

CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station ♦ Lorton ♦ Clifton

The Mbithi siblings Cassandra, 12, and Ife, 9, pose with Sparky the Fire Dog outside Fire Station 3 at the 48th annual Fairfax Fall Festival, Saturday, Oct. 12.



ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Reining in Rental Fees

PAGE 3

Women Make It All Work

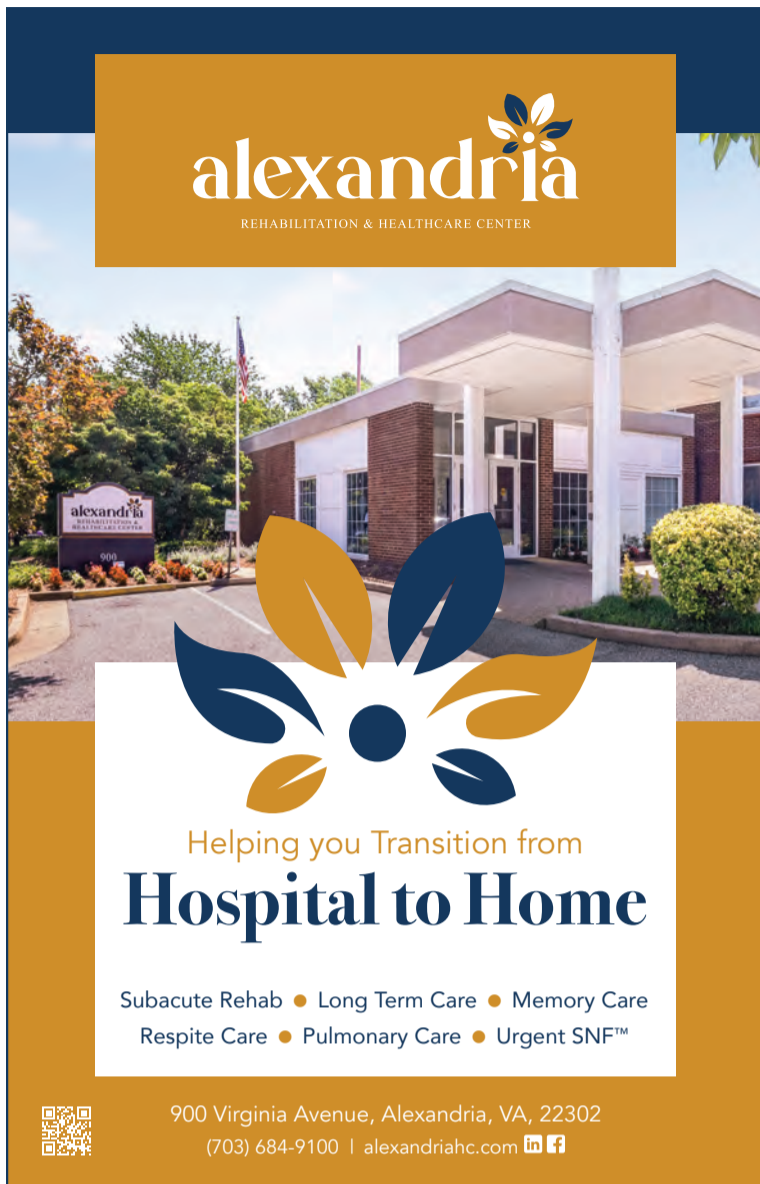
PAGE 4

Fairfax Elite Search & Rescue Team Still at Work

PAGE 8

Sunshine,
Smiles
And Fun

PAGE 10



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BULLETIN

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Native Tree Giveaway. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Town of Vienna's Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) will hold its fourth annual Native Tree Giveaway outside the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Commission volunteers will give away 100 bare-root seedlings in four species that are all native and well-adapted to the region - 25 each of Allegheny Serviceberry, Black Gum, Red Oak, and Redbud. Planting instructions will be provided. The seedlings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to two seedlings per person. Attendees are encouraged to come early for the best selection. Visit www.viennava.gov/csc.

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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently

facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

MODEL APARTMENT SHOWINGS NOW AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Brightview has been making life extra bright for East Coast seniors and their families for 25 years. Join us for a Get To Know Brightview event and discover how we can make life brighter for you, too, when we open in spring 2025.

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**AWARD-WINNING
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IS COMING TO ALEXANDRIA**

Junk Fee Warning: Rent at Your Own Risk

Are the 2024 Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act updates on your lease?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Virginia 8th District
Representative: Don Beyer

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HOUSING PROFILE



In Virginia, tenants, prospective tenants and landlords should know that the 2024 General Assembly introduced several bills to amend the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (VRLTA). The following story is the first in a series addressing tenant-related bills in Virginia that were enacted on July 1, 2024. The story looks at HB 967, introduced by Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-Arlington), which sets specific requirements for landlords to disclose fees. Its identical companion bill is SB 405, introduced by Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Herndon). The deficit of affordable and available rental units for severely burdened households, especially those at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) in Virginia's Congressional Districts, the 8th, 10th, and 11th, which include all or parts of Fairfax County, Arlington County and Alexandria, cannot be understated as households compete to secure rental units.

Nearly three months after HB 967 and SB 405 became law on July 1, 2024, approximately 40 Latinx residents, most non-English-speaking, gathered outdoors after staff at the property management office of their 100-unit-plus rental complex in Fairfax County had left for the day on the evening of Sept. 20. The residents had united to tackle shared issues. They waited for leaders of the New Virginia Majority to start the 7 p.m. meeting near the apartment community's playground. Tenants had been surprised by the additional fees added, some for multiple years, to their residential statements. The fees increased their monthly housing statements beyond the agreed rent, straining and burdening their budgets.

The Richmond-based nonprofit alliance/advocacy organization New Virginia Majority led the meeting and provided a Spanish-to-English translator. Local elected officials and others gathered to hear the residents' concerns and possibly provide support for a positive change.

The residents reported that despite their attempts to seek remediation by speaking with property management staff, they frequently found them unavailable to answer questions about added fees, costs and other concerns. Additionally, language barriers, the lack of Spanish-speaking staff and their leases in English exacerbated the tenants' frustrations and left their concerns, especially the numerous fees, including some fees penciled by onto their statements, unresolved.

Some fees are added for method of payment, \$3 for an echeck; \$61 for VISA; 3 percent of total rent for other credit cards.

"To secure and maintain rental housing, renters today typically face a dizzying array of unavoidable fees," the National Consumer Law Center said in "Too Damn High," (March 2023). "These junk fees render safe

| DISTRICT-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
| Income at or below 30% of AMI | 29,477 | 23,232 | 79% | 21 | -23,300 |
| Income between 31% and 50% of AMI | 18,824 | 6,524 | 35% | 32 | -32,670 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 16,058 | 1,506 | 9% | 72 | -18,134 |
| All Renter Households | 152,623 | 31,912 | 21% | | |

Income at or below 30% of AMI
Income at or below 50% of AMI
Income at or below 80% of AMI

Renters make up 48% of all households in the District

Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data

| STATE-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
| Income at or below 30%** of AMI | 263,914 | 201,352 | 76% | 30 | -183,843 |
| Income between 31%** and 50% of AMI | 165,544 | 56,072 | 34% | 54 | -197,937 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 238,413 | 13,156 | 6% | 95 | -30,845 |
| All Renter Households | 1,097,577 | 273,996 | 25% | | |

Income at or below 30%** of AMI
Income at or below 50% of AMI
Income at or below 80% of AMI

Renters make up 32% of all households in the state

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

| REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY STATISTICS | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Counties in Districts | Total Renter Households | AMI | 30% of AMI | Rent Affordable at 30% of AMI | One Bdrm Fair Market Rent | One Bdrm Housing Wage | Two Bdrm Fair Market Rent | Two Bdrm Housing Wage | Hours at Minimum Wage for Two Bdrm | Avg Renter Wage |
| Washington-Arlington-Alexandria HMFA | 352,553 | \$154,700 | \$46,410 | \$1,160 | \$1,803 | \$34.67 | \$2,045 | \$39.33 | 131 | \$29.95 |

SCREENSHOT NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Housing Profile, Virginia 8th District, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer.



Isamar Ortega, lead advocate New Virginia Majority.



Marcia L. Fudge, Secretary of HUD (March 2021-March 2024).



Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-Arlington).



Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Herndon).



Adam Rust, Consumer Federation of America.

newed before it expires, new account fees, and more. Other fees include security deposit, pet fees, pet rent, pet move-out fees for deodorizing and shampooing, trash fees, pest control fees, cleaning fees, late fees, attorney fees, court costs, and more.

On May 9, 2024, Adam Rust of the Consumer Federation of America testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, stating that junk fees also "include fees at inflated prices, fees for services that a property manager should provide to provide a habitable space, and fees for services of little or no value."

At the Sept. 20 meeting, the rental residents shared their experiences of unexpected fees on their billing statements through the interpreters. Their fees included the so-called junk fees, which raise the price of their previously agreed-upon monthly charges. One resident's total fees accumulated over \$8,000, and another over \$3,000. One resident recounted the accumulation of late fees, which she refused to pay, and her unsuccessful attempts to discuss concerns with management. It led to an eviction process in Fairfax County District Court. Other speakers told similar stories.

On Jan. 10, 2024, Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-Arlington) introduced the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, also known as the fee disclosure statement HB 967. Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Herndon) introduced SB 405, identical to HB 967, at the same time. The bills became effective on July 1, 2024, two and a half months before the Sept. 20

SEE RENT AT, PAGE 13

| Resident Statement | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Date | Type | Description | Charges | Payments/Credits | Balance |
| 8/6/2024 | Late Fee | RM LATE FEE | 181.00 | 0.00 | 3069.95 |
| 8/3/2024 | Cash | Cash Receipt | 0.00 | 1895.00 | 2888.95 |
| 8/1/2024 | Forced Placement Admin F | August Charge | 10.25 | 0.00 | 4783.95 |
| 8/1/2024 | Forced Placement Insur | August Charge | 10.75 | 0.00 | 4773.70 |
| 8/1/2024 | Rent - Residential | August Charge | 1810.00 | 0.00 | 4762.95 |
| 8/1/2024 | Trash Fees | August Charge | 15.00 | 0.00 | 2952.95 |

Junk fees accumulate on a Fairfax County resident's Rental Resident Statement, 8/6/2024: Late fee \$181, Forced Placement Administrative Fee \$10.25, Forced Placement Insurance, \$10.75, Trash Fee \$15, total of \$275 added to the monthly rent. The contract balance in fees from 10/6/2023 to 8/6/2024 adds up to \$3069.95.

and decent rental housing even more out of reach because renters must pay them on top of sky-high rents."

Junk fees can include excessive late fees, utilities-related fees, administrative processing fees, insurance fees, check cashing fees, high-risk fees, month-to-month fees in addition to market rent if the lease is not re-

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

‘What Women Do Is Figure Out How to Make It All Work’

Advice for success given at Economic Empowerment Luncheon.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

More than 120 people attended the Sept. 25 Women’s Economic Empowerment Luncheon at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax. And besides enjoying a tasty meal provided by Songbird Asian Café & Bar, a woman-owned business in the City, they received valuable advice from fellow female business owners.

Hosting were the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority (EDA), the City of Fairfax Commission for Women, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (CFCC) and the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read was asked to share her own business story and, at the outset, she did.

Having knowledge about marketing, technology and social media, she opened two small businesses and, in 2007, began a social-media consulting company. And when she needed to leave the office world, she still persevered.

“When I left, it was because my mother had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer,” explained Read. “And I had the flexibility to run my own business and spend the remainder of my mother’s life with her. And looking out at the women here, I know there are similar stories about raising children, taking care of elderly parents or those seriously or terminally ill. This is what we do as women – we figure out how to make it all work.”

Read then moderated a panel discussion featuring the owners of, respectively, Down The Line Sports Center (Fairfax City’s first indoor pickleball facility), Jenni Bae; Flex Professionals (an employee-recruiting and flexible-staffing agency), Jamie Hirschfeld; and Brooke’s Bridal & Ball, plus Brooke’s Bridal & Beyond (selling wedding dresses and evening gowns), mother and daughter, Nanci and Brooke Ramos. Below is a portion of it:

❖ **What are the everyday challenges you face, and how do you overcome them to keep moving forward?**

Hirschfeld: “About 90 percent of our job candidates are women, so our challenge is getting [employers] to understand the value of flexibility and how they can embrace that. And now that

more companies are bringing back people to the office, it’s a challenge for us.”

Nanci Ramos: “Our largest challenge is staffing. We have lots of student [employees], but then they all go back to school. It takes at least two months to train a bridal stylist; it’s not just a sales job. So we try to find young girls that want to make bridal a career. But we now have three girls who are in training for that.”

Bae: “Staffing is definitely an issue, especially part-time staff who want to be there and are competent to do the job. It’s a hard combo to find, [as well as] people to take over the smaller tasks that I could delegate.

“When I work with men – vendors, sports companies, athletes – one of my struggles is how to communicate with them in a way that maintains my dignity. The tone they take with you some-



From left are Mayor Catherine Read and panelists Jenni Bae, Brooke and Nanci Ramos, and Jamie Hirschfeld.

SEE EMPOWERMENT, PAGE 5



From left are EDA Commissioner Beth Young; Mayor Catherine Read; CFCC Executive Director Jennifer Rose; FCED Tourism Manager Michelle Smith; business owners/grant recipients Stephanie Dallojacono, Smiley Skin Beauty; Julia Hughes, BE2 Pilates; Mi-Kyong Kwon, HopeSpring Child & Family Clinic; Monisha Mittal, Mittal Accelerated Communications; Eurona E. Tilley, Epiphany Pilates; and Alison Friedman, Liberty Baking Co.; and FCED Programs Manager Tara Borwey.



Kellie Peterson of Virginia APEX, which provides free counseling and training for small businesses wanting to work with the government.



From left are vendors Kathryn Walker of the Women's Business Center of Northern Virginia and Rebecca Moudry of Fairfax CORE.

Economic Empowerment Luncheon

FROM PAGE 4

times is appalling. I have to be receptive but also let them know where I stand.”

❖ **What shifts and business challenges have you faced in recent years, and how have you successfully adapted to continue growing?**

Brooke Ramos: “It took two years to create our business plan. I’ve been in the bridal industry about 12 years, so putting myself out there and making myself known was a little struggle, but also a great accomplishment.”

Bae: Pickleball is a brand-new thing, so there was never a game plan for everyone

to follow. It’s really figuring it out as you go, so I thought about what I’d want as a consumer. I don’t like to model my business after everyone else’s. I’m constantly looking for ways to offer something different that no one else is doing. Fairfax City gave me this opportunity, and I could be as creative as I wanted.”

Hirschfeld: “During COVID, we only did part-time placement, never full-time, so we added that to our repertoire because people were looking for full-time work. But they wanted it to be flexible, whether it be employee remote or hybrid. Also,

SEE EMPOWERMENT, PAGE 6

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Advice For Success Given at Economic Empowerment Luncheon

FROM PAGE 5

we used to interview people face-to-face but now we're doing lots of Zoom interviews."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER JESSICA MCCARTHY, president and co-owner of Joy Riot, spoke about amplifying marketing. "We're an integrated marketing agency that creates emotional connections between brands and audiences," she said. "We do that through branding, websites and marketing."

When she was in fifth grade, she said, her mom took her to a place to paint something decorative. She loved it, but her mom couldn't take her every week. "So I gave the owner a business proposition," said McCarthy. "I said, 'More people need to know about your business, so I'll make flyers and posters in exchange for painting privileges.'" She did all that, plus invoicing and record-keeping, enroute to a marketing career.

"Branding lays the foundation," she said. "You have one chance to make a good, first impression. Logos cause your customers to make judgments about the brands they represent. But branding is about much more – it's your look, feel and voice. It's how you answer that email and how your staff interacts with customers."

"Ask yourself what you are and what your business does. How do you want it to be perceived? What are you trying to get across, and what's your brand's personality – the friend to grab a beer with or the wise aunt you go to when you're in trouble?"

"What problem are you solving for your audience? Are you giving them relief? What do you want them to feel? And finally, why do you do what you do? Because you're good at it? You like some aspects of it? Or because you've figured out some secret sauce to do something? For me, I have a passion for connecting people, networking, and connecting brands to their audiences and problems to their solutions."

McCarthy said the next piece is "telling

your story. People focus too much on the rational benefits, but anyone else could say, 'I do it better.' So it's about creating a personal connection so people will say, 'Yeah, but I really like them because of x, y and z.' So how do we create that emotional connection?"

"Think about what's at the core of your brand and the heart of your audience and find the overlap. On the brand side, it's also about why you



Dawn McGruder represents the National Assn. of Women Business Owners.



Representing the GMU Costello College of Business's Women in Business Initiative are (from left) Katie Parkes Greene and Kerry Willigan.



From left are Catherine Read and keynote speaker Jessica McCarthy.

do it. Why did you start this venture, why do you come to work every day and why do you stay in it? On the audience side, it's not just knowing your demographic, but what's going on in their daily lives that makes them think about what you have to offer. Where they overlap is where you find the emotional connection."

"Even if you're working with the government, you need to remember there's a human being on the other side of that transaction," continued McCarthy. "What are you doing for that person that'll make their life better?"

"You also need to create awareness of and trust in your brand. Make people remember it but do quality social-media posts over quantity. Paid social media

helps expand your audience, and digital social media has unparalleled targeting capabilities. Tell your story everywhere you get the opportunity."

Following her speech, female business owners in the City networked with people offering business-support services and with other women business owners. But first came a special grant presentation. In August, the City announced it was accepting applications for five Women's Entrepreneur grants totaling \$25,000 to help women-owned businesses in Fairfax City.

The funds will enable the awardees to procure consulting and other services to enhance their business capabilities. However, at the luncheon, Tara Borwey

with Fairfax City Economic Development (FCED) said six businesses would receive grants.

Since some grant requests came in under \$5,000 and luncheon tickets sold out, the total amount granted was increased to \$27,859. "We had so many good applicants, we added one more grant," said Borwey. "And the proceeds from this luncheon helped fund it."

The recipients were: Stephanie Dallojacono, Smiley Skin Beauty; Julia Hughes, BE2 Pilates; Mi-Kyong Kwon, HopeSpring Child & Family Clinic; Monisha Mittal, Mittal Accelerated Communications; Erona E. Tilley, Epiphany Pilates; and Alison Friedman, Liberty Baking Co.



SCREENSHOT GOOGLE MAPS

Pedestrian dies of crash injuries sustained nearly three weeks ago.

Seven Corners Pedestrian Dies Weeks after Crash

Marks 17th pedestrian fatality, year to date in Fairfax County.

Sunday, Oct. 13, marked the 17th pedestrian fatality in Fairfax County in 2024. It also marked the sixth fatal pedestrian crash within a two-week window of time in September. Fairfax County police officers responded to the intersection of Patrick Henry Drive and Arlington Boulevard in Seven Corners for a crash involving a pedestrian.

Preliminarily, Fairfax County Police Crash Reconstruction Unit determined that about 8 p.m. on Sept. 24, Glen Simmons, 57, walked into the southbound lanes of Patrick Henry Drive, not in a crosswalk. The driver of a Kia Forte traveling southbound on Patrick Henry Drive struck and injured Simmons.

Simmons was transported to the hospital in what appeared to be non-life-threatening condition. On Oct. 13, he died from injuries sustained from the crash.

Alcohol and speed do not appear to be factors for the driver, but they are under investigation for the pedestrian. The circumstances surrounding the crash are still being investigated.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone with information about this case. Call the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers at 866-411-8477.

— MERCIA HOBSON

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

| Jurisdiction | File #/Struc ID | Route # | Traffic Name | Crossing | Posted Date |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| GRAYSON | 8756 | 58 | HIGHLANDS PKY | HELTON CREEK | 9/17/2024 |
| DINWIDDIE | 6066 | 642 | CONTINENTAL ROAD | BUTTERWOOD CREEK | 9/17/2024 |
| PATRICK | 13365 | 687 | MICROFILM ROAD/ ROUTE 687 | BLACKBERRY CREEK | 9/11/2024 |
| POWHATAN | 13836 | 603 | PETERSBURG ROAD | BUTTERWOOD CREEK | 9/10/2024 |

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

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

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov or the Load Rating Program Manager, Manjil Devkota 804-786-4064.

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

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The Fairfax County team gathers for a huddle.



Flood waters caused this house to collapse.

Fairfax County Urban Rescue Team Continued to Battle Flood Damage

Team shrinks since initial deployment but rebuilding tasks continue.

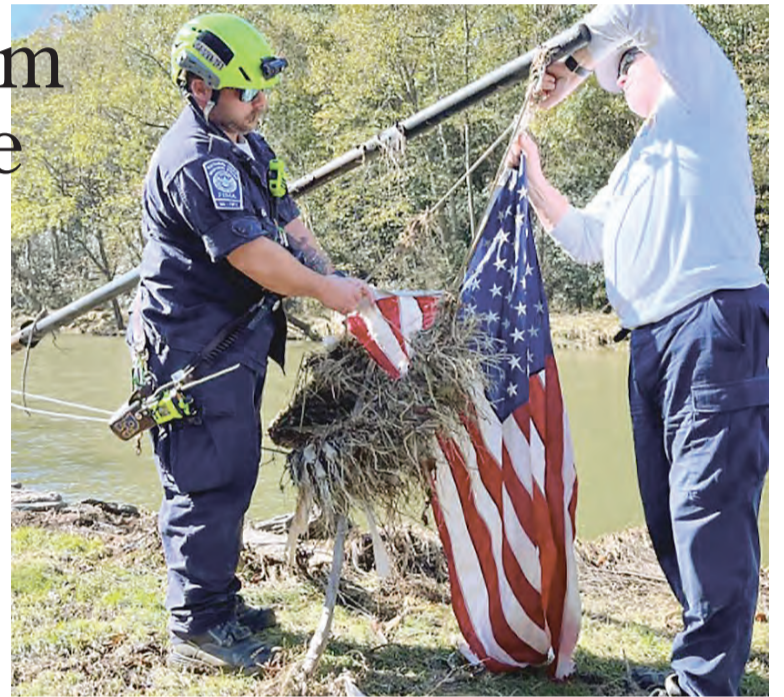
BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On the weather map, Hurricane Milton headed out to sea followed by sunny weather on the horizon for mid-October but it wasn't without much damage in Florida and North Carolina where the effects of Hurricane Helene were still being mopped up by members of Fairfax County's Search and Rescue team "VA-TF1." VA-TF1 members continued to support rescue and relief efforts in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. The crews encountered widespread damage to infrastructure and buildings. "Our team has been working in areas around Asheville, where they continue to search the valleys and riverbanks," VA-TF1 said. The crews have encountered widespread damage to infrastructure and buildings.

In an effort which started out with 220 members from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue team is now down to 80 people left in North Carolina helping the rebuilding efforts. A three-week stretch during the hurricane season is not unusual, said John Morrison, spokesperson for the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue. "However long we're needed," he said, but added that some of the team out in the field have been swapped for new VA-TF1 replacements.

In the following days, the forecast for the hurricane changed but the flood danger did not, typical of the Florida area this time of year. "Following in the wake of Hurricane Milton, strong northeasterly flow aided by a high-pressure system over the southern Appalachians will provide the potential for continued coastal hazards as well as locally heavy rain along the Atlantic Coast of Florida," the NWS forecast read.

In mid-October, the National Weather Service hurricane map does show an unnamed disturbance coming across the Atlantic Ocean. It has "a medium chance for development in the next 7 days," NWS said.



When they find American flags, they follow traditional flag-handling protocol.



In conjunction with Massachusetts Task Force 1, VA-TF1 members continued their search and rescue efforts by performing water operations in the Asheville, NC area affected by Hurricane Helene.

Free Safe Rides for Would-be Drunk Drivers

Free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during Halloween celebration time, 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 and until 4 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) offers these rides as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2024 Halloween SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 on www.SoberRide.com.

Last October, a record 1,321 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Halloween SoberRide® program as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

WRAP also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area..

Sponsors of WRAP's 2024 Halloween SoberRide® campaign include 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2024 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Highway Safety Office, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 90,769 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

SCREENSHOTS FACEBOOK.COM



A birds-eye view of Clifton Day 2024

Clifton Day Festival 2024: Magical Moments

The family-friendly Clifton Day 2024, held on Sunday, Oct. 13, celebrated its 56th anniversary and the beauty and charm of the smallest town around, established in 1868. Folks enjoyed live entertainment, arts, crafts, food, and a beer and wine garden for the adults, while the children enjoyed pony rides.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Clifton Day Festival 2024, visitors enjoy the magic of a beautiful fall day at the festival with something for everyone. The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) stops in Clifton, Virginia for Clifton Day with a temporary platform set up.



Virginia Williams
High School Career Association, Inc.

Encourage
Educate
Empower

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM

9TH-12TH

A motivating and encouraging event for high school students to learn about various career options from a moderated panel of professionals.

Roshni D. Lal, PhD
Smithsonian Institute

Bob Sargent
Adult & Community Education (ACE)
Trades

Judnefera Rasayon
Trainer
Immigration Specialist

Jackie Townsend
NASA-Goddard

Dexavier Sturdevant
FBI

Lt. Col. Romeo White
U.S. Air Force

Courtney Queen, PhD
Supervisor-Immigration Officer

Christina Collins
FBI

Mark A. Cannady
Cybersecurity

SAT. OCT 26, 2024
 12NOON-2PM
 LORTON COMMUNITY CENTER
 9520 RICHMOND HWY, LORTON, VA 22079

Register at vwhsca.org or scan the QR code.
Register by Thurs. Oct 24

PLEASE JOIN US! Community Information Meeting

Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project – Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition Process

As part of the Transforming Rail in Virginia program, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA) is constructing two Franconia Area Projects: the Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project and the Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project.

The Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project will add six miles of railroad track and related infrastructure between Franconia and Lorton as well as replace the railroad bridge over Newington Road. The Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project is an approximately one-mile rail bridge that will allow passenger trains to cross over the freight trains just south of the Franconia-Springfield VRE Station. These projects will improve the efficiency and reliability of rail operations in Northern Virginia.

To advance these projects, VPRRA will need to acquire interests in land, or right-of-way (ROW), from private property owners. Most of the property interests required from private landowners will be temporary construction easements within areas directly abutting the rail corridor.

Please join members of the project team, including the acquisition representative, to learn more about the Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project and the ROW acquisition process. Note that the meeting on November 19, 2024 will focus on ROW acquisition for the Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project. A future meeting will be held to specifically discuss ROW acquisition for the Franconia to Lorton Third Track Project.

When: Tuesday, November 19, 2024
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Franconia Government Center, Community Room
6121 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

Can't Make the Meeting?

Learn more about the projects by visiting VPRRA's website:
<https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/i-95-corridor/>
For questions regarding the property acquisition process, please contact, carrilin@pendulumland.com.

Access and Non-Discrimination

VPRRA is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. VPRRA will provide reasonable accommodations and interpretive services for persons who require special assistance to participate in this public involvement opportunity as required by the ADA. For accommodations, additional information or to file a complaint, please contact our Title VI Compliance Officer at (804) 382-4886, 919 East Main Street, Suite 2400, Richmond, VA 23219.

Sunshine, Smiles, Crafters, Food, Music and Fun



Monica Montgomery of Flying Ninja Woodworks holds a handmade cheese cutter.

The 48th annual Fairfax Fall Festival was Saturday, Oct. 12.



From left, Olivia Bindewald and Sneha Mehta looking at bracelets at the Fairfax Funky Flea area.



The Mbithi siblings (from left) Kassandra, 12, and Ife, 9, pose with Sparky the Fire Dog outside Fire Station 3.



Artist Brianna Camp draws a chalk portrait that she designed.



Fairfax City's Ray Tolbert offers hand-drawn cards, paintings, stickers and illustrations.



Devon Mead of Tibet Sky Emporium holds a graduating, wool-and-felt mouse he created.



Main Street view: Some 27,000 people converged on Old Town Fairfax.



The Main Street Community Band performing at Old Town Square.



GMU grad Vinh Bui made this ceremonial, Cantonese lion's head costume.



Enjoying mango lemonades are (from left) Matt Brown and Julianne Kim.



Kim Mathews of Pink Buggy Designs sells decorated tumblers and wall art.



Coloring at the Primrose School of Fairfax's table are (from left) Mustafa Bashir, 4; Alvira Farooq, 8; and Albaash Farooq, 7.



One of the moonbounces in the festival's children's area.



Haus of Marzipan aerial acrobatics.



Haus of Marzipan aerial acrobatics wows the crowd.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Mixed-Use Apartment Building OKed in Northfax

Fairfax City Council approves WillowWood Phase I plan.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A surface parking lot in Fairfax City's Northfax area will be replaced by the N29 Apartments – a seven-story, mixed-use building with up to 260 units and some 5,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. On a nearly-3-acre site at 10306 Eaton Place, this project also includes a 10-level parking garage to the rear of the building, with one level below grade.

The parcel is in the WillowWood Plaza Office Center and is one of two there owned by Capital City Real Estate LLC. The adjacent, 1.5-acre parcel – also slated for a similar redevelopment – is at 10300 Eaton Place and is planned to eventually become phase II of a project there. Meanwhile, phase I – the N29 Apartments – was recently approved by Fairfax City Council.

"It's currently 89.8 percent impervious surface," said Capital City's Chris Love. "We're replacing the parking lot with lower-impact uses. There are office and commercial uses in that area already, but what's missing there is residential. Our residents will be able to hike on the George Snyder Trail, and we're also on the CUE bus line. We'll have a courtyard with a pool, and about a third of the site will be open space."

During the public hearing prior to Council's approval, the City's senior planner, Albert Frederick, presented details of the plan. He said the retail uses would front on Eaton Place and the building would border a future, linear park there. He also noted several requests from the applicant.

The land is currently zoned commercial retail (CR) but would need to be rezoned to commercial urban (CU) to align with the City's vision for that area. The applicant also sought a special-use permit to allow an upper story, residential/mixed use building in the CU district. And it sought several special exceptions so it could:

- ❖ Reduce the amount of nonresidential uses on the ground floor from 75 percent (almost 30,500 square feet) to just 5,000 square feet;

- ❖ Allow the maximum density to exceed 24 dwelling units/acre, (applicant proposed 87.8 dwelling units/acre);

- ❖ Allow the building height to exceed five stories/60 feet;

- ❖ Vary from the maximum front-yard and side-yard setback requirements; and

- ❖ Reduce the amount of tree canopy required on the site from 10 to 6 percent.

IN EXCHANGE for all those concessions, the applicant proffered a contribution of \$97,760 – \$376 per home – to the City's Parks and Recreation, and it will also give \$21,860 in lieu of the tree-canopy coverage. It'll also contribute \$390,000 – \$1,500 per home – to the City schools, and it'll provide public ingress/egress easements for all private streets, accessways and adjacent sidewalks.

Other significant elements of this project will be the installation of a stormwater-improvement system for that site, as well as the inclusion of 16 affordable dwelling units (ADUs) within the apartment building.

"It's been a journey to get here," said attorney Evan Pritchard, representing the applicant. "And we're proud to have City staff's support and input on this project."

Love said Capital City was actively working on finding businesses to lease the building's commercial-retail space. "There'll be a pocket park adjacent to the garage," he added. "And we'll also have some outdoor, café seating. We'll replace 46 trees on site – 13 of which aren't in good condition – with 50 canopy trees. And we'll plant 10 different species of trees."

Douglas Stewart, with Fairfax City-based Citizens for Smarter Growth, said the organization met with Capital City a few times and, overall, is pleased with what's planned. "We think it's a great idea creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment, and it's better than what's there now," he said. "But could more retail be added in the future? In general, this application is a really good step forward."

Councilmember Billy Bates said he was happy with the tree-canopy proposal and the application as a whole. "It's important to acknowledge that this project will be a major improvement for stormwater management," he said. "It's also adjacent to multimodal infrastructure and will have a very small impact on land consumption. It's good for environmental sustainability and the housing supply, including the ADUs. And it's close to a grocery store and other retail uses."

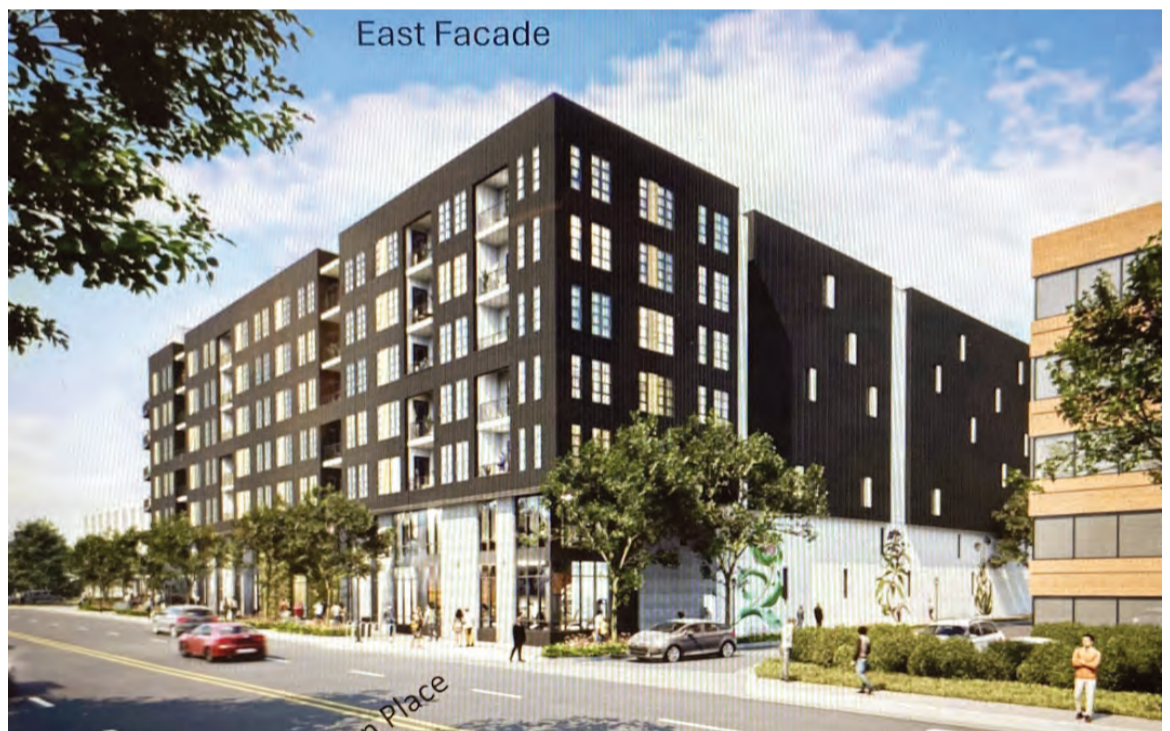
"To me, the future linear park is vital to what happens in Northfax," said Councilmember Tom Ross. "What will you do to help facilitate that?"

"We'll add a greater streetscape to University Drive where it crosses Eaton Place," replied Love. "And we're providing a road to [that park]."

"And outdoor seating will contribute to street life and walkability [in that area]," added Ross. "I'm looking forward to supporting this."



Artist's rendition of the apartment building's south façade.



Artist's rendition of the east façade of the building.

idents to bike, walk, share rides and use public transportation," answered Pritchard. Furthermore, Fairfax City traffic engineer Curt McCullough said the City's own Eaton Place/Route 123 transportation project will result in traffic improvements at that intersection.

Council then approved this project, 4-1, with Bates, Ross, So Lim and Jon Stehle voting yes and Greenfield the lone dissenter. Not present that night was Councilmember Kate Doyle Feingold.

Phase II Proposal

The current plan proposed, but not yet approved, for phase II would occur on the nearby 1.5-acre site and would consist of 64, four-story, two-over-two condos with two parking spaces each, for a

total of 128 spaces. Also planned is another parking garage – this one with 375 spaces – to serve the existing office building at 10300 Eaton Place. It would be constructed between that building and Fairfax Boulevard. This site also has road frontage and access to Eaton Place via an existing, internal, private street.

The City's Small Area Plan for Northfax envisions the creation of a linear park north of Eaton Place. It would be a large, green, gathering space for recreation and events, anchored by adjoining retail, office and residential uses. Phase II would include a park going from northeast to northwest and connecting to the future George Snyder Trail, Shiloh Street Park and new trail systems at Accotink.

Junk Fee Warning: Rent at Your Own Risk

FROM PAGE 3

tenant meeting. The bills require landlords “subject to the Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act to include on the first page of a written rental agreement a description of any rent and fees to be charged to the tenant.” The new law requires that rental agreements also state: “No fee shall be collected unless it is listed below or incorporated into this agreement by way of a separate addendum after execution of this rental agreement.”

More examples of fees found by the Connection: forced placement administration fee, forced placement insurance, trash fee, and late fees amounting to 10 percent of the periodic rent for payments made one day late by the rental tenants through their Apartment Lease Contracts, Addendums, and Resident statements. The management company utilizes the National Apartment Association’s monthly-dated Apartment Lease Contracts for Virginia.

Rental junk fees occur nationwide. On July 19, 2023, the Briefing Room at The White House drew attention to the pervasive issue of junk fees, “announcing a new front in [the] crackdown on junk fees: rental housing.” “From repeated rental application fees to surprise ‘convenience fees,’ millions of families incur burdensome costs in the rental application process and throughout the duration of their lease. These fees are often more than the actual cost of providing the service or are added onto rents to cover amenities that renters assume are included—or that they don’t even want,” said the release from The White Briefing Room.

“I believe that every renter should know the true cost of finding and staying in their home and not be hit with hidden costs and junk fees,” said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge in a released statement by the Federal Trade Commission on Oct. 11, 2023.

Lopez and Boysko addressed what effect rental junk fees have on tenants and potential tenants, particularly those with extremely low income (0-30% of Area Median Income) and those who are severely cost-burdened (31%- 50% of Area Median Income) in light of the scarcity of affordable and available rental units in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV (Metro) region.

“Without a doubt, these fees harm all families, but especially those struggling to make ends meet,” said Del. Lopez. “They sign a lease thinking their monthly rent is one thing, and they budget accordingly. Then the rent comes due, and a whole bunch of fees get tacked on, and families are fighting to cover the gap,” he said. “That is why, during this past session, I introduced a bill with Sen. Jennifer Boysko that required all mandatory monthly fees to be listed at the beginning of leases. People need to know what they are getting into.”

Sen. Boysko answered the question inquiring about how junk fees affected her constituents. “My rental fee transparency legislation, SB 405 and Del. Lopez’s identical counterpart require something quite simple — a listing upfront in every lease agreement of all the fees that could be charged,” she said. “I’ve heard from constituents who are upset because they’ve been charged for calling to have a stove repaired and other maintenance.”

“Our advocates at the Virginia Poverty Law Center combed through several lengthy lease agreements to create samples of what this fee listing would look like and found 22 items in one lease and 30 in another. Renters should know what they are signing up for — the total possible cost of the rental unit,” Boysko said. “Ideally, many of these fees should not be allowed. Landlords are required to keep units in repair. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed Delegate Tran and Senator Ebbin’s legislation to make that responsibility clearer. With rents as high as they are now, there should be no surprise charges,” Boysko said.

The following organizations may be able to help resolve disputes, provide basic information, or give legal advice:

- ❖ Fairfax County Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Affairs Online complaints: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/csd/tenant-landlord> Fairfax County maintains a tenant-landlord commission within this office. This office does not conduct telephone counseling but takes written complaints and produces and distributes a tenant and landlord booklet specific to Fairfax County at no cost to you
- ❖ The Virginia Fair Housing Office: 888 551-3247; FairHousing@dpor.virginia.gov; <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/fairhousing/> Contact the Virginia Fair Housing Office if you believe you have experienced discrimination in the rental of a home or a manufactured home lot.
- ❖ The Virginia Poverty Law Center provides information and assistance on landlord and tenant issues. 804-782-9430; <http://www.vplc.org/housing-law/>.
- ❖ Virginia Legal Aid Central Intake Line: 1-866-534-5243 www.VALegalAid.org Central Intake will direct callers to the appropriate local resources and can provide an attorney in certain circumstances. Self-help forms can be accessed at <https://www.valegalaid.org/self-help-forms>.
- ❖ Eviction Legal Helpline: 1-833-NoEvict Tenants in the process of or at risk of eviction can receive services from this hotline.

Virginia 10th District Representative: Jennifer Wexton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HOUSING PROFILE



DISTRICT-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS

| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Income at or below 30% of AMI | 11,114 | 8,430 | 76% | 22 | -8,714 |
| Income between 31% and 50% of AMI | 9,409 | 3,008 | 32% | 45 | -11,388 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 8,478 | 528 | 6% | 82 | -5,365 |
| All Renter Households | 56,315 | 12,200 | 22% | | |

Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data

Renters make up 23% of all households in the District

STATE-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS

| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Income at or below 30%** of AMI | 263,914 | 201,352 | 76% | 30 | -183,843 |
| Income between 31%** and 50% of AMI | 165,544 | 56,072 | 34% | 54 | -197,937 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 238,413 | 13,156 | 6% | 95 | -30,845 |
| All Renter Households | 1,097,577 | 273,996 | 25% | | |

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Renters make up 32% of all households in the state

REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY STATISTICS

| Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Counties in Districts | Total Renter Households | AMI | 30% of AMI | Rent Affordable at 30% of AMI | One Bdrm Fair Market Rent | One Bdrm Housing Wage | Two Bdrm Fair Market Rent | Two Bdrm Housing Wage | Hours at Minimum Wage for Two Bdrm | Avg Renter Wage |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Washington-Arlington-Alexandria HMFA | 352,553 | \$154,700 | \$46,410 | \$1,160 | \$1,803 | \$34.67 | \$2,045 | \$39.33 | 131 | \$29.95 |
| Rappahannock County HMFA | 718 | \$108,100 | \$32,430 | \$811 | \$1,069 | \$20.56 | \$1,200 | \$23.08 | 77 | \$12.85 |

SCREENSHOT NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Housing Profile, Virginia 10th District, U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton.

Virginia 11th District Representative: Gerald Connolly

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HOUSING PROFILE



DISTRICT-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS

| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Income at or below 30% of AMI | 12,527 | 9,857 | 79% | 23 | -9,627 |
| Income between 31% and 50% of AMI | 9,250 | 3,910 | 42% | 30 | -15,182 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 8,264 | 736 | 9% | 61 | -11,622 |
| All Renter Households | 79,957 | 14,855 | 19% | | |

Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data

Renters make up 30% of all households in the District

STATE-LEVEL RENTER STATISTICS

| | Total Renter Households | Severely Burdened Households* | % with Severe Burden | Affordable and Available Rental Units Per 100 Households | Surplus/ (Deficit) of Affordable and Available Rental Units |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Income at or below 30%** of AMI | 263,914 | 201,352 | 76% | 30 | -183,843 |
| Income between 31%** and 50% of AMI | 165,544 | 56,072 | 34% | 54 | -197,937 |
| Income between 51% and 80% of AMI | 238,413 | 13,156 | 6% | 95 | -30,845 |
| All Renter Households | 1,097,577 | 273,996 | 25% | | |

Source: 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Renters make up 32% of all households in the state

REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY STATISTICS

| Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Counties in Districts | Total Renter Households | AMI | 30% of AMI | Rent Affordable at 30% of AMI | One Bdrm Fair Market Rent | One Bdrm Housing Wage | Two Bdrm Fair Market Rent | Two Bdrm Housing Wage | Hours at Minimum Wage for Two Bdrm | Avg Renter Wage |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Washington-Arlington-Alexandria HMFA | 352,553 | \$154,700 | \$46,410 | \$1,160 | \$1,803 | \$34.67 | \$2,045 | \$39.33 | 131 | \$29.95 |

SCREENSHOT NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

Housing Profile, Virginia 11th District, U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly.

Eight Local Children Are Missing

Could a CODI Alert have helped return them home?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia State Police launched its “Critical Operation for a Disappeared Child Initiative,” (CODI) Alert Program nearly a month ago, on Sept. 26. A CODI Alert differs from an AMBER Alert, which requires detailed information about a possible abduction, according to the VSP press statement.

The CODI Alert bears the name of 4-year-old Codi Bagby from Norfolk, who went missing from his home in January 2022. Codi has not been found. His disappearance did not qualify for an AMBER Alert because authorities did not believe he was abducted — a key criteria for AMBER Alerts to be issued according to the Hampton Police Department.

When Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed Senate Bill 201 establishing the CODI Alert Program, Del. Bonita Anthony (D-Norfolk) said, “This legislation marks a pivotal stride in protecting endangered children, especially our Black and brown youth, who have historically been overlooked by the stringent criteria of the AMBER Alert system.”

A jury convicted Codi’s father, Cory Bigsby, on March 18 of this year of second-degree murder and concealment of a body in connection with Codi’s death. The judge sentenced Bigsby to 45 years in prison on June 18. Such prompted the newly enacted alert that creates a program for local, regional, or statewide notification of a missing or endangered child.

Since Sept. 26, when VSP launched CODI, they have issued three CODI Alerts on behalf of police departments. One was for a pre-teen Black female in Norfolk on Oct. 10. She was found safe. In the second CODI case, VSP canceled their Oct. 12 CODI alert after a white Floyd County teen returned home the next day. On Oct. 5, VSP issued a CODI Alert for a 16 year old Black male, who later was found safe.

CERTAIN CRITERIA must be met for a CODI alert to be issued, including that the person must be 17 years of age or younger or be enrolled in a Commonwealth secondary school; whereabouts are unknown; the disappearance is suspicious or appears to pose a credible threat to the child’s safety and health, as determined by law enforcement; or there are any other circumstances that the Virginia State Police deem appropriate.

The most serious child abduction cases activate AMBER Alerts. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the community to assist in the search for and safe recovery of a missing child. Radio, TV, road signs, cell phones, and other data-enabled devices broadcast these alerts. According to the 2023 AMBER Alert Report by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Virginia had five AMBER Alert activations



Gov. Glenn Youngkin signs Senate Bill 201 establishing the CODI Alert Program at the Stafford County Public Safety Center on May 22, 2024.

PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

PHOTOS MISSING KIDS.ORG



Janaiya Talley of Arlington.



Josseline Reyes Yanes of Arlington.



Angel Castro Claros of Alexandria.



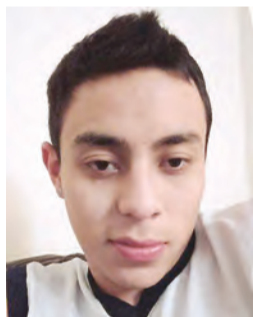
Gabriella Padilla Villatoro of Alexandria.



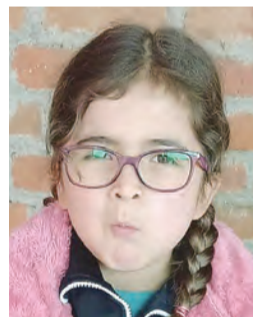
Del. Bonita Anthony (D-Norfolk).



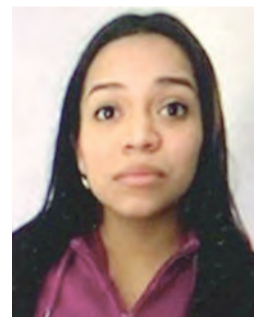
Kendy Acal Maxena of Burke.



Carlos Carballo-Rivas of Alexandria.



Anna Paula Curley of Springfield.



Veronica Garcia Perez of Fairfax.



SCREENSHOT YOUTUBE

Four-year-old Codi Bagby of Norfolk went missing from his home in January 2022.

last year.

Virginia has six alert programs: AMBER, CODI, Critically Missing Adult, Missing Person with Autism, Senior, and Virginia Blue. Law enforcement agencies are required to confer with the Virginia Missing Persons Clearinghouse/State Police before activation of local alerts. In 2024 so far, Virginia State Police, at the request of local law enforcement agencies, issued six AMBER Alerts, 42 Senior Alerts, 30 Critically Missing Adult Alerts, three Missing Person with Autism Alerts and no Virginia Blue alerts.

Some missing children receive heightened and extended media coverage while others don’t. As time goes by, children can be forgotten by all but their loved ones.

Eight children from our area remain missing, from now through 2019, according to the National Center for Missing and Ex-

ploited Children. They are from Arlington, Alexandria, Burke, Fairfax and Springfield. Only one child of the eight is white. There are other children who went missing before 2019 from our area too. The most recently missing children are:

❖ Janaiya Talley, now 17 years old, went missing from Arlington, Virginia, on April 17, 2024.

❖ Josseline Reyes Yanes, now 17 years old, went missing from Arlington, Virginia, on June 15, 2023.

❖ Angel Castro Claros has been missing from Alexandria, VA, since January 27, 2023. His current age is 3. On Jan. 27, 2023, Angel’s father allegedly abducted him and received a felony Parental Kidnapping charge on June 12, 2023.

❖ Gabriella Padilla Villatoro, now 16, is missing from Alexandria, Virginia, since July

25, 2022.

❖ Kendy Acal Maxena has been missing from Burke, Virginia, since January 18, 2022, and is now 19.

❖ Carlos Carballo-Rivas went missing from Alexandria, Virginia, on Nov. 27, 2021. His age is now 23.

❖ Anna Paula Curley of Springfield is now a 9-year-old girl who has been missing since September 8, 2021, and may be with her mother.

❖ Veronica Garcia Perez has been missing from Fairfax since Jan. 18, 2020. She is currently 20 years old and may be in the company of an adult male or adult female, as well as an infant child.

Search for other missing and exploited children in the area at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/search>.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Boysko Is Humane Champion

To the editor:

The Humane Society Legislative Fund recently released their 2024 Virginia Humane Scorecard, which grades sitting lawmakers' votes on animal protection issues. It comes as no surprise that Senator Jennifer Boysko earned a perfect score.

Senator Boysko went above and beyond this past session for animals, patroning four bills included in HSLF's scorecard. She carried legislation to prohibit those convicted of felony animal cruelty from possessing companion and equine animals, allow localities to create animal cruel-

ty conviction registries, analyze deficiencies in publicly funded animal testing facilities, and permit clinics to offer rabies vaccinations and microchipping services. All these critical bills were signed into law by the Governor.

Senator Boysko is committed to making a difference for the most vulnerable among us.

Her work on a range of animal protection issues will directly impact the lives of Virginians and their animals for the better. Please join me in thanking Senator Jennifer Boysko for being a humane champion.

Gina Marie Lynch
Mount Vernon



Producer Ryan Cudahy and Matthew Malito discuss a shot.



Maggie Gough getting screen advice from producer Ryan Cudahy.

Film on the Screening Circuit Has Roots in Herndon

Topics of love and mental illness rise above its roots.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School alums Ryan Cudahy and Matthew Malito recently got their first taste of stardom in a local film "Written by Mike," a first-love story that dips into the mental health crisis that is a facet in many lives these days.

The film follows two couples as they deal with family, trauma and illness at the spark of their relationships. There are tears, medicines and young couples trying to navigate the path of being in love while facing the other factors.

"They use their own mental health struggles to help each other," said Cudahy.

This independent feature film was shot entirely in Virginia, mostly in the Fredericksburg area where Cudahy lives now. It was just picked up by Green Apple Entertainment, and will be distributed on Friday, Nov. 15.

"Our film will initially be released on Green Apple's streaming channels and will be released on other to-be-determined platforms shortly after," Cudahy said.

After Herndon High, Cudahy attended James Madison University where he pursued a degree in video and ended up back in Northern Virginia working a few jobs in the video-film field. This helped forge his way to being behind the camera in "Written by Mike."

Using the backdrop of Fredericksburg for most of the scenes invokes the small town feel that he was going for, and then it was featured in the Richmond Film Festival.

CASTING CALL

Lead actress Maggie Gough got the role in a casting call by Cudahy. She navigated things on this film from her home in New York City, where she is dabbling with performances on Broadway. Aside from "Written by Mike," her film career includes a spot in tv's "FBI Most Wanted," but it was short. "I was one of the victims that got killed in the first scene," she said.

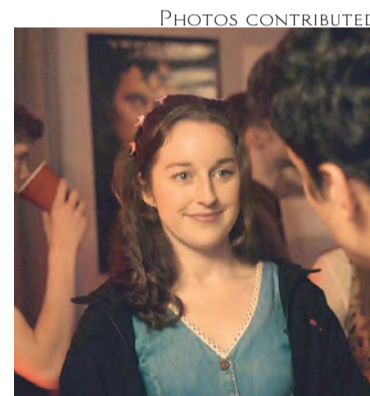
In the film, Gough plays a main character in a romance with Mike, and added some familiarity since they both went to Virginia Tech in real life, although it was at different times. "We had so much in common," she said. She grew up in

Ashburn and now works full time for a New York finance company while acting.

She ran back and forth to Fredericksburg while the film was in production over a three-week period. While the movie was being filmed, she'd jump on a train from NYC so those weekends were a bit hectic.

"I went back and forth on weekends," she said. "It was a lot; a long three weeks."

In late September, "Written by



Maggie Gough

Mike," was featured at Richmond International Film Festival. Future showings include an event October 24 at Water's End Brewery in Lake Ridge and then at Red Dragon Brewery in Fredericksburg on Saturday, Nov. 16. It was recently acquired by Green Apple Entertainment, and will hit streaming platforms on Friday, Nov. 15.

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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ENTERTAINMENT

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

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 21, at Virginia Run Elementary School.
Wednesday, October 30, at Herndon Middle School.

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 newest 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 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



A discussion of the High Seas Treaty will be held Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 at Reston Regional Library.

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.

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. 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.

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.

OCT. 17-19

“Alice in Wonderland.” At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. A young girl, Alice, falls down a rabbit hole after following a talking white rabbit. When she lands at the bottom of the hole she finds herself in a magical world, called Wonderland, where she meets hordes of strange and fascinating characters and

endures multiple challenges and threats to her safety. Alice must survive and try to escape a bizarre world where rules don’t seem to matter (until they suddenly do) and certainly don’t make much sense to a girl from the “normal” world. This is made all the more complicated by the fact that characters of Wonderland seem utterly disinterested in helping the young girl, all except for one - a mysterious Cheshire Cat, who will not solve Alice’s problems for her, but will, indirectly, find ways to help her.

Dates: Oct. 17 : 7 p.m.; Oct. 18: 7 p.m.; Oct. 19: 10 a.m. (NOTE: There will be a tea party with Alice after the show that is around 45 minutes; Cost is \$50, ticket included); Oct. 19: 2 p.m. (NOTE: Meet and Greet with cast will be held after the show); Oct. 19: 7 p.m. Visit the website: <https://www.lbtheatre.com/>

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

Halloween Adult Night. 6-8:30 p.m. At LEGO Discovery Center at Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Join a night of monster-ific Halloween fun and enjoy:

Full access to the Center including the themed build stations, MINI-WORLD Washington, D.C., Imagination Express ride, 4D Cinema, and more!

Dress to impress in your best Halloween attire for a chance to win a prize!

Sink your teeth into a monstrous build LEGO challenge.

Watch ‘The Great Monster Chase’ in the 4D Cinema.

Meet our Master Model Builder. And more Halloween fun!

Adult night is just for guests ages 18+ and is perfect for adults who wish to visit the attraction without a child present in an adult only atmosphere. Tickets can be purchased for \$24.99 at <https://www.legodiscoverycenter.com/washington-dc/whats-inside/events/adult-night/>

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

High Seas Treaty. 1-3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join them for a discussion of the High Seas Treaty. Leading the talk with be Greg O’Brien, Senior Oceans Policy Advisor at the Office of Ocean and

ENTERTAINMENT

LAKE BRADDOCK THEATRE PRESENTS

ALICE

IN

WONDERLAND

BY LEWIS CARROLL
ADAPTED BY ANNE COULTER MARTENS
OCTOBER 17TH - 7PM
OCTOBER 18TH - 7PM
OCTOBER 19TH - 10AM, 2PM, 7PM

Lake Braddock Secondary will present "Alice in Wonderland" from Oct. 17-19, 2024.

Polar Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Visit Great Decisions: High Seas Treaty - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home (fairfaxcounty.gov)

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/hallowentrivia/>

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 St., www.connectionnewspapers.com

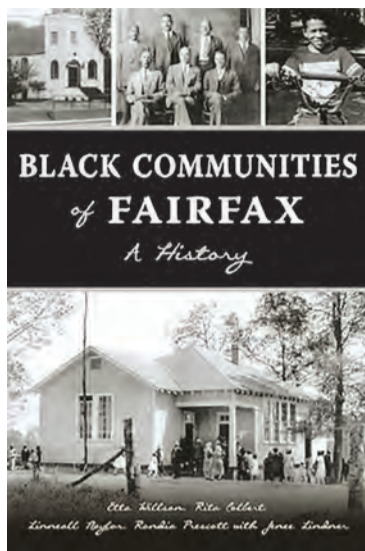
SE, Vienna. This Tony Award-winning tale follows the story of two fading stars of the 1950s. On the brink of a disastrous split-up, George and Charlotte Hay receive word that they might have one last shot at stardom when Frank Capra comes to see their shows "Private Lives" and "Cyrano De Bergerac" in Buffalo, New York. If he likes what he sees, he might cast them in his remake of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." Unfortunately for these fading stars, everything that could go wrong does! The Vienna Theatre Company's performances of "Moon Over Buffalo" are at 8 p.m. on the following Fridays and Saturdays: Oct. 18-19, Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2. Matinee performances begin at 2 p.m. on Sundays, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. Tickets are \$16 each. Tickets may be purchased online at www.viennava.gov/webtrac.

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



The Burke Historical Society will discuss the book, *Black Communities of Fairfax: A History*, on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024 at Pohick Regional Library in Burke.

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>

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Free NARCAN Training. 10 a.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. REVIVE! Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Training. Join them for a no-cost, 60 minute training on what to do and not do in an opioid overdose situation, how to administer the life saving Naloxone, and what to do after it is administered. Participants who complete the training in-full will receive the medication Naloxone for free.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Coming Out Gay-la. 5-9 p.m. At Reston Community Center of Lake Anne, Reston. NoVA Prism Center will present their black-tie Coming Out Gay-la featuring light refreshments, DJ, raffle and silent auction to raise funds for programming throughout the year benefitting the Northern Virginia LGBTQIA+ community. For further questions, or to sponsor or donate to the event,



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

auction, or the Center, contact Executive Director Leon van der Goetz at leon@novaprismscenter.gay.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

The Amaris Piano Trio Performs. 4 p.m. At The Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Violinist Shearom Chung, cellist Ryan Ashley Nobles, and pianist Janghyo Yoo will perform works by Beethoven, Debussy, and Dvorak. The concert is free and open to the public. A reception to meet the performers will follow the performance. For more information, see <https://holyccomforter.com/event/holy-comforter-concert-series-the-amaris-trio/>.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

National Concert Band of America Concert. 3 p.m. At West Springfield High School Auditorium, Springfield. The National Concert Band of America (NCBA) is thrilled to announce the opening concert of their 2024-25 season and 50th year under the leadership of their new music director, Wolson Gustama. The program will feature James Curnow's Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew, an awe-inspiring composition that evokes the majesty of soaring through the sky. Eric Whitacre's Lux Aurumque will bathe listeners in a radiant and peaceful glow, offering a rare moment of serenity. The concert will also introduce audiences to Viet Cuong's daring new work, Moth, which explores the tension between light and dark, beauty and grotesque, and the ultimate act of grace.

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.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 7

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers for Change. A program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Great Falls Hike or Bike Volunteers. Bike or Hike Patrol volunteers assist park rangers by riding on accessible trails in Great Falls Park. To assist park staff in providing info and services to park visitors, maintain good public relations as a representative of the National Park Service, and monitor park resources, visitor usage, and emergency needs. Skills and Experience Desired: Excellent communication skills. Ability to work with culturally, socially, and economically diversified people. Knowledge of the park and local resources, or the desire to learn. Knowledge of basic bike maintenance or willingness to learn. Willingness to provide basic first aid. Ability to demonstrate skill in basic operation of a bicycle. Call Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225

Potomac Paddlers Volunteer Corps. The Potomac Paddlers Corps is a volunteer group with the National Park Service under shared management between Great Falls Park and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The primary mission of the Corps is to have trained, uniformed park volunteers on the Potomac River to assist the park in identifying and reporting incidents, watch out for risky park visitor behavior, and to deliver safety messages to the public about the dangers of the Potomac River in the Potomac Gorge. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator 703-285-2965 ext. 225 or visit www.nps.gov

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 23

Trunk-or-Treat. 6-8 p.m. At Sully Community Center, 13800 Wall Road, Herndon. Fairfax County police are holding a fun and spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat event at the Sully Community Center. Police officers will decorate the trunks of their cruisers and hand out lots of candy to children in their Halloween costumes. For more information, call 703-322-4475. To obtain a trunk space, email Aleczander.Pavlakis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/OCT. 25

Conflict Resolution Workshop (Virtual). 2-3:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Life Coach Shabnam Curtis discusses methods to overcome disagreements and attack problems as a team rather than attack each other. Visit Conflict Resolution Workshop - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home (fairfaxcounty.gov)

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. 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



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

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

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3-4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. A panel of co-authors will speak on their recently published book, Black Communities of Fairfax: A History. Free to attend.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

No Fairfax Casino Coalition Forum. 3-4:30 p.m. At McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd, McLean. Learn the latest news on what to expect - Senator Jennifer Boysko will explain that the threat of legislation to allow a casino in Fairfax County is real. The bill can be continued as early as Fall 2024. Who will be there? Current and past legislators from Northern Virginia, both Republican and Democrat, the media, and you.

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



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

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.

SUNDAY/NOV. 3

Venture Into Volunteering. 12-4 p.m. At Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Attend this annual event to meet representatives from various nonprofits and local government agencies who will tell you about ways to volunteer in the community and answer your questions. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/familyservices/older-adults/volunteer-solutions/volunteer-fair>

NOV. 8-9

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

Not Having My Cake



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's been approximately two weeks since my last Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cake" purchase. And it's been not quite two weeks since my last bite finished the box. And believe it or not, I am able to still think clearly about my dessert options. Meaning, I think I need a break from my recent cake routine. As for this item no longer being purchased at the local Safeway, and Safeway no longer reordering them for me-ish - since I'm the one buying them, I feel I've satiated that urge and need to revisit some of my other standard dessert fare: Mallomars at the Safeway, Whoopie Pies from the Dutch Country Market and some heavily frosted cupcakes from anywhere. As they say in volleyball: it may be time to rotate. This is where my sister-in-law Vanessa usually chimes in as she has many times in the past to my brother Richard (her late husband) and me: "Boy, your mother did some job on the two of you." And we would all laugh because it's mostly true.

Be it "half-moons" from Feldman's Bakery in Newton Centre, Ma. or pastry from Eagerman's Bakery on Rte. 9 in Natick, or any variety of snack cakes and cookies from our neighborhood "Oak Hill Market," or the "Stop & Shop" supermarket, our mother, may her memory be a blessing, loaded Richard and I up on dessert morning, noon, mid-afternoon, evening and nighttime before bed. Richard and I were literally, having our cake and eating it too, maybe too much, but who knew? But as we have learned about our late mother, she was simply following advertising orders from television that said children needed to drink eight glasses of milk per day to help build strong bones and muscles. And since getting us to drink milk by itself was a challenge, she realized that drinking it with a dessert was not. Being Jewish, though not being kosher, still we never had milk with a meal, it had to be after, as in dessert. And so, it became the story of my life: Dessert, milk; dessert, milk; dessert, milk, and on and on and on.

Not that Richard or I ever resisted. But I think we might have been somewhat indoctrinated by mother's commitment to getting us to consume calcium/milk to help strengthen our bones growing up. You could say that getting her children to drink milk was a win-win: My mother got her two sons to drink upwards of eight glasses of milk per day - helping to build those strong bones; and for us two boys, we were eating sweets all the time, which naturally we'd do so with a glass of milk - or two.

Unfortunately for my wife Dina, and Vanessa (my late brother's widow), Richard and I never outgrew our milk and dessert habits. Dessert was always top of mind. Although, our respective dessert preferences diverged a bit when we grew up. I was still drawn to commercially baked products: Hostess, Drakes, Nabisco, Keebler's, Entenmann's, et cetera. Richard was more inclined to shop at bakeries on the street or in-store and buy fewer brand items than I did and more pastry. Though our dessert upbringing was the same, our adult choices were different. Nevertheless, we rarely strayed from our respective lanes. Whenever we did, however, it wasn't a hardship. I would say that between the two of us, we had the entire dessert inventory covered.

Now I'm on my own. Still focused on commercial products. But right now, after weeks of Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devils Food Iced Cake," I dare say, I need a change. Perhaps, in Richard's memory, I should go to a bakery.

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



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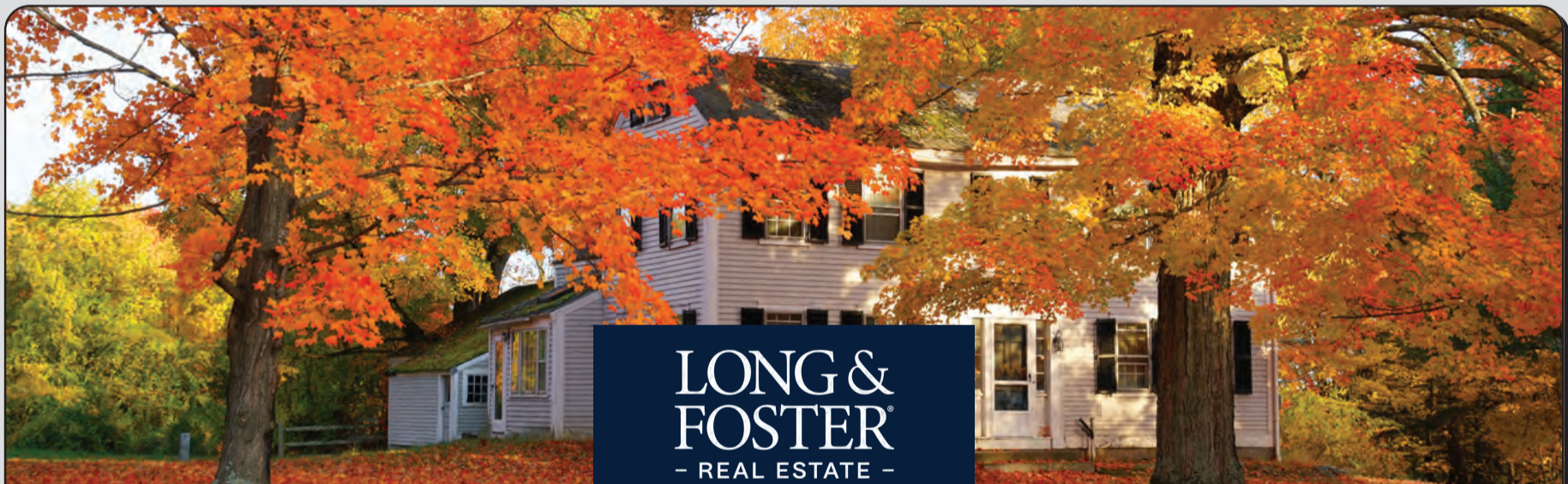


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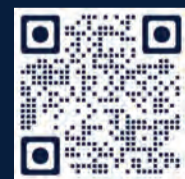
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