

THE CONNECTION

CENTRE VIEW ❖ Chantilly ❖ Great Falls ❖ Herndon ❖ McLean ❖ Oak Hill ❖ Oakton ❖ Reston ❖ Vienna

From left, Olivia Bindewald and Sneha Mehta looking at bracelets at the Fairfax Funky Flea area at the 48th annual Fairfax Fall Festival, Saturday, Oct. 12.



Sunshine, Smiles and Fun

Reining in Rental Fees
PAGE 3

Could Affordable Housing
Come to Herndon?
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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

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OCTOBER 16-22, 2024

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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%		

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%		

Renters make up 32% of all households in the state

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

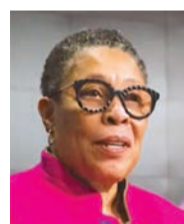
REGIONAL RENTAL AFFORDABILITY STATISTICS										
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Counties in Districts	Total Renter Households	AMI	30% of AMI	Rent Affordable at 30% of AMI	One Bdrm Fair Market Rent	One Bdrm Housing Wage	Two Bdrm Fair Market Rent	Two Bdrm Housing Wage	Hours at Minimum Wage 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 14

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

Help with Affordable Housing in Herndon?

Possible path for new affordable and accessible housing in the Town of Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Oct. 10, the New Virginia Majority (NVM) hosted a community meeting at the Herndon Fortnightly Library with Supervisor James N. Bierman Jr. (D-Dranesville) in attendance. The planned discussion focused on sharing information concerning housing vouchers, the universal basic income program, and housing construction with an emphasis on prefabricated affordable housing. A reported 50 people attended the meeting.

NVM, headquartered in Alexandria, a nonprofit, has as one of its priorities housing justice. “All Virginians deserve access to clean, safe, and affordable housing regardless of their income, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, or if they are returning citizens,” NVM states on its website.

Bierman, in an interview the next day, addressed how Herndon Town Council, staff, residents, and Fairfax County could work towards and achieve additional housing and apartments that are affordable and accessible, especially for residents at 40 percent and below the Area Median Income (AMI) as well as those

Fairfax County stands ready to assist, Bierman says

at 50-60 percent AMI.

Fairfax County is striving to create and preserve 10,000 net new affordable units by 2034, Bierman said. The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority is accomplishing this by developing properties dedicated to housing for residents making between 30 percent and 70 percent AMI, such as Ovation at Arrowbrook, which has 274 units just outside the town limits, and by using “set asides in new developments to dedicate 12 to 20 percent of new units to workforce and affordable dwelling units.”

“Herndon’s current comprehensive plan and ordinances do not contain such set asides,” Bierman said. “But there appears to be broad agreement on the Town Council that trying to incorporate some workforce and affordable dwelling units into new developments, especially those near the Herndon Metro Station, would be a good idea, [and] I wholeheartedly agree.”

Bierman said Fairfax County stands ready to support such programs “and to, if the Town of Herndon is able to identify other opportunities within its limits, provide technical or financial assistance to deliver much-needed affordable housing in the town.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Could there be a path for affordable and accessible housing for all incomes in the Town of Herndon?

Coat Donations Needed Now

2024 Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Distribution is one month away.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Cornerstones, in partnership with the Hunter Mill District Supervisor’s Office, is supporting the Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet for 2024. Cornerstones is accepting donations of new, gently used, clean winter coats, new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and plastic hangers. Deliver donations

at 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, Monday – Friday, October 15 – November 8, 9 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Cornerstones is unable to accept any other clothing.

The distribution will occur at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, on Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It provides free winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to all who need them.



PHOTO BY
MERCIA
HOBSON
THE
CONNECTION
2024 Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Drive provides free coats, hats, scarves, mittens and more to all in need. (File photo 2023)

ROUNDUPS

Trunk-or-Treat Event is Oct. 23

Fairfax County police are holding a fun and spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat event at the Sully Community Center on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 6-8 p.m., at the Sully Community Center, 13800 Wall Road in Herndon. 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 Alec.zander.Pavlakis@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Chantilly High’s Haunted House is Oct. 26

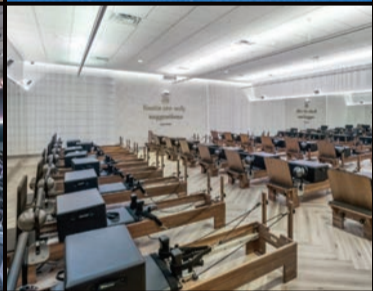
Get ready for chills and thrills – Chantilly High’s 12th annual Haunted House will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, from 1-5 p.m. (less scary) and 6-10 p.m. (for braver attendees). The fun also includes games, facepainting and refreshments for sale. Proceeds benefit the Chargers’ field hockey, girls’ soccer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

National Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. That’s when people may bring their expired or unused medications to designated drop-off locations, where they’ll be handled with care and disposed of properly. Local sites are the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, and the Fair Oaks District Police Station, 12300 Route 50 in Fair Oaks. However, those unable to do it on that date may also deposit these items into the medicine drop box in these stations’ lobbies that’s available 24/7, all year ’round.



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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. 15t.

“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 Freder-



Maggie Gough

icksburg 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 dif-

ferent 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 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.

OPINION

Virginia Communities Can Apply for Climate Adaptation Grants

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Grants highlight Importance of Virginia’s RGGI reentry and investment in climate resilience.

Another round of grant funding opened recently for projects that strengthen communities’ resilience to climate change and protection from extreme weather. These grants are funded through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is encouraging communities to take advantage of this fifth round of grant funding, which supports a variety of projects including flood mitigation measures, stormwater management

initiatives, coastal resilience projects, and green projects, that feature natural solutions to flooding. Other grant rounds have supported projects in localities from Petersburg to the Town of Chincoteague on the Eastern Shore to Buchanan County in Southwest Virginia.

The announcement of the grant funding comes as Southern Environmental Law Center lawyers argued in court last week to reinstate Virginia in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI, a multi-state carbon emissions reduction program, was

the state’s only dedicated funding source for community-based climate resiliency projects. CBF filed a legal brief in court to support the effort.

RGGI has been instrumental in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as funding the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF). CFPF in turn supported these climate adaptation grants. After Virginia withdrew from RGGI, no money was allocated in the second year of the state budget for CFPF.

The grant round will close on Nov. 9. For more information on eligibility requirements and the application process, please visit [here](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/dsfpm-cfpf).

Jay Ford, Virginia Policy Manager at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said, “We’re

coming out of the hottest summer on record, and a year where communities across Virginia suffered through extreme weather causing school closures and damage to their homes and businesses. The need for effective climate resiliency projects has never been more urgent and the Community Flood Preparedness Fund gives localities the opportunities to invest in their communities prior to damage occurring. ...

“This highlights one of the many reasons Virginia should return to RGGI as soon as possible. CBF continues to advocate for additional General Assembly funding for the CFPF and the state’s participation in RGGI to reduce our emissions and strengthen our resilience to inevitable extreme weather.”



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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.

OPINION

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 cruelty 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.

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Affordable Housing Awards

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority is the recipient of several recent national awards, recognizing its leadership, innovation and equitable strategies in affordable housing.

NAHRO Award for Residences at North Hill

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recognized The Residences at North Hill with its Award of Merit, which honors the successes of public housing authorities. The Residences at North Hill features 279 affordable homes, including 63 for seniors, in Alexandria.

One University

One University, a new community of affordable homes for families and older adults adjacent to George Mason University in Fairfax, received multiple accolades. The development is comprised of 120 units of affordable multifamily homes (The Robinson); 120 units of affordable senior homes (The Belmont), and 333 units (798 beds) of student housing.

Nan McKay and Associates (NMA) gave its Housing Award to the FCRHA for the creation of One University. The NMA Housing Award recognizes outstanding achievement in affordable housing.

One University was also recognized by the Land Economics Society George Washington Chapter (LAIGW) in the award category of "Outstanding Project with more than 250 units."

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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.



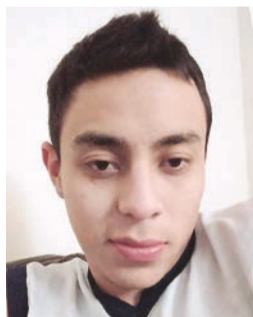
Gabriella Padilla Villatoro of Alexandria.



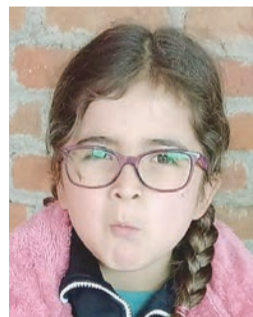
Del. Bonita Anthony (D-Norfolk).



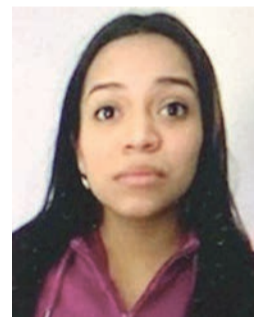
Kendy Acal Maxena of Burke.



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



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From Left: Deiadre Rauch, June Kelly, Begona Morton, with the Bavarian Horn Band playing in the background.

Oktoberfest in Great Falls

BY NATASHA SODHI

time.

The Rotary Club of Great Falls hosted a lively, fun Oktoberfest event on Oct. 4 in conjunction with the Grange Foundation, bringing together community members including local residents, charities and businesses for an evening of fun, food and fellowship, all while raising funds for local initiatives.

John Burke, Organizing Committee member, remarked, "It is the one event of the year where we are trying to bring everyone together to celebrate community, the Fall and Oktoberfest." The event attracted a diverse crowd, with families, friends and neighbors coming together to enjoy traditional German fare, including bratwurst, pretzels, schnitzel, and an array of beverages. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for a combination of an outdoor Biergarten and indoor celebration; clear blue skies and mild temperatures set the stage for an enjoyable

Jorge Adeler, Founder of Adeler Jewelers and President of the Great Falls Grange Foundation, highlighted the significance of local community bonding and expressed his excitement about the event's success. "I saw the parking lot full until the last space. This is what we have been dreaming about. You can have a community of strangers or friends. This is supposed to be the heart of Great Falls. This is where people embrace each other, make jokes and this is where you are turning into a human."

As the evening progressed, attendees raised their steins to a delightful selection of craft beers from Lost Barrel Brewing. Guests particularly enjoyed their Oktoberfest-style Märzen, a light and easy-to-drink lager that perfectly complemented the hearty German cuisine served by Oliver's Corner Butcher Shop. Adding to the autumnal spirit, Lost Barrel Brewing also offered a Fall favorite pumpkin beer infused with cinnamon

and nutmeg, which was a hit. For those looking for another refreshing note, the brewery showcased a Hazy IPA, providing a contrast with its fruity and aromatic notes.

IB Barghout, a Great Falls resident and organizing committee member commented, "It is an absolutely great event to pull together the best efforts of the community pulling in Rotary Club and the Great Falls Grange Foundation with support of other community members. It is really a fun community event that in the end supports our community and its charities."

Julie Maher, Executive Director, Great Falls Grange Foundation echoed the sentiment "This Oktoberfest is an amazing combination of what our foundation wants. We are here to support the community events to raise funds for nonprofits and other foundations, and have great events." The organizers were very excited to support Cornerstones and the Great Falls Grange Foundation, as two of the charities

SEE OKTOBERFEST, PAGE 13



Best Female Dirndl Competition: Includes three past Rotary Club of Great Falls Presidents: Eileen Curtis, Connie Sawtell, and Roz Drayer.

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- Raku Pottery Firing
- Photography


READ MORE!

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





GreatFallsStudios.com/Studio-Tour-2024-Home



BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

Visit www.reston.org for additional details.

9/11 Ceremony in Great Falls

PHOTOS PENTAGON MEMORIAL.ORG

Honoring and remembering those who perished.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2024, marked the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, 2001 attacks, killing nearly 3,000 people. Once again, the Great Falls community paused and came together, this year 160 strong. They grieved the loss and the sacrifice of the 59 crew, men, women and children who died during the 9/11 terrorist attack aboard the hijacked American Airlines flight 77 from Washington to Los Angeles when it crashed into the Pentagon. Those from Great Falls are Richard Peter Gabriel Sr.; George W. Simmons and his wife, Diane M. Simmons; Ann Judge, Barbara Olson; and Lisa J. Raines.

During his remarks, keynote speaker Vice Admiral Lewis W. Crenshaw Jr. (ret.) asked those gathered to “indulge him” while he read Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem “A Psalm of Life.” It encapsulated the qualities of heroes and explains why communities such as Great Falls continue to come together: “Our heroes left the footprints in the sand for us to follow. We honor and remember them when we do.”

“We must seize upon their example and be ready when our time comes to be heroic,” Crenshaw said. The interesting thing about being a hero, according to Crenshaw, is that “you have no say over the time, place, or circumstances that bring out the hero in you. And in most cases, you don’t even realize that you have become a hero.” Crenshaw outlined four steps: putting others first, being prepared, taking action through volunteering, and turning into trouble when a problem arises.

For Crenshaw, Sept. 11, 2001, his day stationed at the Pentagon began like any other except, when, at 8:50, staff told him an airplane had apparently “run into the World Trade Center in New York.” Crenshaw said he left his office near the heliport to watch television. When he saw the first of the Twin Towers burning, it didn’t occur to him that it was a terrorist attack. When the second plane, United Airlines flight 175, hit, Crenshaw said, and he knew. Shortly after, Flight 77 plowed into the southwest side of the Pentagon. Crenshaw recounted how he and others dashed out of the Pentagon through overwhelming smoke.



Richard Peter Gabriel Sr., 1st Lt., USMC, Retired, 54.-A decorated hero in the Vietnam War showed family and friends how to live life to the fullest despite the loss of a leg.



George W. Simmons, 57 - Not only the perfect partner with Diane in raising children and grandchildren but also an accomplished professional with Xerox, training and mentoring scores of aspiring salespersons.



Diane M. Simmons, 54 -a central figure in the mentoring and nurturing of her family.



Lisa J. Raines, 42, of Great Falls, also on AA Flt 77, was a key figure in negotiating complex legislation on the Hill related to health care; instrumental in improving Medicare drug coverage. She was on such a mission on Sep 11 to improve dialysis patients’ lives.



The terrorists claimed the lives of Ann C. Judge, 49 of Great Falls, who enhanced the lives of others by organizing and meticulously planning overseas excursions for the National Geographic Society.



Barbara K. Olson, 45, of Great Falls, on AA Flt77, was an author, lawyer and prosecutor. She set the bar as an investigative counsel on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, ensuring the integrity of our legislative system.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Over 160 community members of all ages gathered for the ceremony.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vice-Admiral Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr. (Retired) addressed the crowd.

Crenshaw said he was one of the lucky ones; 125 of his colleagues, all heroes, were not so lucky. Crenshaw said he has a personal memory of a young presidential management intern from Syracuse University, married for not quite five years, who was killed in the Navy Command Center on 9/11. “Brady worked for me and was just transferred the day before from my office to the Navy Command Center.”

Twenty-three years later, Crenshaw and others gathered in Great Falls to honor the sacrifice of the 59 men, women, and children on Flight 77, as well as for all others that day who perished in the attacks. A bell tolled six times, and after each, a candle lit for one of the six Great Falls residents who perished aboard Flt. 77.

To read Crenshaw’s full remarks, visit https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IoYqZBBieWhFMhvjX-N73ZBBxXCC0c06Jvrhzo_AU--8/edit
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Candles lit among the crowd as taps sounded by Jonathan Torres.

Octoberfest in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 6

benefited by the event.

As guests mingled and enjoyed their meals, the vibrant atmosphere continued as live music filled the air, setting a joyful tone for the evening. The Bavarian Horn Band played a mix of traditional German tunes and contemporary favorites, encouraging guests to dance and join in the merriment throughout the evening.

As the sun set, and the evening came on, a lively award ceremony took place, adding an extra layer of excitement to the festivities. The award for Best Male Lederhosen Costume went to Brian Thinnis, whose traditional outfit wowed the judges. In the female category, Sharon Zimmerman took home the prize for Best Female Dirndl Costume, showcasing her vibrant and beautifully styled attire. The highlight of the ceremony was the competition for Best Yodeling, which drew a talented group of participants. The crowd erupted in cheers as Eileen Curtis was crowned the winner after delivering an impressive performance that outshone her peers.

In addition to the tickets purchased by the attendees, the event

committee also thanked its sponsors. Anonymous at Bavarian Level, June Kelly at Munich Level, and the following at Festhaus Level: Anonymous, Julie Casso, Costa Dentistry, Brigitte Barghout (Thermomix), Micael Beyer, Cory Clark Designs and Gary Pan.

Tom Tucker, Great Falls resident, added "I am very excited that our community could come together and we had people from many charities participate. And we also had people not from charities, participate in this unique community,"

June Kelly, President of the Rotary Club of Great Falls VA, remarked, "It was great to see so many people from our community attend the Oktoberfest event for an evening of fellowship and fun entertainment, while giving back to worthy causes. The partnership between the Great Falls Grange Foundation and our Rotary Club of Great Falls signifies how impactful we can be."

The success of this Oktoberfest is a testament to the power of community spirit and collaboration. The Rotary Club of Great Falls VA continues to demonstrate that when a community comes together, incredible things can happen.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route 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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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 infor-

mation, 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

- ❖ 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 discrimi-

nation 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%		

Renters make up 23% 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 AM	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%		

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
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%		

Renters make up 30% 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
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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.

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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.

IAD Master Plan Public Open House Workshop #3

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Washington Dulles Airport Marriott
45020 Aviation Drive
Dulles, VA 20166

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is finalizing its Master Plan for Washington Dulles International Airport. The Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive study that describes short, medium and long-term improvements proposed for the airport. It is designed to establish a roadmap for incremental development to meet future aviation demand and other airport needs for the next 25 years.

The master planning process is designed as an inclusive process that encourages citizen participation. A public open house workshop will be held to provide information on the preferred development alternative for the airport. Representatives from the Airports Authority and its consulting team will be available to answer questions and receive comments on the ongoing master planning analyses and preliminary recommendations.



For additional information, please scan the QR code or visit us at the website below: <https://www.flydulles.com/about-airport/master-plan/dulles-international-airport-master-plan>
The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Master Plan team can also be contacted at: IADMaster.Plan@mwa.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

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“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 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

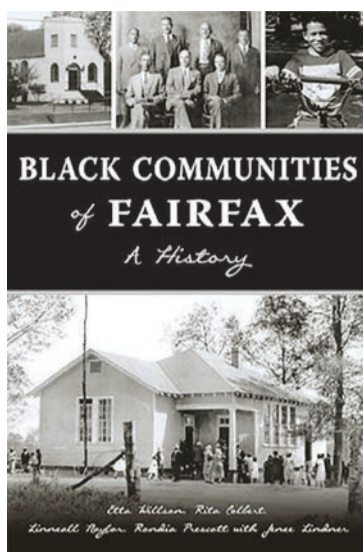
SE, Vienna. This Tony Award-winning tale follows the story of two fading stars of the 1950s. On the brink of a disastrous split-up, George and Charlotte Hay receive word that they might have one last shot at stardom when Frank Capra comes to see their shows "Private Lives" and "Cyrano De Bergerac" in 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 to 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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ABC LICENSE
Chantilly Auto Care Center, LLC trading as Westfields Sunoco, 5000 Westone Plaza, Chantilly, Virginia 20151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Specialty Establishment Application - Convenience Grocery Store, Wine, Beer, Consumed Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeff Bucaro, Managing Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Editor and Publisher
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Mercia Hobson
Staff Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer

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

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

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

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

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

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

In Memoriam
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong
Production Manager
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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 Alec.zander.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.



JD CALLANDER & ED BLANCHARD

Direct: (703) 606-7901 | (703) 712-1757

JDCallander@gmail.com

Ed@NewNovaHome.com

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