Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive will feature singers, dancers, clowns and a ventriloquist. Children's rides, moonbounces, slides, a cake walk, petting zoo, obstacle course and touch-a-truck vehicles will be in that area, too. (Rides are weather-dependent).

In addition, a full slate of entertainers will perform on the three festival stages. (See Entertainment Schedule for details and addresses.) Plus, returning to the festival after last year's rousing success will be Haus of Marzipan with its show stopping aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance. This 25-minute, two-woman show will be held next to Fire Station 3 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Fall for the Book – featuring books and activities for children, teens and adults – will run from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. And open houses will be held at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, as well as at the Ratcliffe-Alison-Pozer House. For details, times and addresses, go to www.FairfaxFallFestival.com.

Centreville Day

FROM PAGE 6

Pets in the Park revue on the stage. People are invited to bring and show off their pets; no registration or fees are necessary, and every pet is a winner. In addition, Pet Supplies Plus will give each pet participant a swag bag, and St. John's Episcopal Church will offer its Blessings of the Pets.

At the Eco Expo, attendees may meet bees and worms and learn how to compost and recycle. They may also visit the Wonder Wagon, a mobile nature center. And at the adjacent Safety Expo, first responders will chat with people and proudly display their vehicles. Children may even ride on the seat-belt convincer and meet a K-9 officer.

Festival attendees may hop on the colorful History Train to travel quickly from Mount Gilead to the Old Stone Church area. From the Braddock Road train stop, take a short walk to the Old Stone Church (the Church of the Ascension) for snacks and more free children's activities.

This year marks the return of Centreville Day's not-too-scary ghost tour. See the website to register for a tour. Historian John Carter will have books and historical information, and visitors may also see the Spindle Sears House and the historic St. John's

Episcopal Church and cemetery.

The Boy Scouts of America monkey bridge is always a fun challenge for children and teens, and the younger ones will also enjoy free rides in the children's area. Children may also traverse the trick-or-treat trail in the Marketplace, looking for vendors offering special goodies.

"The Marketplace is a great place to find the perfect, hand-crafted gift, a treat for fido, and learn about Centreville's businesses, churches and, yes, politicians," said Repetti. "And thanks to the vendors and sponsors, Centreville Day is a free community event. There are no admission or parking fees and no fees for the shuttles."

This year, there'll be even more remote parking for this pedestrian-only event. Parking will continue at 5860 Trinity Parkway in the Trinity Center, and a new lot will be available at Centreville Methodist Church on 6400 Old Centreville Road. Shuttles will transport people to and from Historic Centreville Park.

For more information, and to see the Centreville Day program – which contains a complete list of vendors – go to www.CentrevilleDay.org.

— Cheryl Repetti contributed to this story.

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OPINION

The GW Memorial Parkway Needs Attention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

As someone who has lived in our area for 54 years, I view the George Washington Memorial Parkway (the “Parkway”) as one of our community’s crown jewels. After the U.S. Army relocated 15,000 new employees to Fort Belvoir in 2005, nonresident commuter traffic increased on the Parkway and so has the speed of cars. The road has become much more dangerous, especially at intersections, resulting in dozens of injuries and even some deaths.

Between 2018 and 2021, Congressman Don Beyer, Delegate Paul Krizek, Supervisor Dan Storck and I worked to develop a community consensus on solutions. Congressman Beyer secured funding for road marking improvements and the National Park Service (NPS) conducted a lengthy safety study to identify solutions. NPS found excessive speeding to be a major problem.

I gathered and submitted over 500 community comments offering solutions. In 2021, NPS implemented a “road diet” to slow vehicles’ speed, cause vehicles to bunch and create gaps for safer intersection left turns. In addition, NPS made further modifications to the Belle Haven Road and Belleview Boulevard intersections after receiving community feedback via Congressman Beyer’s Office.

Accidents have declined with implementation of the traffic diet and increased traffic volumes



on Fort Hunt Road and Sherwood Hall Lane have not materialized according to VDOT data. However, in the last week, there have been three accidents at the Parkway and Belle Haven Road. We clearly need to do more.

A Historic Road

The Parkway is not just a highway like most others. Congress authorized its construction to preserve and enhance the Potomac River valley, to keep the river’s banks in public ownership and to pay tribute to the first U.S. President George Washington by creating a grand gateway to his home, Mount Vernon. It opened in 1932 as a 40-mile, slow-speed road with various units that combine the natural, historic and recreational sites with over 7,000 acres of parkland.

Changes to the road are subject to the National Historic Preservation Act because the Parkway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Features like stop lights are inconsistent with Congressional intent and the Parkway’s historic character. Some have suggested building a Belle Haven Road roundabout, for example. That is projected to cost \$7 million and is likely cost prohibitive. NPS must comply with the historic preservation law and inconsistent changes could subject the NPS to litigation.

Addressing Speeding

In addition to the accidents, I have received

complaints about excessive speeds and late night-drag racing. The U.S. Park Police have been missing in action, many locals contend, and our requests for more enforcement have been largely ignored. Therefore, Delegate Krizek and I asked the Virginia State Police to conduct enforcement operations, but because the Parkway is federal property, its traffic rules are set in the Code of Federal Regulations and can mostly only be enforced by the U.S. Park Police.

Congressman Beyer has asked the NPS to install speed cameras, but federal law does not allow the revenues from enforcement to be recaptured by the NPS to fund the program. Congressman Beyer introduced legislation, but it has been blocked by members of the Congressional Freedom Caucus, claiming privacy concerns.

Therefore, I am drafting legislation for the state legislature to authorize the Virginia State Police and Fairfax County Police to conduct traffic enforcement on the Parkway. In addition, I am researching the legality of authorizing either the state or Fairfax County to enter into an agreement with the NPS to install and operate speed cameras on the Parkway.

We will continue to engage the community to help find solutions to improve safety on the Parkway, reduce collisions and maintain its historic character.

If you have additional questions or ideas, please email me at senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Urgent Concerns Ongoing Purge of Voter Rolls

Letter from U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly to Gov. Glenn Youngkin about voting roll purges is shared with readers of the Connection:

Dear Governor Youngkin and Attorney General Miyares, I write to express my urgent concerns regarding implementation of Executive Order 35 and the Commonwealth’s potential violation of federal law. Specifically, I am alarmed by the ongoing purges of Virginia’s voter rolls within 90 days of an upcoming election, a practice that would violate the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, which restricts states from conducting systematic voter roll purges within this timeframe.

The NVRA restricts states from systematically removing voters from voter rolls within 90 days of a federal election to prevent widespread disenfranchisement and ensure the integrity of the voting process. This restriction is designed to protect voters from being wrongly purged close to an election, which could disrupt their ability to cast ballots.

This 90-day restriction helps

minimize errors in purges. Voter roll purges can sometimes be based on inaccurate data, leading to the wrongful removal of eligible voters. The 90-day restriction provides a buffer to prevent last-minute mistakes that could deny people their right to vote, especially when the time to correct errors is limited.

The 90-day restriction also prevents disenfranchisement. If voters are removed from rolls too close to an election, they may not have enough time to correct the situation (such as re-registering or proving their eligibility). This buffer ensures eligible voters are not disenfranchised due to administrative errors or insufficient time to respond.

The 90-day restriction ensures election integrity. The law seeks to maintain stability and confidence in the voter registration system during a critical period leading up to elections. By limiting voter roll changes within this time frame, it prevents politically motivated purges that could unfairly target certain groups of voters or influence the outcome of an election.

The 90-day restriction also pro-

ducts voters. The NVRA includes provisions to make voter registration easier, especially for groups that are often underrepresented, such as minorities and low-income voters. The 90-day rule helps prevent sudden, large-scale removals that might disproportionately affect these communities.

Given the potential for errors in systematic voter purges, the rapid pace of the ongoing purges required by Executive Order 35, and

the proximity to Election Day, the Commonwealth must cease any voter purging activities that violate federal law.

I look forward to your immediate and personal attention to this matter to protect the integrity of our elections and ensure the Commonwealth is complying with federal law.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly
Fairfax

Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email 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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OPINION

Fall 2024—Looking Good on Lake Anne

JOHN LOVAAS
INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE



What a beautiful fall day for our annual Washington Plaza Cluster picnic on Lake Anne. Temperature this morning was a crisp 53 degrees, with low 70s likely by picnic time. Summer seems gone for real. Now we're just missing fall tree colors to continue what has been an exceptional year around Lake Anne Village Center.

Saturdays once again have been beehives of activity in both the Reston Farmers Market (RFM) in the parking lot and the Lake Anne Crafts Market on Washington Plaza — with literally thousands of shoppers weekly enjoying Lake Anne's best.

The Farmers Market, my pride and joy since we opened it 27 years ago, continues its tops-in-the-region billing in its first year since my retirement. I had assumed it wouldn't be quite what it had been in the good old days, but, lo and behold, it apparently hasn't missed a beat. There are even

some whispers it may be better!? It is thriving under Fran (my partner of 59 years), co-managers Keith and Anne, and energetic new community volunteers.

The Crafts Market not only continues to grow, but under its new management profits from vendor space rentals now go directly to the Lake Anne Condo Association (LARCA), the owner of the Plaza. Those funds are making a major difference to LARCA and its member-owners in upkeep of their property.

Also, this year LARCA and the Reston Community Center resolved a lingering issue over use of the Plaza. Their working together led to the return of summertime musical entertainment on the Plaza as well as RCC providing needed revenue to the Condo Association.

Which brings me to more good news at the Village Center. The LARCA Board succeeded in bolstering its difficult financial situation, thanks in part to the actions mentioned above and cooperation from neighboring Washington Plaza Cluster in sharing costs

for repaving shared residential access roads. In the last year, LARCA fully repaved all its commercial and residential parking areas ... something last done over 30 years ago. They power washed the entire Village Center and upgraded its landscaping as well. Furthermore, as I write this, the concrete exterior of the Heron House Condominium Tower is being repaired from top to bottom ... a million-dollar job in itself.

The Village Center also welcomed a very special new business, the Elden Street Tea Shop on the Plaza. It is a lovely place to have a cup of tea, from the biggest selection of teas I've ever seen, and lovely snacks any time of the day. A couple more new businesses are also on the way, should they succeed in clearing the ponderous Fairfax County bureaucratic hurdles. I doubt they will make it in 2024, but Lake Anne already now has a fine selection of quality places to eat or have a drink on a lovely lake.

2024 has been a good year to date in Reston, especially at Lake Anne Village Center. Now, if Lake Anne, Reston and the country can get through Nov. 5 without electing any convicted felons, who knows what might be possible in 2025?

Tour de Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 3

music, sweet potato chili and beverages provided by the new Bunnyman Brewing Cafe.

If you're looking to involve the whole family in some cycling fun, don't miss the Youth & Family Ride! This 3-mile adventure kicks off at 9 a.m. and includes many engaging activities, from a bike rodeo, bike parade and hands-on activities. And what's a day of family fun without some treats? Kids (and parents) can enjoy snow cones, popcorn and play yard games while taking a break from the action.

Whether you're an experienced cyclist or just looking for a day out with the family, there's something for everyone at the Tour de Mount Vernon. Grab your helmet and water bottle and register today to join in on the fun. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2024>

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COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

BY MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT X.COM/TOWNOFVIENNA

Vienna Celebrates W&OD's 50th Anniversary

The Town of Vienna celebrated the W&OD's 50th anniversary on Monday morning, Oct. 7. Among the many who gathered to mark the special occasion were (center in the green shirt) Linda Colbert, mayor of the Town of Vienna; to her right, Mercury Peyton, town manager; and to her left, Supervisors Walter Alcorn, Hunter Mill District; Dalia Palchik, Providence District; and Jimmy Bierman, Dranesville District.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCDOT

The Innovation Station North Neighborhood Access project celebrated its much-anticipated dirt toss at its groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 2.

Critical Walkable and Bikeable Access to Transit Breaks Ground

The project by contractor Fort Myer Construction Corporation is funded by tax dollars. It provides a direct pedestrian and bicycle connection from the Innovation Metrorail Station to the adjacent neighborhoods by constructing a 10-foot-wide, approximately 2,000-foot-long shared-use, lit path. The connection will significantly reduce the trip length between the station and surrounding neighborhoods. "This project is not just about infrastructure; it's about creating a community that prioritizes accessibility and connectivity," Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said. "By reducing the distance between our neighborhoods and the Metrorail stations, we're investing in a more sustainable future for our residents."



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

"Death of a Stream," predicted in April of 2021

Colvin Run Project Then and Now



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

October 2024 marks three-and-a-half years since April 7, 2021, when The Connection published "Residents Mourn 'The Death of Colvin Run.'" VDOT had realigned the stream into a paved trapezoidal channel near the confluence with Difficult Run as part of its Route 7 Improvements. File Photo: April 3, 2021



PHOTO BY JAMES WALKER

"It's a significant departure from the concrete channel," James Waller said in an email to this reporter.



SCREENSHOT

The Fairfax County Supervisors present the county's former chief equity officer, Karla Bruce, with a resolution to honor and recognize her 25 years of service.

Supervisors Honor Karla Bruce

**One Fairfax Policy:
Former Chief Equity
Officer has 25 years
of impactful service.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

During their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented a resolution to honor and recognize Karla Bruce, the county's former Chief Equity Officer. Bruce who has served 25 years in the county. Her significant contributions include creating the One Fairfax Policy. "One Fairfax is a joint racial and social equity policy of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board. The 2016 One Fairfax Resolution commits the county and schools to intentionally consider equity

when making policies or delivering programs and services."

Chairman Jeffrey McKay highlighted the significant generational impacts of Bruce's work, emphasizing its importance in improving the quality of life for future generations.

"Because of the work that's here, these impacts are going to be significant," said Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Franconia District.

Supervisor Jimmy Bierman, Dranesville District, said Bruce has not stopped trying to ensure that people understand what equity means, "that a rising tide DOES lift all boats, and that we are all in this together."

Supervisor Andres Jimenez, Mason District, said Bruce's critically important work also allows the younger generations to see themselves in her efforts.

Bruce said it had been an amazing journey. "Outside of being a parent, I don't believe I've had another life experience where I've had the opportunity to hold and shape something so important while at the same time being molded and shaped."

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

Gear Up for Local 2024 Holiday Ornament Sales

FROM PAGE 10

BY MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT CFCA NEWSLETTER

The Great Falls Citizens Association partnered with the Arts of Great Falls to sponsor the Great Falls ornament that celebrates the 135th anniversary of the Forestville School on Georgetown Pike. The original watercolor is by local artist Colleen Regan. The cost of the ornament is \$20 each. Proceeds from the sales will go toward installing wayside signs and historical markers for the Great Falls Grange Hall and the Forestville School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR

The Herndon Historical Society has designed a new 2024 holiday ornament showcasing the historic Wilkins and Brothers Herndon Bargain Store at the corner of Elden and Spring Streets. People driving downtown will recognize the building as home to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern and Roaches in the Attic Antiques. The ornaments, priced at \$22 each, are available for purchase at the Herndon Depot Museum on Sundays from noon to 3 p.m.; at WinterMarkt in downtown Herndon WinterMarkt, Dec. 14 from noon – 7 p.m., or you can reach out to the society at herndonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

October 19th & 20th
10a-5p daily

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

READ MORE!
Map, tour details and information about each artist can be found on our website

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- Photography

GreatFallsStudios.com/Studio-Tour-2024-Home

Reston
ASSOCIATION
Together we make Reston great

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

Thursday, Oct. 24, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
RA Conference Center
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive

Visit www.reston.org for additional details.

NAACP to County: Adopt Encampment Closure Policy

Supervisors respond.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP calls on the county's Board of Supervisors to adopt clear policy guidelines for removing encampments of unsheltered residents. Chapter leadership Niki Zimmerman, president, and Mary Paden, chair of the housing committee, outlined the proposal in a detailed five-page letter they sent to Chairman Jeff McKay on Sept. 11 and copied to supervisors and county staff.

The guidelines address the county's homeless population's needs, humane treatment, and civil rights. According to the 2024 Point in Time count, Black individuals make up about 50 percent of the homeless population in Fairfax despite representing only 10 percent of the overall county demographic.

The chapter's six-point proposal, as described by Zimmerman and Paden, recommends that the board create an advisory group of residents and experts to review the guidelines and those from other jurisdictions and finalize a document that states the policy outcomes desired by elected officials and allows flexibility where needed to achieve the outcomes.

Fairfax NAACP's recommended guidelines for clearing homeless encampments when necessary and reasons why. Content is edited for space and clarity.

- ❖ The county should offer encampment residents an indoor shelter with overnight accommodation, where they can receive food and social services; daytime shelter to those who are elderly or have mental or physical health issues and notification of how to obtain alternate shelter.

Providing adequate temporary shelter for vulnerable individuals is crucial since it could take 4-6 months for permanent housing in the county. While permanent supportive housing is being developed, funds should be allocated for interim 24/7 shelters to alleviate suffering.

- ❖ Any planned removal must announce the time and date at least two weeks in advance, publicly on the county website, in a press release, and to the tent encampment through posted notices. This is in keeping with the current advice from the county attorney.

- ❖ County employees clearing an encampment must include co-responders, mental health professionals from the Community Services Board, and officers trained in de-escalation techniques to carry out the operation without harming the homeless people. "We prefer that police not carry lethal weapons but rather tasers."

- ❖ Witnesses must be invited and could include a representative of the National Lawyers Guild in DC, an attorney, or a representative of a civil rights group such as the NAACP. Witnesses may take notes and photos and record the event. News media should be allowed to speak to witnesses and homeless people being removed.

- ❖ Homeless people who are being displaced should not be arrested. Although they



Belongings left behind at the Reston encampment Sept. 10.



On Sept. 10, a resident of the Reston encampment packs up his belongings to move to another site.

can technically be charged with trespassing, it is better to achieve compliance without charges, as they can have adverse and cascading effects on people who are indigent.

- ❖ Put the encampment residents' belongings in storage for 60 days at a known transit-accessible location so they can retrieve them for free. Establish a mechanism for them to bag and tag a certain amount of their possessions that they may be unable to carry from the site.

The NAACP leaders argued that when homeless individuals relocate from one encampment only to resettle in another one and no assistance is provided, it may worsen their situation emotionally and medically, a concern referenced by the Washington Post in "Sweeps Worsen Health of Homeless."

Zimmerman and Paden noted that recent county clearings of encampments, such as "The Hill" in Reston and Mantua Park, near Fairfax City, were conducted without significant incidents. However, they highlighted that the process could have benefitted from established public guidelines to reduce uncertainty and tension. They reported that each camp had about 40 tents at its height.

Additionally, they are unaware of any countywide policy guidelines in Fairfax. However, they recognize that the county's Department of Health and Human Services adheres to the "Fairfax Encampment Response Protocol" for encampment removal. The proposed guidelines are per the U.S.



Niki Zimmerman,
president of Fairfax
County branch of
NAACP.



Mary Paden, chair
NAACP Fairfax hous-
ing committee.



Jeffrey C. McKay,
chairman, Fairfax
County Board of Su-
pervisors.

Interagency Council on Homelessness, 19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively (April 2024), and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Housing, Not Handcuffs Encampment Principles & Best Practices (2024).

Zimmerman and Paden copied Christopher Leonard, director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Thomas Fleetwood, director of the Housing and Community Development Department; Thomas Barnett, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; and Karla Bruce, chief equity officer, on the letter.

Access the Fairfax County NAACP letter at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yb4BKj3MNOZRBp3EnACzaLB-aqOE_FN1tQQgutzqEOyU/edit.

Supervisor Comments:

The Connection contacted the ten members of the Board of Supervisors for comments, represented here with edits for space

and clarity.

- ❖ Office of Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk- "At this time, Supervisor Lusk has no comment. This topic is currently under review by the Fairfax County Office to End and Prevent Homelessness and the Fairfax County Continuing Care Committee."

- ❖ Office of Chairman Jeff McKay replied to use the comment he sent Mary Paden. "The two-week notice before clearing an encampment is a standard part of our protocol," McKay points out, and the "two

most recent clearings were done without incident.

"That is because Fairfax County's approach to the issue is one that puts the individuals first and treats them with the humanity and respect they deserve. While I strongly support our approach," McKay writes he "will ensure that the NAACP's suggestions are thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate senior staff as well as the County's Continuum of Care Board to see how our current protocol may be improved." He adds, "Professional outreach is a priority in all situations."

- ❖ Office of Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn- "I very much appreciate the NAACP's suggestions and agree we should lead with compassion and treat the unhoused with the humanity and respect they deserve. I have asked that the NAACP's suggestions are thoroughly reviewed by the appropriate senior staff as well as the County's Continuum of Care Board to see how our current protocol and processes may be improved."

Orange Hunt Celebrates 50 years

Radical school design was in place for their opening in 1974.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On Sept. 30, 1974, the doors of Orange Hunt Elementary School in Springfield opened to students from the surrounding communities in Burke, Hunt Valley and Keene Mill to a school that featured the “open classroom” concept.

This school recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, and a proclamation was filed marking this occasion for the school that did away with the open classrooms with a renovation that was completed in 2003.

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) was on hand when notice of the proclamation was presented to the school during a celebration that day. “Mister Chairman, I ask without objection that staff prepare a resolution to recognize Orange Hunt Elementary’s 50th Anniversary and for its contributions to the surrounding community. This resolution will be presented outside the boardroom at the Orange Hunt Elementary’s Anniversary celebration



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/CONNECTION

Orange Hunt student artwork centered on the school’s 50th anniversary.

on Sept. 30.”

There were some parents at the celebration that attended the school when it first opened and now have children that go there, and a few past attendees showed up to recognize the school. The open classrooms are what everyone remembered.

Open Classrooms

According to an article in “Education Next,” the open classroom concept started in England after World War II and became popular in the United States in the 1960s and the 1970s. “Open classrooms’ focus on students’ ‘learning by doing’ and this resonated with those who believed that America’s for-

mal, teacher-led classrooms were crushing students’ creativity,” the article said. Orange Hunt was one of the few schools in Northern Virginia that experimented with this, as was a new wing at Hayfield Elementary School that was added around 1972. Elements of this concept included tables of students instead of individual desks and “tote trays,” instead of desks where the notebooks and pencils were stored.

Another school in the new design category is Terra Centre Elementary in Burke which opened in September 1980 but instead of open classrooms, the school was partially underground to make it more energy efficient. There were three feet of soil on

Aging Schools

Springfield students attend a handful of aging schools

HIGH SCHOOLS

Chantilly High School (1972)
West Springfield High School (1966)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Willow Springs Elementary School in Fairfax 1937
Greenbriar East Elementary School 1968
Greenbriar West Elementary School 1972
Hunt Valley Elementary School 1968
Rolling Valley Elementary School 1967
Sangster Elementary School 1958

top and windows peaking out on the sides in some places. The open classroom concept was tweaked a little so the school was divided into four circular learning pods, each containing eight pie-shaped classrooms.

In July 2013, a major renovation at Terra Centre expanded the entrance and extended the cafeteria. Terra Centre has a sister school in Reston called Terraset Elementary School of similar design. Newington Forest Elementary School is another nearby school that also celebrated their 50th anniversary recently and Herrity presented a proclamation there too.

Editor’s Note: Article author Mike Salmon attended Hayfield Elementary School in 1973 where there was a new wing with open classrooms. He remembers the tote trays, moveable coat closets and no desks. The whole fifth and sixth grades were in a huge open space they called “The Pod.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU OCT. 13

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

NOW THRU OCT. 27

"Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors."
At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. September: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. October: Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m. Special October Twilight Performances: Dracula show combined with admission to the haunted trail that same evening. Filled with clever wordplay and pop culture references, Dracula is a gender-bending, laugh-out-loud reimagining of the gothic classic. In the treacherous mountains of Transylvania, a meek English real estate agent takes a harrowing journey to meet a new and mysterious client, the most terrifying and ferocious monster the world has ever known: Count Dracula! Famed female vampire hunter, Jean Van Helsing, and company chase Drac from Transylvania to the British countryside to London and back. Visit www.workhousearts.org.



The "Lasting Impressions" Art Show takes place Oct. 1-27, 2024 in Reston.

COMMUNITY

CONVERSATIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT DR. REID

Your voice matters, and Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid wants to hear from you! This fall, a series of Community Conversations will be held across the school division. These events are an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and ask questions regarding Fairfax County Public Schools. Events are planned for the following dates from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.:
Monday, October 14, at Fairhill Elementary School.
Monday, October 21, at Virginia Run Elementary School.
Wednesday, October 30, at Herndon Middle School.

NOW THRU OCT. 13

"The Waverly Gallery." At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. In this 2019 Tony Award nominee for Best Revival of a Play, Gladys, the elderly matriarch of the Green family, has run an art gallery in a small Greenwich Village hotel for many years. The management wants to replace her less-than-thriving gallery with a coffee shop. General admission tickets are priced at \$25 (limited availability), \$40 (limited availability), and \$55. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

OCTOBER 1-27

"Lasting Impressions" Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Lake Anne, Reston. Julia Malakoff presents an exhibition of her new-

est mixed media collages inspired by unique objects. Open weekends from 12 - 5 pm and by appointment on weekdays. Meet the artist at two receptions, October 6 and 27, from 2 - 4 p.m. Visit RestonArt-Gallery.com

'SURVIVE UNPLUGGED' AT

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

Weaving and Wool: Saturday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Explore the world of textiles before department stores. Enjoy a make-your-own experience with working wool into felt and learn basic weaving techniques to make useful items.

FAMILY SKATE AND DANCE NIGHT

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

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

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

Oct. 26: Halloween Costume Party (6-10 p.m.)
Nov. 16: Franconia Hold 'Em Skate and Dance Night (Country Night) (6-9 p.m.)
Dec. 21: Holiday and Ugly Sweater Skate and Dance Night (6-9 p.m.)

SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 31

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

OCT. 4 TO NOV. 2

Workhouse Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, plus Halloween night. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Back for its 11th season, one of Northern Virginia's most popular Halloween events is bringing even more scares (and laughter) to its creepy outdoor walk-through trail. The Haunt will lead guests on a frightening journey that brings them along the abandoned, historic buildings of the former prison, where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights and sounds that are not for the faint of heart. This year's theme, Twisted Tales of Terror, features more than a dozen



The Workhouse Haunt: Twisted Tales of Terror takes place Oct. 4 to Nov. 2, 2024 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

creepy live-action scenes portraying classic fairy tales gone wrong, including Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Pinocchio and more. To keep everything moving along, guests will travel in small groups via a timed entry. While waiting for their timeslots, or following their trail experience, guests can enjoy Halloween fun in the Rizer Pavilion: DJ-mixed music (Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween Night); refreshments at the bar, including Halloween-themed alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks; sweet and savory food truck treats; and Halloween art and trinkets in the Haunt Pop-up Shop. Tickets are on sale now; prices start at \$25 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Best of NoVA Soiree. 6-10 p.m. At CrystalView Event Center, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Fairfax. Dress to impress and enjoy a night on the town celebrating the best that Northern Virginia has to

offer. Tickets include an open bar and samples from all participating restaurants, including select Best of NoVA winners and top restaurants featured in Northern Virginia Magazine. This event, empowered by Project Purple, also will celebrate The 50 Most Influential people in NoVA, appearing in the magazine's October 2024 issue. Visit bestofno-vasoiree.com

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Helping Kids Cope with Anxiety and OCD. 7-8:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingle-side Ave., McLean. The McLean Community Center (MCC) is partnering with the Safe Community Coalition (SCC) to present a free discussion series for parents. Join us for these "Mindful Exchange" discussion groups. Topics covered include identify anxiety and OCD symptoms, effective treatment approaches and local resources. The discussion will be facilitated by Robyne Davis MA, LPC, BC-DMT and Heather Tedesco, Ph.D.

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

McLean District Station CAC Meeting. 7 pm. At McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The McLean District Station Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be hosting an in-person meeting as part of their Community Engagement Program. The purpose of these meetings are for the community to discuss issues

ENTERTAINMENT



The McLean Pet Fest takes place on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.



The Touch-A-Truck event takes place on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.

and concerns with the Commanders of the McLean District Station. The Commanders will share current crime trends and statistics.

SPOOKTACULAR FUN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS

Get ready for a spooky, fun-filled Halloween season in Fairfax County parks! The Park Authority is presenting a fantastic lineup of Halloween programs and events are designed to delight all ages. Whether you're looking for ghostly mini golf, tricks and treats or family-friendly ways to show off your favorite costume, we have events planned for all ghosts and goblins! Goblin Golf. Burke Lake Park; Oct. 12-13-19-20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grab your Halloween costume (not required) and join them at Burke Lake Park for Halloween-themed mini golf, treats and spooky fun! Cost is \$10 per person.

Farm Harvest Festival -- Big Trucks, Carnival Rides and Fall Fun! Frying Pan Farm Park; Oct. 18 - 20

Join in at Frying Pan Farm Park for the Farm Harvest Festival, featuring Big Truck Night, carnival rides, games and tasty fair food! Enjoy unlimited ride specials on Friday night or Sunday for \$25, or grab individual tickets on Saturday for even more fall fun. Parking is just \$10 per day, so bring the family and celebrate the season with us! Halloween on the Farm. Frying Pan Farm Park; Oct. 25, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Trick-or-treat at Halloween on the Farm! Enjoy trick-or-treating on the farm, visit with farm animals, make spooky crafts, play Halloween game and take a tour of the decorated farmhouse. Cost is \$10 per person.

Haunted Mini Golf. Oakmont Rec Center; Oct. 25 and 26, from 4-9 p.m. All werewolves, vampires and goblins (and their families) are invited for a fun night of mini golf. Trick-or-treat and win various goodies at Oakmont Mini Golf. Enjoy food trucks, face painting, popcorn and games. Come dressed in your best costume! Cost is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Ghost Town. Burke Lake Park; Oct. 26 and 27, from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Get ready for a full day of fun at Burke Lake Park's Ghost Town! Enjoy themed activities, a train ride, carousel, crafts, mini golf and a

bounce house—all with no scares, just treats. Join the fun and make it a Halloween to remember! Cost is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Family Skate Night - Halloween Costume Skate and Dance Night. Franconia Rec Center; Oct. 26, from 6 - 10 p.m.

Wear your favorite Halloween costume. Party to the sounds of our DJ while showing your costume. Ghouls and Goblins be aware. Cost is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Halloween Bash. South Run Rec Center; Oct. 26, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Hustle down to the South Run Rec Center to join in some Halloween fitness fun featuring the Monter Mash 5K Dash, Halloween Fun Run 1-Mile, and Spooktacular Tiny Tot Trot with moon bounce and obstacle course for ages 2-4. Cost varies by event.

OCT. 11-13

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. Featuring 225 juried artisans in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Attendees may buy directly from the artisans who create the work, all of which is crafted by hand. Hours: Friday, Oct 11 and Saturday Oct 12: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday Oct 13: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tickets: \$11 in advance Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CACEart

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Rocktober Benefit Concert. 10 a.m. Doors Open. Show Begins at 1 p.m. At Earp's Ordinary, 10420 Main Street, Fairfax. Cancer Can Rock, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping musicians facing cancer, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Rocktober Benefit Concert. This year's Rocktober Benefit Concert will feature performances by Delta Spur, Keeton, and other incredible artists, all providing their talents in support of Cancer Can Rock's mission. Since its founding, Cancer Can Rock has worked to create an uplifting environment where artists can produce and record their music even in the face of life-threatening illness. Visit the website: <https://aftontickets.com/event/buyticket/gl9enzm795>



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

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Fire & Rescue Department Open House. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Stations will be hosting an Open House Event. Visit your local fire and rescue station and join in the activities and learn about fire safety. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12, 2024.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

McLean Pet Fest. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Bring your furry friends (leashed please) for McLean Pet Fest! Enjoy the free music, Fido's Bone Bar, a photo booth, pet tricks and demonstration shows. Find valuable pet-related resources including pet rescue, adoption, pet sitters, groomers, trainers and more. Great giveaways! Stay for lunch and enjoy the gourmet food truck offerings. Join the fun at the Pet Parade at 3 p.m. Costumes are welcome!

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Table-top N Gauge Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax

Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table-top N Gauge Model Trains (T-TRAK) 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. Military (active and retired) and Seniors, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Paws in the Park. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria. Place your business in front of thousands of pet lovers this fall, all while supporting our mission to help Alexandria's animals. They are looking for sponsors and vendors for our annual Paws in the Park event on October 13th in Old Town Alexandria. The free event features entertainment and music, food and drink, kids' activities, silent

auction, and so much more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

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

MONDAY/OCT. 14

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

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

"The Remember Balloons." 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is hosting the world premiere of this new performance based on the book "The Remember Balloons" by Jessie Oliveros and illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte. The dance theater work is directed and choreographed by Dominic Moore-Dunson with an original score by Theron Brown. James' Grandpa treasures his balloons, each representing cherished memories—his wedding with Grandma, a fishing trip with James. When the balloons begin to drift away, James is devastated until he discovers he can share those balloons one by one.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Halloween Trivia Night. 7-10 p.m. At Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept., 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Join in a spooky, 21+ adults-only night of food, fun, facts, and festivities! Bring your competitive spirit and fact-filled brain, and start planning your Halloween outfit for the costume contest! Winners take home prizes and their pride. Purchase tickets here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/LVdUwtimQtjGYB5Bzwx-Q_Q Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/halloweentrvia/>

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT



“Sugar Skull! A Dia de Muertos Musical Adventure” takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.

FROM PAGE 15

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Raise the Region Gala. At McLean Hilton in Tysons Corner. The 2024 Raise the Region Gala, hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, celebrates the impact of local charitable giving and empowers the vision of the Foundation which is to build a community that works for everyone. The annual event is designed to connect the community to causes that inspire us. Register by purchasing a ticket at www.cfnova.org/gala. Questions may be directed to Vice President of Marketing and Events, Tara Nadel, at tara.nadel@cfnova.org.

OCT. 18-NOV. 3

“Moon Over Buffalo.” At Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Vienna Theatre Company presents “Moon Over Buffalo.” Friday and Saturday Oct. 18, 19, 25, 26 and Nov. 1, 2, at 8 p.m. Matinee Sundays at 2 p.m. Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Howl-o-week Dog Festival. 2-5 p.m. At Brown’s Chapel Rec Area, Reston. Dress up your pup and bring your best friend to celebrate HOWL-o-ween! Enjoy a dog costume contest, music, pet vendors, and more for a doggone good time. Admission is free, but don’t forget to bring cash for food and fun. Humans can also enjoy yappy hour with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

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

a.m. Short Route 20 miles; Long Route 40 miles. Youth and Family Ride Kickoff at 9 a.m. Youth Route 3 miles. Visit FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

OCT. 19-20

Voce Concert: Divine Spark. 7:30 p.m. Saturday; 4 p.m. Sunday. At Church of the Holy Cross, Dunn Loring. Immerse yourself in the heavenly sounds of Voce Chamber Singers at our most intimate venue! Be transported by this soulful program of works for organ and choir including Benjamin Britten’s Rejoice in the Lamb and R. Nathaniel Dett’s breathtaking cantata, Chariot Jubilee, featuring guest tenor soloist Devin Mercer and keyboard artist Neil Weston. Visit www.voceorg.

OCT. 19-20

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

Student Piano Recital. 4-6 p.m. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Franconia United Methodist Church Music Ministry presents a free Student Piano Recital. Contributions will go to the Professional Concert Series. Visit the website: <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

N Gauge Model Trains on Display. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Gauge (N-TRAK) 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. Military (active and retired) \$4. Seniors, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

Dranesville Celebrates Trees Event.

4-6 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Supervisor Jimmy Bierman and Dranesville residents for the first annual Dranesville Celebrates Trees event! Spend the day surrounded by nature to promote awareness and protection of the Dranesville District tree canopy. This free and open to the public event will feature a tree planting demonstration, habitat restoration tour, educational resources from local tree organizations, and more! This event is co-sponsored with the McLean Trees Foundation, the McLean Citizens Association Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee, Fairfax Tree Stewards, the Great Falls Citizen Association Environment & Parks Committee, and the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Chantilly High’s Haunted House. 1-5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Get ready for chills and thrills – Chantilly High’s 12th annual Haunted House will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1-5 p.m. (less scary) and 6-10 p.m. (for braver attendees). The fun also includes games, facepainting and refreshments for sale. Proceeds benefit the Chargers’ field hockey, girls’ soccer and girls’ lacrosse programs. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance at www.CHSHauntedHouse.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Police Department, 215 Center Street, South, Vienna. In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes. The Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications.



“The Remember Balloons” can be seen on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 at the McLean Community Center.

Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Halloween at The Perch. 12-6 p.m. At Capital One Center, 1805 Capital One Drive, 11th Floor, Tysons. Join in the ultimate Halloween costume party, featuring spooky golf, pumpkin and face painting, seasonal beverages, pumpkin pie eating contests, and more. There is a Biergarten and pumpkin pie eating contests. Kids Costume Contest: 1 p.m.; Adult Costume Contest: 2 p.m.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Festival of Frights & Trunk or Treat.

5-8 p.m. Calling all families of ghouls and goblins! Come join the Old Firehouse in your best Halloween costumes for a night of live music, games, food, contests and tons of candy! Families who wish to volunteer themselves and their vehicles for Trunk or Treat, please submit an email request to oldfirehouse@mcleancenter.org. Volunteer hours are 4-8:30 p.m. Each vehicle will receive candy to distribute to the trunk or treaters. Volunteer spots are limited.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Halloween Carnival. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come and Trick or Treat with the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Each child will receive a goodie bag (while supplies last) and 6 tickets for games. Weather permitting, there may be outside events; if not, all games will be inside. Each game requires 1 ticket to play. Prizes for each game will consist of candy. There will be entry forms for the items on the prize table. You need not be present to win. You will be called or emailed if you have won any of the wonderful gift baskets. Additional

game tickets can be purchased at \$1 for 5 tickets. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Military (active and retired) \$4. Seniors, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 30

“Sugar Skull! A Dia de Muertos Musical Adventure.” 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This bilingual/bicultural musical uses traditional music and dance from Mexico to tell the story of 12-year-old Vita Flores, who thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey that unravels the true meaning of Día de Muertos.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

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

Walker Road Bridge Replacement Coming

Safety concerns on the bridge approaches and road speed?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association has raised concerns about the findings of a road safety audit conducted by Kimley-Horn, an engineering, planning, and design consultant retained by VDOT for \$95,000. The safety audit is related to the VDOT Walker Road Bridge Replacement Project, which has a construction start date of early 2025.

At the Sept. 26 virtual community engagement meeting concerning the Walker Road Safety Assessment Study, GFCFA board officer Jennifer Falcone said, “Kimley-Horn is acknowledging the findings of the GFCFA that it is the lack of traffic calming and safety countermeasures on the approaches to this bridge that makes the bridge design unsafe ... VDOT should not wait and be reactive.”

According to John Halacy, president of the GFCFA, and Falcone, the roadway needs modifications, including to the sharp curve on the southbound approach to the existing bridge, which the GFCFA has designated as the “zone of conflict.” This is where northbound and southbound vehicles are likely to collide, and numerous accidents have occurred, they say. Safety measures, particularly speed-related ones, are also needed. Halacy says this in his Sept. 26 message to membership sent early in the afternoon, the day after VDOT held its second virtual community engagement meeting.

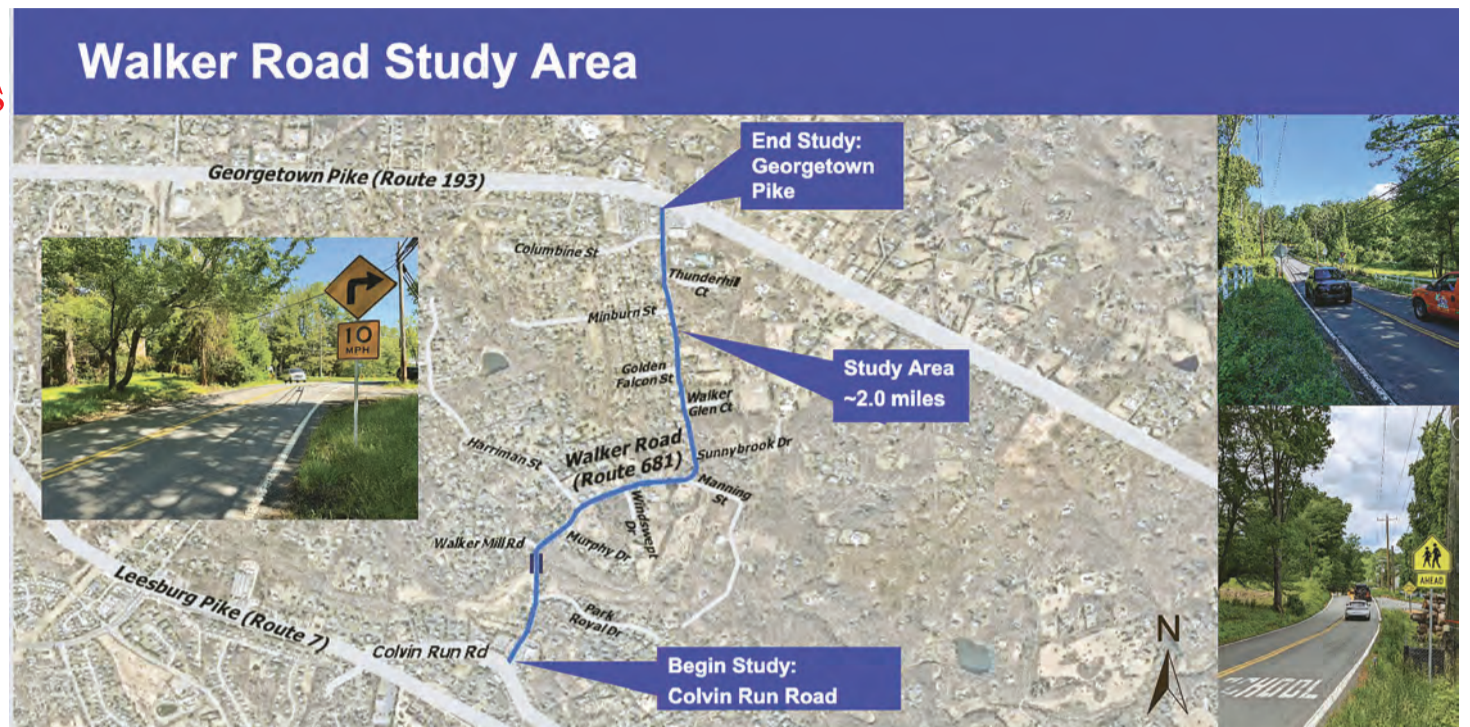
The road safety audit was initiated in September of 2023 after GFCFA contacted then-Supervisor John Foust, VDOT officials, and Virginia State Senators Jennifer Boysko and Barbara Favola with concerns about the risks associated with the probable increased speeds on Walker Road.

In his news update, Halacy explains that Sen. Boysko and Del. Rip Sullivan ultimately sent a letter to Governor Youngkin in September 2023, indicating that GFCFA had identified a “potentially dangerous situation.” Halacy reports that Boysko and Sullivan requested an immediate road safety audit and implementing immediate safety measures, such as flashing caution lights on each side of the bridge.

The letter copied Secretary of Transportation “Shep” Miller and then-candidate James N. “Jimmy” Bierman Jr., running to represent the Dranesville District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors as Foust was retiring.

Since the release of Halacy’s update, VDOT has yet to implement the safety measures requested.

During the Sept. 26 meeting, Falcone said that VDOT should proactively incorporate roadway modifications on both approaches in the pre-construction design. “We cannot afford to have a tragedy occur, or additional



Study area



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Walker Road Bridge is a forced-yield, single-lane bridge in Great Falls.

tragedies occur on either side of this bridge,” Falcone said.

In his update the next day, Halacy said, “Neither VDOT nor Kimley-Horn have offered any explanation over our concern that wider roads promote faster vehicle speeds, as research by the Federal Highway Administration indicates.”

Halacy says in his message to the membership that, “Nothing to affect safety, as requested by our state officials, has been implemented to address the safety issues — nothing to warn drivers approaching the blind hill before the bridge, and nothing to warn drivers of the possibility of stopped vehicles ahead, nothing to attempt to reduce the speeds and influence driver behavior on Walker Road that have contributed to the accidents that we analyzed. Even the pavement markings indicating where approaching vehicles must stop to yield the right of way have been allowed to fade away by VDOT. This is totally unsatisfactory. We ex-



VDOT

Heading toward Walker Road Bridge

pect more for the safety of the community,” wrote Halacy.

Supervisor James Bierman answers The Connection’s questions.

Q. What safety measures have been implemented?

A. Supervisor Bierman: VDOT is in a better position to respond to this question.

Q. Is VDOT’s design of the curves flawed? What actions do you recommend?

A. Supervisor Bierman: At the Sept. 25 meeting, the outside consultant reported on the independent safety assessment’s findings about the safety of the corridor and possible countermeasures that VDOT could implement. The report is not yet finalized. I look forward to seeing the final written report and expect that VDOT will promptly implement robust countermeasures to address the safety issues in this corridor. I will continue to press VDOT to make sure that the safety issues in the corridor are properly addressed in a timely manner.

Q. Any additional comments?

A. Supervisor Bierman: The presentation made unequivocally clear that this is a

comprehensive study that has taken quite seriously the concerns of the community. As repeatedly articulated at Wednesday’s meeting by the independent safety engineer, the presence of an atypical one-lane bridge in the corridor presents its own unique safety concerns, such as rear-end crashes and a lower ability to “bail out” in the event of driver error. Despite the mischaracterization by some in the meeting, the independent assessor explained several times on Wednesday’s call the basis of her belief that a two-lane bridge would reduce the likelihood of the type of crashes that have happened near the bridge but would not meaningfully impact speed in the corridor, and I expect this to be further discussed in the final report. We also learned that the raised nature of the current new design of the bridge would likely mitigate the impacts of the hill to the south of the bridge. VDOT listened to the community and requested more information and independent data, and now we have it. I wholeheartedly endorse the implementation of additional meaningful measures to address safety issues in the corridor.

Representatives of VDOT did not immediately respond to The Connection’s questions.

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Legals

Legals

Employment

Public Notification

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION

Pursuant to the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Regulations, Virginia Administrative Code section 9VAC20-160-120, RWS Realty, LLC (the Owner at 10000 Falls Road, Suite 200, Potomac, MD 20854) hereby provides notice of voluntary remediation at the following site:

Tyson's Verizon Wireless
2059 Chain Bridge Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182
VRP Number VRP01081

The site comprises approximately 0.46 acres and is currently occupied by Commercial tenant spaces. Site investigation studies indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds in groundwater and sub-slab vapor from a past dry-cleaning solvent release that occurred offsite. The Participant applied to and was deemed eligible to participate in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) in order to assess and address any environmental risks associated with the detected dry-cleaning solvent constituents. A Site Characterization Report and Risk Assessment have been submitted, reviewed, and accepted as complete by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The risk assessment includes an assessment of the risks to human health and the environment that were evaluated in accordance with DEQ guidelines. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation will be requested from the DEQ VRP for VRP Site 01081 after the close of the public notice period. The deed restrictions and the installation of the vapor mitigation system (VMS) at the site will be documented and summarized in the combined Remedial Action Plan and Demonstration of Completion report.

To protect human health and the environment, the Certificate will include the following deed restrictions 1) Groundwater beneath the site will not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring and testing, dewatering in compliance with law, or geothermal energy production; 2) If the site is redeveloped for residential use, two feet of clean soil will be required to be placed in areas not covered by hardscape; 3) If construction activities are conducted at the site, the preparation of a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) will be required to protect construction workers who may come into contact with contaminated groundwater; 4) The existing VMS at the site will be operated and maintained in accordance with an operation and maintenance plan; 5) Any future structures on the site will require the installation of a VMS.

Anyone requesting further information or proposing any comments may call or write to ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC., Attn: Josh Cinnamon, G.I.T. Tel: 571-449-0471. Email: jcinnamon@ecslimited.com. Written comments will be received for 30 days following publication of this public notice.

Daon seeks a Technical Consultant in Fairfax, VA to conduct solutions workshops with customers and partners. Apply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref#42979

Employment

Software Developer – Develop/create/modify comp apps & dev/design software solutions per user needs/use to optimize operational efficiency. Req'd Bachelor of Comp Sci or CIS (or func equivalent) + 2yrs exp w/ knowledge/use of 6 of the following: HTML, CSS, PHP, Java, Dreamweaver, PostgreSQL, Angular JS, JSON, Restful, Spring, SOAP and AJAX. Resume to The Care Zoom, 7011 Calamo St, Ste 201, Springfield, VA 22150.

Legals

City of Fairfax

Urgent Election Notice
The registration deadline to vote in the November 5, 2024 General and Special Elections is Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at <https://elections.virginia.gov>. Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10455 Armstrong Street, Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 703-385-7890.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Chantilly Auto Care Center, LLC trading as Westfields Sunoco, 5000 Weststone Plaza, Chantilly, Virginia 20151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application – Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeff Bucaro, Managing Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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Three Appointed to RCC Board

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, at the request of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appointed three Reston residents to the nine-member Reston Community Center (RCC) Board of Governors: William G. Bouie, Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt and Malka Wickramatilake were the highest vote getters in the recently completed RCC Preference Poll. All three candidates were appointed for three-year terms. Bouie and Sechrest-Ehrhardt were incumbents. Wickramatilake is new to the RCC Board. Mahnaz Weldy, who placed fourth in the voting, also participated in the 2024 Preference Poll as a new candidate.

The three-year terms for Bouie, Sechrest-Ehrhardt and Wickramatilake will begin on November 4, 2024. The 2024 RCC Preference Poll, in which residents and businesses located in Small District 5 may vote, ran from Sept. 6 to Sept. 27, 2024. The re-

sults for the four candidates are as follows:

Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt	1,387
William G. Bouie	1,359
Malka Wickramatilake	1,126
Mahnaz Weldy	913

Malka Wickramatilake has been a resident of Reston since 1988 and serves as a Fairfax County Public School mentor and on the Lockwood Animal Rescue Center board. In her volunteer roles, she uses her organizing and communications expertise to bring people together for projects globally and locally. She looks forward to serving RCC similarly.

William G. Bouie has served on the RCC Board of Governors since 2003. He is also chairman emeritus of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. Mr. Bouie is a telecommunications executive who is a passionate advocate for Reston and Fairfax County sports and recreation opportunities. He has

also served on the boards of the Wolf Trap Foundation, Public Art Reston, Fairfax County YMCA/Reston and Reston Youth Baseball.

Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt is a 46-year resident of Reston and an RCC Board of Governors member since 2012. As a social worker, she is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and she seeks to use her professional and personal experiences to contribute to the social, cultural and educational environments provided by RCC and to assure that RCC offerings are available to everyone.

About Reston Community Center

Reston Community Center provides a wide range of programs in aquatics, arts, enrichment and lifelong learning for all ages. RCC creates and sustains community traditions through special events, outreach activities and facility rentals enjoyed by all of Reston. In 2024, RCC celebrates 45 years of enriching lives and building community.

Having My Cake and Eating It, Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You regular readers might remember a two-part column I published a year or so ago concerning a specific dessert: "Entenmann's Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake" that I love but am rarely able to find it in any of my local supermarkets (and/or per the Entenmann's site, which enables you to locate a selected item within a designated number of miles: "10, 25, 50," et. cetera). This difficulty has forced me to make arrangements elsewhere. (The two columns detailed my purchase in Phoenixville, Pa. of said item while visiting friends.)

Fast forward to a few weeks ago. I'm shopping at my local Safeway looking for some sale items. However, regardless of my main point in shopping there, I always swing by the Entenmann's display to see what's new and if by some miracle, anything interesting has appeared. Rarely, per this column, has anything interesting appeared. But, as a lifelong member of Red Sox Nation, I know about hope springing eternal or for you non-members: even a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while.

As I approached the Entenmann's display, I could see what looked like, my "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake". At first reaction, I couldn't believe my eyes. Why now, all of a sudden, is this cake on the shelf? To be certain, I picked it up, confirmed its identity, checked its sell-buy date and examined the box as thoroughly as I've examined anything. I couldn't find any reason not to buy/believe what I was seeing so I grabbed two boxes and soon was out of the store giddy with enthusiasm. Once home, I placed both boxes in the freezer and waited to surprise my wife, Dina. (Not that she's the cake fiend that I am, but I figured she'd be happy for me, knowing my eating requirements as well as she does).

Since my arrival home sort of coincided with dinner, I decided to get through the main course as quickly as possible and then dessert to my heart's content. However, knowing Dina as I do, the idea of skipping dinner to go right to dessert wouldn't have flown. It would have barely walked, so I ate my dinner with as much fake gusto I could muster. As soon as it was prudent/safe (if you know what I mean?), I asked Dina if she was ready for dessert. She replied in the affirmative - like she was doing me a favor. Doing me a favor? This cake is royalty in the dessert world. It deserves respect and appreciation. A cake of this substance and taste doesn't exactly grow on trees. Heck, it rarely appears in stores - that I ever know about anyway. And yet, here it is. And there it goes. Cake number one was gone in a day, cake number two soon followed.

Something unexpected has happened at this Safeway. When I return, naturally I likewise return to the Entenmann's display looking for my cake. And more often than not, the cake is placed in its familiar spot. And as often as you can guess, I am indulging my sweet teeth and buying the cake. I've purchased more than a few of these cakes over the past four weeks, making up for lost time you might say, and have thoroughly enjoyed myself. Even Dina has admitted that this cake is pretty good (stop the presses).

I think that I've now purchased enough of these cakes that, (and I've never worked in a store with inventory, so I don't know how things get re-ordered, but I'm starting to wonder), I think my purchases are registering. I say this because every time I return to the store now, there sits my cake in the Entenmann's display, as if it's just another dessert item. Does the reordering algorithm include feedback from the store manager/department heads. Do they just reorder products that have been purchased previously? Or is it handled by the regional people? Conversely, if the item isn't bought, will it stop being reordered?

I don't know what to do. I'm afraid, if I believe any of the last paragraph, that if I stop buying the cake, it will stop being ordered and will disappear from the Entenmann's display. I still love the cake but I'm feeling some pressure. I think I may have become my own worst enemy. I never thought I'd feel or say this, but I might need a break. But then what?

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

Arrest in Worldgate Shooting

Mohamed Abdalla, 25, of Herndon, Va. was arrested without incident Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, in the 1000-blk of Kings Court and charged with four felonies stemming from a shooting in the Worldgate Shopping Center the previous night. Abdalla is at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, charged with malicious wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and two counts of abduction.

An officer was on patrol in the area of Worldgate Drive and Elden Street around 7:40 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, when he heard what he believed to be gunshots coming from the Worldgate Shopping Center. As he approached the shopping center, he observed a vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed. A vehicle pursuit was authorized, and the officer followed the vehicle on to the Dulles Toll Road. While in pursuit, the officer lost sight of the vehicle, and the pursuit was terminated.

Meanwhile, a 911 call came in about a victim with multiple gun-

shot wounds in the shopping center parking lot. Officers arrived on scene and rendered lifesaving aid until rescue arrived. At the time of this release, the victim is in stable condition.

Shortly after these events unfolded, a witness returned to the scene to provide information and identify the suspect. After interviewing her, it was established that she and a juvenile were in the vehicle that left the scene, and they were able to safely escape. The vehicle was recovered in Reston later Sunday night.

With the suspect identified, detectives, patrol officers, and the Fairfax County Police Department's Fugitive Task Force worked through the day on Monday to track the suspect throughout Herndon. Once his location was established, FCPD's SWAT unit was called in to safely make the apprehension.

The suspect and the victim were known to each other. No further details will be released at this time, due to the ongoing investigation.

Car Seat Inspections on Oct. 10

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected on Thursday, Oct. 10, 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 themselves, 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 Oct. 24, at the same place and time.

Sully Police Glove Collection for Local Children

Officers at the Sully District Police Station are collecting warm gloves for children in need at local elementary students in the district. It's their third annual Warm Hearts, Warm Hands Lil' Hands Glove Drive, and they're seeking the community's help. Needed are brand-new gloves for children ages 5-12.

The collection runs until Friday, Oct. 18, and donations may either be mailed to Sully District Police Station, c/o MPO Meg Hawkins, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, VA 20151, or brought in person to the station. "Look for the big, black collection bin in the lobby," said Hawkins. "It's clearly labeled and always open, just like your heart when you're helping out."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Would you like to help a neighbor feel less lonely? Will you help someone get much-needed groceries? Form new connections and make a meaningful

difference. Older adults in the Annandale, Falls Church, and Alexandria regions are waiting for volunteer social visitors and grocery shoppers. If you can give the gift of your time, consider providing invaluable support to someone in your community. Learn more about Volunteer Solutions at bit.ly/FXVSVOL or email VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov or call 703-324-5406.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Transportation Breakfast and Seminar. 7:30 to 10 a.m. At Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Dr, Falls Church. The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance will hold its 20th Annual What You Need to Know about Transportation breakfast and seminar. They are hosting Will Pines, Maryland Department of Transportation SHA Administrator and Stephen Brich, Virginia Department of

Transportation Commissioner as keynote speakers. There is an all-star panel of speakers including Matt de Ferranti, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Chair, and DJ Stadler, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority CEO. What You Need to Know is the primary transportation event in the Region and the fastest download of essential information you need to make key decisions about the future of your business in the DC area.



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