

THE CONNECTION

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

Ready for Halloween in their skeleton costumes are Ken and Jolie Nimmannit, son Tyler and daughter Jayden.



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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Centreville Celebrates

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Reston Woman Dead, Officer Wounded after 'Welfare Check'

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City of Fairfax Race for Mayor

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NoVa Paranormal

PAGE 13



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SOLD!

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SOLD!

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SOLD!

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McLean, 22101
\$1,600,000**

SOLD!

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\$910,000**

SOLD!

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



SCREENSHOT FCPD YOUTUBE

Fairfax Police Chief Kevin Davis.

Police Fatally Shoot Woman During Welfare Check

Welfare check went deadly in three minutes. What happened?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

For 459 days, the Fairfax County Police Department maintained a record free from incidents involving the shooting and killing of an individual by one of their officers. On Monday, Oct. 14, the department released the body-worn camera (BWC) video footage from a police wellness check in Reston conducted on mid-morning Sept. 16, which escalated into a fatal police shooting of a woman within three minutes. It occurred at a new upscale apartment complex in the 11800 block of Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston.

According to the department's General Order No. 509, effective June 17, 2024, officers must activate their BWC systems during their duties, provided that capturing video documentation complies with department policy and the Code of Virginia. In their release on Sept. 18, two days after the shooting, the department identified FCPD officer First Class (PFC) Peter Liu as the officer who discharged his firearm in the fatal shooting in Reston.

The timestamps in the upper right-hand corner of each body-worn camera footage frame chronicle the sequence of events. It be-

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Who was Sydney Elizabeth Wilson?



PHOTO WALLACE FUNERAL
Sydney Elizabeth Wilson, obituary photo.

Sydney Elizabeth Wilson's obituary says she was the only child of Lori A. Myers (Wilson) and Jerome Wilson Jr., and a 2013 graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., earning a B.A. in Government with a minor in Theology.

Wilson was a NAACP Georgetown University Chapter member, a special guest speaker for the Hoops to Heels Student Athlete Program at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2015, and a Young Women's Leadership Panel Speaker for All-City Leadership Secondary School in 2018.

In 2021, Wilson began her career at JLL Mid-Atlantic as a temp. She later secured a full-time position in the Tysons Corner office. In 2022, she received a promotion to Markets Operations Manager for JLL Mid-Atlantic in Washington, D.C. She managed 18-25 coordinators, with some in Norfolk and Richmond, and traveled between offices in Tysons Corner, VA, D.C., Bethesda, MD, and Baltimore, MD. Her obituary asks for memorial donations to the National Alliance on Mental Health in Sydney's honor.

Wilson's Facebook page states that she completed 8 hours of necessary training to become certified in adult mental health first aid on April 19, 2024. Wilson writes on her Facebook page, "As a people manager, mentor, friend, big cousin, daughter ... the list goes on, it's important to be able to help and identify challenges in myself and others. I think this is the greatest act of love."

gins with the arrival of Liu, who approaches and knocks on the door of 33-year-old Sydney Elizabeth Wilson's apartment at 10:14:00 a.m., continuing for three-and-a-half minutes. At 10:17:30, Liu has shot Wilson, who lies still in her white bathrobe and barefoot on

the hallway floor outside her third-floor apartment. Liu grabs his police radio to call for assistance. Knife wounds slash his face, blood dripping onto his hand holding his radio and onto the floor.

The beginning of the footage SEE POLICE FATALLY, PAGE 4

The following images chronicle officer body cam video leading up to, during and after the knife attack on the officer and the shooting. In the top right-hand corner of each frame is the time stamp by year-month-date, followed by hour:minute:second, e.g. 2024-09-16 10:17:08.



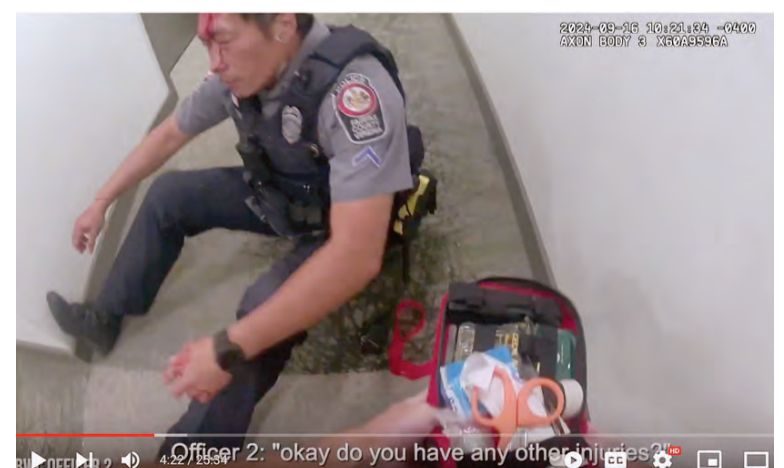
Time stamp 10:14:16



Time stamp 10:17:10



Time stamp 10:17:19



Time stamp 10:21:34

PHOTOS BY FCPD YOUTUBE

Police Fatally Shoot Woman During Welfare Check

FROM PAGE 3

shows Wilson opening the door at 10:14:16, closing it, and opening it again at 10:17:05 while holding a knife in her right hand. Liu retreats backward into a dead-end hallway and against an apartment door as Wilson advances toward him, slashing with her knife. Liu tells Wilson to “back away” multiple times. Liu fires his gun five times. The police narrator on the video reports that Wilson sustains three gunshot strikes.

The 25-minute press conference, which included a transcript, featured five minutes of Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) body-worn camera footage from multiple officers, followed by remarks from Chief Davis and a Q&A session with the media.

The department showed the body-worn camera (BWC) footage during the first five minutes of the 25-minute press conference. “A crisis intervention-trained officer was the first on the scene at approximately 10:07 a.m.,” says the narrator. Officer Liu knocks on the door, and Wilson answers. (0:57-1:07) After Liu identifies himself, Wilson closes the door and places her phone next to it, playing music that is audible on video. According to the narrator, Liu continues to knock for 2 minutes and 45 seconds, explaining that he wants to

check Wilson’s welfare. Wilson returns and opens the door (2:16). Liu asks, “How are you?” (2:17), and Wilson brandishes a knife, slashing it (2:17) at Liu.

“Oh, Jesus Christ. Oh, Jesus Christ,” (2:18) Liu says, retreating backward down the hallway and calling out, “Back up. Back up,” several times. According to the video’s narrator, Liu is trying to de-escalate the situation by giving verbal commands and retreating. Liu has backed into a dead-end hallway against a closed apartment door. Wilson moves toward Liu (2:42). Liu attempts to reposition himself away as Wilson attacks, striking him with the knife. Liu discharges his firearm (2:42-2:51). The video captures the sound of five pops. The narrator says, “[The officer] discharged his firearm, striking Wilson three times.”

Liu calls in on his radio. “531 Bravo. Signal. Shots fired.” (3:12-3:22) Blood begins to drip down on Liu’s hand. (3:22-3:40) Bleeding increases. “Start medic, please. The suspect’s, the suspect’s down. I need medical, too,” Liu says. (3:41-3:52) The video shows the blood increasing, dripping to the floor. Liu drops his radio. “Units en route,” says the dispatcher. (3:53)

Additional officers arrive ahead of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. One of them is a plain-clothes de-

tective, identified later by Davis as a sergeant. The detective asks if anyone has gloves. No one does. Despite not having gloves, the detective begins CPR on Wilson, who can be seen blurred on the video. Liu sits on the hallway floor, feet away from Wilson, receiving aid. The video shows the detective continuing CPR on Wilson. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue transported Wilson to a nearby hospital, where they pronounced her deceased. Liu is transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Chief Kevin Davis said that during the press conference, Liu attempted to retreat from the situation and alter its outcome. “But he was just in a no-win position, and his life was being threatened.” Liu arrived at Wilson’s residence after a mental health professional reported that Wilson was in an “agitated state,” and asked police to conduct a welfare check on her. Davis said a mental health counselor did not join Liu on the welfare check. The mental health team was on another call for service. He added that Liu had received crisis intervention training.

Davis made remarks from 5:06 to 15:56 and answered questions from 15:57 to 25:34. Davis said, “You saw the body-worn camera footage The second time she

came to the door, she immediately attacked and slashed our police officer. It could have been much, much worse.” Davis explained that the officer did what the department trained and expected him to do when threatened. “If you can tactically reposition yourself, you do it. If you can use distance, use it. If you can seek cover and concealment, seek it. All those options weren’t available to him,” Davis said.

“I believe personally and based on my training and everything I’ve seen and my knowledge of how our co-responder teams operate and the proximity of our clinicians with our officers when they’re dealing with people who are in a crisis, a co-responder would have found herself or himself in a very dangerous position when this woman came to the door the second time,” Davis said.

Davis said that he believed the call for service was appropriately dispatched to a police officer with the training and experience to handle it effectively. “I believe he was doing his very best to communicate with this woman before she came to the door a second time with a knife,” Davis said. According to Davis, the county employs a co-responder program, with clinicians accompanying officers to mental health crisis calls and responding

to over 2,200 calls in 2024.

Davis expressed condolences to the family of Sydney Wilson. “Any loss of life is something that we all mourn, and the person whose life was lost in this particular case is no different. She has a family and friends and loved ones who love her very much who care about her and undoubtedly are grieving and upset; we acknowledge that.”

Davis discussed the department’s CIT training. According to Virginia’s standard, a police department should have 29 percent of its officers trained in CIT. “In Fairfax County, we have 59 percent of our sworn police officers who are CIT trained ... Between September 2023 and September 2024, we responded to 3,252 checks on the welfare type calls for service, so it is a routinely dispatched call for service in Fairfax County.”

“I am very grateful that our police officer is recovering, alive, and available to still do this very difficult job and under very difficult circumstances. I believe he did an excellent job,” Davis said.

Assigned to the Reston Police District, PFC Liu is currently on restricted-duty status, awaiting the outcome of the criminal and administrative investigations. The press conference is available for viewing at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=r1SiDfkL0qI>.

Jonell Logan Is New Executive Director at Tephra

Following a national search, Reston-based Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (Tephra ICA) today announced the appointment of Jonell Jaime Logan as the Institute’s new Executive Director & Curator. Logan will start on Oct. 28. The appointment comes as the Institute, formerly the Greater Reston Arts Center, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

“Tephra ICA’s mission is not only to promote innovative art and thinking, but to advocate for the arts and artists with curiosity and care. I believe in this mission and am honored to be the next Executive Director to support this work,” said Logan.

Logan has an MFA in Drawing and Painting, Printmaking from Brooklyn College. Originally from New York, Logan has worked in arts organizations that include The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Whitney Museum of Art; Studio Museum in Harlem; and the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC. Logan served as the Director of Education and Public Programs at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC and, more recently, she served as the Vice President + Creative Director at the McColl Center in Charlotte. During her tenure at McColl, she led the implementation of the newly adopted strategic plan, revamped the curatorial and Artist-in-Residence program, implemented a new studio rental and exhibition program in support of lo-

cal artists, and was instrumental in helping to secure \$100,000 in new funding from the Warhol Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Logan’s commitment to the arts is paralleled by her belief in the importance of community and investment in servant leadership, says Tephra’s release. She is the immediate past president of the Junior League of Charlotte, has served on the board of the Women’s Impact Fund and OF/BY/FOR All, and is an alumnus of the American Leadership Forum. Through her work, Logan has learned the power of systems and the importance of intentionally stretching organizations to evolve in ways that are authentic, inclusive and impactful.

“Jonell is an established and innovative leader, bringing exceptional curatorial, management, and fundraising experience gained at respected institutions in our sector,” said Robert Goudie, Tephra ICA Board Chair. He added that Tephra took the “unusual step of entering into a five-year commitment. ... That stability will be especially important as we seek during that time to identify and close on our new home in Reston, an American Alliance of Museums-accredited and larger space that will allow us to expand what we can deliver to the region.”

Gallery hours: Wednesday–Friday, 11am–5pm and Saturday, 12–3pm

More information can be found at tephraica.org.



Jonell Logan

Fairfax Man, 20, Dies after Motorcycle Crash

Fairfax City residents are mourning the loss of Joshua Doan-Ha, 20, of Fairfax, who died Oct. 6 – three days after his motorcycle crashed in West Springfield. He was a graduate of Fairfax High and was a U.S. Marine.

On Oct. 3 at 7:21 p.m., Fairfax County police responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Braddock Road and Carriagepark Road near Kings Park West. Detectives determined that Doan-Ha was traveling east on Braddock Road on a 2023 Kawasaki Ninja.

According to police, the driver of a 2016 Toyota Corolla was traveling west on Braddock Road and was attempting to make a left turn onto Carriagepark Road when it was struck by the motorcycle. Doan-Ha was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Detectives continue to investigate whether speed

or alcohol were a factor in this tragedy.

Meanwhile, a GoFundMe has been set up to help Doan-Ha's family pay for his medical bills, memorial and funeral service. On that page, it says, "Joshua was a truly remarkable soul who touched the lives of everyone around him. His kindness, strength and spirit will forever remain in our hearts."

And since he was an organ donor, Doan-Ha underwent surgery on Oct. 11 to help improve and save the lives of six people. His cousin, Michelle Nguyen, called him "a cherished member of our family," adding that "his loss at a young age is deeply felt by all of us."

To contribute to his GoFundMe account, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/aid-joshua-doanhas-fight-for-recovery>.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Bicyclist, 89, Killed in Collision with Car

Richard Albrecht, 89, of Oakton was killed after the electric bicycle he was riding collided with a Kia Optima in Fair Oaks. Police responded Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 12:14 p.m., to the intersection of West Ox Road and Tilton Valley Drive after receiving a report of the accident.

Preliminarily, detectives from the Fair Oaks District Station determined that Albrecht was traveling west on Tilton Valley Drive and turned left onto southbound West Ox Road. Police say the driver of the Kia

was traveling south on West Ox in the right lane when it was struck by the bicycle.

Albrecht was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Kia's driver, who was uninjured, remained on scene. Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are continuing to investigate. But preliminarily, they do not believe that speed or alcohol were factors in the crash.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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.

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FAIRFAX CITY CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

‘We Need to Dramatically Increase Our Commercial Tax Base’

Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read makes her case for reelection.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read cares about the City, its residents and businesses. She believes she’s helped bring about some positive changes here and wants the chance to finish what she began when elected to this position.

“You can’t get enough accomplished in two years,” she said. “So I believe it’s incumbent upon me to run for another term to see through the things we’ve started during my first term in office.”

In fact, Read would like Fairfax to adopt four-year, staggered terms for its leaders. That way, three City councilmembers would run in one election, with the three others plus the mayor running in another election.

“Having a turnaround for mayor and council every two years can be destabilizing,” she explained. “And with three current councilmembers not running for reelection this year, there’ll be a dearth of experience and institutional knowledge of this City [on the council].”

“If I’m reelected, I’d bring it up with the new council and suggest it be put as a referendum on the November 2025 ballot for governor and let the voters decide. If it passes, there’d have to be a change to the City charter in 2026 so it could take effect in November 2026.”

Noting some of her accomplishments since becoming mayor, Read said, “I ran on sidewalks and bathrooms. Safe, connected sidewalks are foundational to a walkable City – which is our goal. It’s only 6.25 square miles. We’ve built the sidewalk connections on the east side of Route 123, and we’re building the sidewalk on the west side of it. And we also have projects for shared-use and pedestrian paths, most of which have been funded by grants.”

As for bathrooms – although Fairfax City’s 25 parks are frequented by parents and children – surprisingly, none of them contained bathrooms until 2023, when Read made it one of her priorities. Now, there are three safe, clean and free Throne bathrooms in high foot-traffic areas without needing utility hookups. They’re in Van Dyck Park, in Thaiss Park near a walking trail, and in Old Town Square – which attracts huge crowds throughout the year to attend the City’s many events held there.

Throne leverages solar power, internet-connected sensors and mobile technology to provide a more sanitary experience than traditional port-a-johns. The self-locking, ADA accessible units have hands-free toilets and sinks, changing tables, nonslip



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The incumbent:
Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read

floors, and floral-patterned walls to discourage graffiti. People enter them via text message and the Throne app or by obtaining an access card through the City’s Parks and Recreation Department.

“These bathrooms have received very high usage,” said Read. “But they’re temporary. Permanent bathrooms will be built at Thaiss, and we already have permanent ones at Draper Drive Park. And we also used some temporary ones in Ratcliffe Park and Providence Park for our children’s summer rec programs. Meanwhile, we’re playing catch-up and are planning, designing, funding and building permanent bathrooms. It’s also an equity issue for women and girls, because port-a-johns are easier for guys to use.”

Regarding trails – which are also important to connectivity within the City – Read said Fairfax is currently trying to build the George Snyder trail, which has been on the drawing board since the 1990s. This shared-use trail would connect Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) to the Wilcoxon Trail at Draper Drive, south of Fairfax Boulevard (Route 50), and would link neighborhoods and local businesses.

“It became ADA-compliant when VDOT gave us concessionaire funding to build it,” said Read. “The conditions were that it had to be 10 feet wide, paved and built at a grade so that everyone of all abilities could use it – and a major, shared-use path should be accessible.”

And although the project has become controversial to some people because it requires extensive tree removal for the trail construction, Read noted that a mom from her opponent, Susan Kuiler’s, own neighborhood spoke in favor of it at the last City Council meeting.

“She said she’s a bicyclist and that she and

SEE READ, PAGE 7

‘People Pay Attention When Projects Affect Their Neighborhoods’

Fairfax City’s Susan Kuiler wants to become mayor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The George Snyder Trail project made Susan Kuiler pay more attention to Fairfax City Council meetings. Now, this issue and others have compelled her to run for mayor.

“I was concerned that they were going to cut a trail in the woods, 50 yards from my house, which would destroy hundreds of trees – including those that would be damaged as a result of the work,” she said. “It would also add air pollution from Fairfax Boulevard; and without the trees, there’d be more storm runoff and flooding into Cambridge Station Park.”

Kuiler said residents proposed an alternative route using existing roads. “It would be less destructive and less expensive,” she said. “And I didn’t think [the proponents] were giving good enough reasons for continuing with their plans and not adjusting course, with the new information we provided. The citizens would bear the cost in terms of the environmental impact. I believe the people who’d benefit from it most are those wanting a recreational trail for bicycling.”

“While I, too, support multimodal transportation and trails, I do not do so when such projects require the wanton destruction of our dwindling forests and green spaces,” she continued. “The mayor has dismissed residents’ concerns as being voiced by only a handful of people complaining, which she has characterized as the ‘not-in-my-backyard’ complaint. Over 2,600 people signed a petition to save the trees; this is not a handful of people.”

Kuiler said she spoke with people testifying before City Council about other issues, as well, and “A lot of the residents felt like they weren’t being listened to.”

Another example, she said, is the Route 123/Eaton Place transportation project. It’s a dangerous, 7-way intersection with 66 conflict points and a history of accidents and deaths. So changes are going to be made there to improve safety.

But, said Kuiler, “The nearby residents and businesses are furious about it because access to their neighborhoods and businesses will be adversely impacted by only having one way in and one way out.”

She said residents are also concerned about the push for high-density development “because the impacts on our road network, schools, police and emergency services, water-and-sewer infrastructure, green spaces, flood resilience, and other factors have not been addressed. Viable alternatives have also not been identified and analyzed.”



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The challenger:
City resident Susan Kuiler

“Residents do not want the City of Fairfax to become another Arlington or even the Mosaic District. To say that such projects have been in various iterations of the [City’s] Comprehensive Plan for years and, therefore, residents are aware of them, is somewhat disingenuous and beside the point – because people tend to pay attention when projects affect their neighborhoods and their ability to travel smoothly through the City.”

Kuiler said she also wants to know a project’s maintenance and operation costs, as well as what they’re based on. “I’d like to look at the City’s projects, current and planned, and see where they are in terms of costs and schedules. Council needs to do that periodically to see where they stand. I think staff and the city manager could do a lot of this.”

And, she added, “We owe each other the reasons for our disagreements. I think Council might not be asking the right questions of [City] staff or asking it to provide adequate alternatives. I want to control the pace of development; we need to do really effective land-use planning. Regarding multi-use projects involving both commercial and residential, we need to look at alternatives.”

“I want to take a closer look at the projects being proposed for their potential effects on crime here, too,” continued Kuiler. “I also want to see opportunities, such as public-private partnerships, to be explored to provide middle-income and workforce housing. People wanting to stay here and downsize can’t afford a condo or apartment starting at \$900,000 to \$1 million.”

She said retirees wanting step-down housing aren’t currently able to find it in their price range in the City. “Their children cannot afford to move here, either,” said Kuiler.

SEE KUILER, PAGE 7

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FAIRFAX CITY CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

The Incumbent: Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read

FROM PAGE 6

all the young children in that neighborhood will use that trail,” said Read. “Trails are also a matter of equity because kids need to be able to get home from after-school activities via trails, paths and sidewalks if their parents can’t pick them up.”

At Council meetings, said Read, “We hear from the same people opposed to the trail, over and over. But I don’t believe we’re hearing from the whole community we’re representing. Having more people on a busy, well-used trail makes it safer. And the replacement trees will be native and selected to thrive where they’re planted. At the end of the day, this trail will be better for everyone.”

“And the whole reason the City bought that trail was to protect it from development so people could enjoy nature there,” she continued. “The median age in Fairfax City is 35.7, and people move here because it’s walkable, urban and they want to be able to bike. This trail is funded and can bring so much to the community.”

Read’s also proud that Fairfax recently modified its social-services ordinance. “The two most significant votes I’ve cast to break a [Council] tie were to not cancel the George Snyder Trail and to amend the City’s social-services ordinance,” she said. “We created major and minor categories within it.”

It means that minor, social-service delivery entities may be established by right in a commercial district. These include peer counseling and group therapy. Major social-service providers such as The Lamb Center, a daytime shelter for the homeless, will always require a special-use permit.

“There were no categories before,” explained Read. “Now, some service deliverers don’t need a special-use permit – which is a financial burden on small business to apply for and also requires a Council vote.”

Since the City manager handles Fairfax’s daily operations, the mayor’s job was designed to be part time. But Read says it’s actually “more than full time. I attend regional meetings and events on weekends and do something for the City – such as attending galas and giving presentations – almost every night of the week. And daytimes, there are ribbon cuttings and meetings with staff. But I say yes to it all because I want this City to flourish and its momentum to keep growing.”

“And people are so appreciative when I show up, make remarks, attend their events and am fully present when it’s most important to them or their business, organization or event. It’s meaningful for them to have the mayor there.”

Read said being mayor requires experience and a broad array of skills, such as public speaking, good oral and written communication, an understanding of business development, land use, budgeting and tax rates – and a willingness to always learn something new. And she believes she’s the best-qualified candidate for this job.

With a main focus on economic development, she said the most important issue Fairfax faces is its need to “dramatically increase our commercial tax base. Running a City on real-estate taxes isn’t sustainable over the long term. We’ve got to attract more businesses and generate a lot more revenue because you can’t raise homeowners’ taxes enough to pay for everything.”

The Challenger: City Resident Susan Kuiler

FROM PAGE 6

“So we need to identify diverse housing options and not mouth platitudes about ‘affordable’ housing. We also have to attract new businesses to add to the City’s tax base and reduce the amount that residents have to pay.”

“We need a mayor with business acumen who could take a hard look at our spending and budget,” she said. “I’d prefer making streets safer for bicycles over paving our forests. And I’d rather not have high-density development on the outskirts bring traffic problems to the neighborhoods.”

“There are a lot of things we could do to address climate change and make this a more livable community and mitigate the risk of communities getting flooded. I’m less concerned about having the community connected because sometimes people have to use their cars. But I also want our roads safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.”

Calling public safety another major issue for her, Kuiler said, “Crime has increased and residents are being harassed when they walk our trails, walk from their neighborhoods to area parks, wait for buses, shop for groceries and gas. We need to work with the police and – depending on the offense and the offender – social services to find out what works to prevent and deter crime, impediments to prosecution, and how to make our community safer.”

She also noted that homelessness in Fairfax is a big concern for residents, “particularly when many of the visible homeless are from other jurisdictions. The [City’s homelessness] task force was a start in addressing homelessness. We now need to identify practical ways of providing social services for those who need and are willing to avail themselves of such services.”

Furthermore, said Kuiler, “The county needs to step up by offering an additional shelter near the City. The working poor, particularly those with children, are often overlooked because they are working and not gathering at places like the Wawa or The Lamb Center. We need to find ways, working collaboratively with local businesses, religious and secular organizations, and social service agencies, to give them a leg up.”

Basically, she said, she’s running for mayor because “no one else was going to do it, and I really believe there needs to be some new leadership. I don’t think the current Council members are acting collaboratively with each other. As mayor, I will listen and try to bring people together, and I’ll try to work collaboratively both with Council and staff.”

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Kamala Harris Inspired Me to Fight Against Gun Violence

N. Virginia history teacher wants his students to be safe.

BY BEN BERNIER

In 2019, as a junior at the University of New Hampshire, I asked then-Senator and presidential candidate Kamala Harris how she would address the epidemic of gun violence in our schools. As an aspiring educator getting ready to start my career, it horrified me that public schools had become targets for these horrific events. I wrote to lawmakers and drove to Washington for the March for Our Lives, but I knew that more had to be done at the national level.

Harris agreed and laid out strong, practical steps she would take as president to prevent gun violence and school shootings.

Voicing her support for an assault weapons ban and universal background checks, Harris showed that she was committed to act on this issue. Would-be perpetrators of gun violence all too often slip through the cracks of a broken system. Had these laws been in place, they very well may have prevented tragedies such as those in Newtown, Connecticut and Parkland, Florida from happening — the facts prove it. To me, Harris' determination to put an end to gun violence within school communities was evident.

That summer, I scrapped my plans and went to work on her campaign in New Hampshire, driven by the belief that Kamala Harris would be the president we need to enact real change on this issue. I believe that today, more than ever,

Since taking office, Vice President Harris has proven that she meant it when she said in 2019 that she was not afraid to lead on this issue. Under the Biden-Harris administration, the most significant gun safety legislation in decades was passed: the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Harris heads up the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and has shared her personal experience as a gun owner to prove that responsible gun owners can support both the Second Amendment and common sense safety laws.

"We must be willing to have the courage to say that on every level, whether you talk about changing laws or changing practices and protocols, that we must do better," she said to a group of Parkland survivors earlier this year.

Compare that to the Republican nominee for president, who told Iowans the day after a shooting in their state they "have to get over it," and his running mate who called school shootings a "fact of life." Trump's Project 2025 playbook calls for more guns in schools, itself a reminder that when he was president, he called for the arming of teachers. It is utterly unacceptable that the commands of the gun lobby are being listened to before the needs of our country's children.

Vice President Harris knows that and is determined to have the backs of our teachers and students. She showed this by choosing Tim Walz — a former teacher beloved in his home

state for signing legislation to support students — to be her running mate. It's hard to imagine a clearer contrast between the Harris-Walz ticket's support for educators and schools and the Trump-Vance position, which calls for abolishing the Department of Education.

This is my third year as a high school history teacher, and I will continue to lock my classroom door every day. I am still worried about the safety of my students and myself. I intend to have a long career and want my students to live free from fear that they won't make it to graduation — possible under courageous leaders willing to do what's necessary.

Unfortunately, the reality is that school shootings are increasing, and action must be taken to address them. It is past time the United States joined other countries in passing reasonable legislation to prevent more children from dying from gun violence.

I am no longer the college student I was when I first spoke to Kamala Harris, but I believe just as strongly in her mission today as I did then. It is inspiring and undoubtedly part of what made me the educator I am today. Kamala Harris is a strong leader, a fearless fighter, and genuinely driven to protect all Americans' freedoms.

She is unequivocally the right choice to lead our country; our schools, our children, and our future depends on her.

Ben Bernier is a history teacher at Hayfield Secondary School.

Tired of Big Trucks Parking on Our Public Roads, Blocking Your View and Creating Safety Hazards? Use the NEW Parking Reporter Tool!

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

More and more lately, we are seeing our public streets littered with illegally parked commercial vehicles like large box trucks, dump trucks and tractor trailers. Not only is this a safety hazard, it's intrusive to our neighborhoods, blocks our businesses and limits walkability, while diminishing the sense of community we are striving to create. My office continually hears from frustrated residents who consider Richmond Highway our main street and expect it to reflect our vibrant growing community.

Here in the Mount Vernon District, our primary roadways are some of our most visible public places. However, state law does not allow localities such as Fairfax County to regulate truck parking on primary roads such as Richmond Highway. Currently, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) only considers line-of-sight when regulating truck parking on

the Highway. This limits the ability of our local governments to create attractive, vibrant places and other features conducive to pedestrian and bicycle utilization and improved safety for all roadway users.

While I continue to work with our state colleagues to implement improvements, we need to be further addressing this problem now. My office has been working for the last year to gain consensus with VDOT and the police as to what can be enforced and the most effective way to identify illegally parked vehicles and report them. We hear from residents who strongly object to seeing these trucks every day and advise me that they often have difficulty clearly reporting parking violations to the police.

I am very pleased to announce our new reporting tool, making it easier for you to report illegal truck parking to the police. My team has worked diligently with County IT, to create a new online tool for any-

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT COMMERCIAL TRUCK PARKING



"Like many of you I have been frustrated at the numbers of commercial trucks parked on community roads. While I work with our state officials for changes, here is information you can use to help us make a difference now." - Dan Storck, Supervisor.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Is the vehicle "obstructing traffic," meaning, parked in a travel lane?
2. Is it a signed "no parking" area?
3. Is the commercial truck parked in a

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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— MERCIA HOBSON



PHOTOS SUPERVISOR WALTER ALCORN (@WALTERALCORNFFX)

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors participated in their annual Boo! Exchange between district offices. The staff for @supdanstorck delivered a Harry Potter-themed cauldron to (@walteralcornffx) with candy, homemade cookies and “butter beer.” In turn, their of-ice surprised @supvbierman and staff with macarons and popcorn.

Supervisors Just Wanna Have Fun: Annual Boo Exchange



Staff for @walteralcornffx) surprise @supvbierman with macarons and popcorn.

The Green Lizard Foundation Raises Funds for New Bikes.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

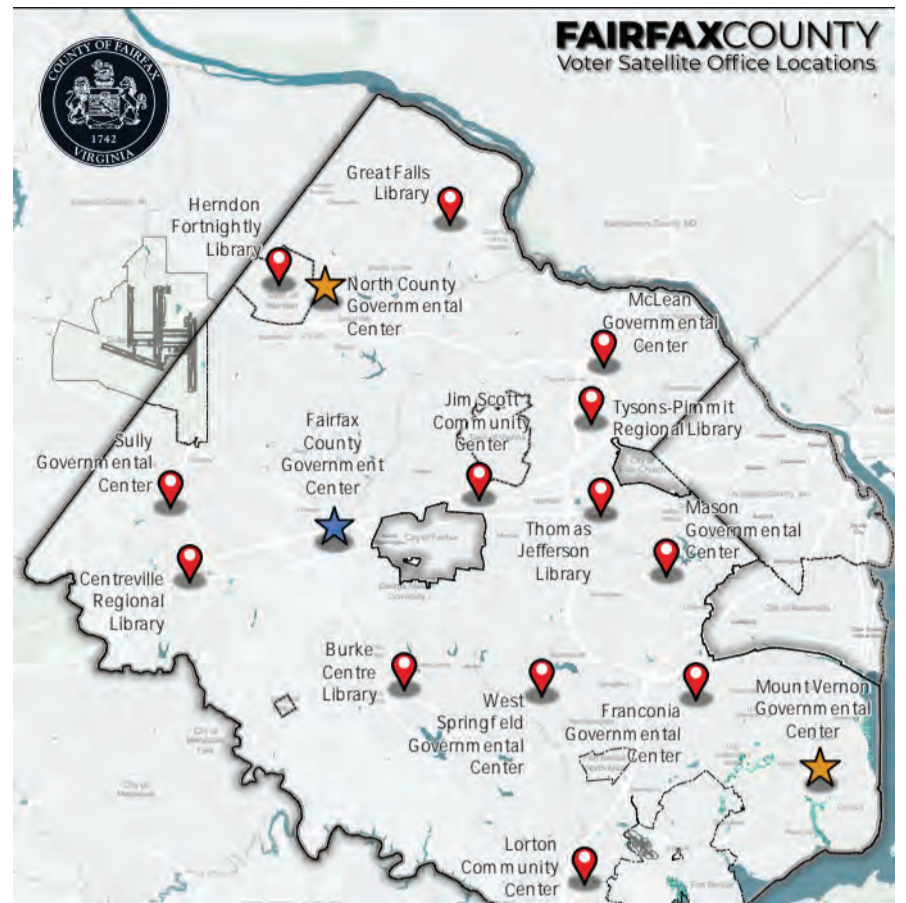
Cyclists participating in The Green Lizard Foundation’s (TGLF) Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 5 on the W&OD Trail stop for a break at the NOVA Parks tent as they raise much-needed funds to help school-aged children in the Herndon community live a healthier and more active lifestyle. The Green Lizard Foundation raised enough money from the scavenger hunt to supply ten new bikes for the nonprofit She Believes in Me. Members will take local students on rides, according to Jason Sickels of TGLF.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Additional Early Voting Locations Open

In-person early voting expanded to 13 additional locations on Thursday, Oct. 17 and continues through Saturday, Nov. 2, operating Monday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m., Saturdays (Oct. 19, 26, and Nov. 2) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 27, from 1 to 5 p.m.

SCREENSHOT FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT @FAIRFAXCOUNTY



‘Water and Warmth’ Mural Unveiled. 21st Annual Great Falls Studio Tour



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The unveiling of the “Water and Warmth” mural at Lake Anne Elementary School in Reston proved a success, with Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony. From left: Principal Jill Stuart, Supervisor Walter Alcorn and artist Shawn James of Mural Masters. Supported by an ArtsFairfax project grant and a donation from Mark and Cathy Baum, “Water and Warmth” is a permanent installation that aligns with Public Art Reston’s mission to inspire all generations through public art.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON THE CONNECTION

Nina Chhabra of Herndon takes part in the 21st Annual Great Falls Studio Tour and enjoys chatting with artist Jill Banks.

Centreville HS Student Art Mural Unveiled



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY RORY F. MARCACCIO

Talented art students at Centreville High School show off part of the mural they designed and painted across the Media Center windows.

Dranesville Celebrates Trees Event—Sunday in McLean



SCREENSHOT SUPERVISOR JIMMY BIERMAN @SUPVBIERMAN

Supervisor James Bierman joined with local tree advocates at Lewinsville Park in McLean Sunday afternoon to celebrate trees. “The planting of the tree was truly a special moment, symbolizing our shared commitment to a more sustainable future,” posted Supervisor Jimmy Bierman @ SupvBierman.

Community Fun, Festivities Under the Autumn Sun

Centreville Day was Saturday, Oct. 19

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left are Valerie Sink, Jane Shackelford and Mimi Spear of the Lane's Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).



From left are Harmonie Taddeo and Diane Beatley of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM).



The Magic Hand Orchestra performing at the start of Centreville Day.



Miss Virginia USA, Himanvi Panidepu, a 2018 Centreville High grad and cybersecurity consultant, poses before the parade.



Girl Scout Troop 54150.



The Walk to End Hunger, benefiting WFCM, was part of the parade.



The Voices of Mount Olive Baptist Church sing "America the Beautiful."



Cooking Korean spicy chicken and Greek souvlaki are (from left) Scoutmaster Nam Cho of Boy Scout Troop 44 of Colin Powell Elementary, and Scouts Colin Foster and Michael Arimura.



Police Det. Melanie Todd, of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, with a robot used for explosive detection and disposal, plus barricade situations. At right, PFC Austin Hall speaks with visitors.



Manning St. John Episcopal Church's bake sale are (from left) the Rev. Kevin Laskowski, Lisa Heller, Kristen Tucker, Len Pond, Jean Makurat, Sandy Jones, Susie Pike and Jim Heller.



Ready for Halloween in their skeleton costumes are Ken and Jolie Nimmannit, son Tyler and daughter Jayden.

CENTREVILLE DAY

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Members of Centreville Dance pose for a photo during the parade.



Girl Scout Service Unit 54-5.



Representing the Rotary Club of Centreville & Chantilly are (from left) Angela Peabody, Wallicia Gill, Donna Smith and Franz Torrez.



Centreville's Tracy and Mark Avila with their foxhounds, Zoe and Scooby.



Daisy Scout Troop 6140.



The colorful history train transports visitors to various event sites.



Cub Scout Pack 2011 in the parade.



Girl Scout Troop 56092.

Paranormal Specialist Pens Book of Local Hauntings

“Haunted Northern Virginia” may evoke eerie feelings or hairs standing on end.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When Alex Matsuo was standing in the Lee Chapel cemetery in Burke a few years ago, she felt something eerie that gave her the impression of the supernatural. She’s been a paranormal investigator for years so it didn’t make her want to run, but to investigate.

This experience was captured in her book “Haunted Northern Virginia,” a book she recently wrote and published through The History Press.

“I was having a feeling of someone standing next to me,” she said of her Lee Chapel cemetery experience.

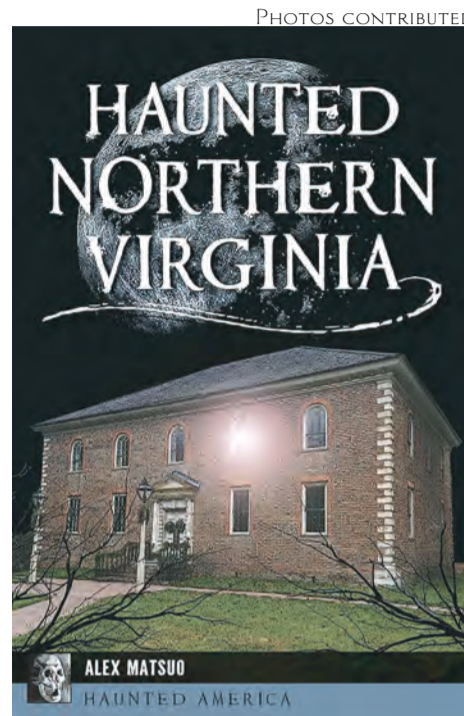
Through her investigation of the Burke area and paranormal events, she found information on “a young girl named Ava Roy that was murdered,” she said. According to local lore, Eva Roy, 14, disappeared back in August 1918 when she was checking on the family cows, and they found her body the next day tied to a tree. She is thought



Alex Matsuo

to be buried in Lee Chapel cemetery near her father Peter Roy. Her murder was never solved, they say but some have seen her ghost near Lee Chapel Road, Matsuo said.

Another spirit Matsuo investigated was the ghost of a woman in Arlington Hall. As the story goes, this woman named Mary had taken her own life when she found out



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Does Fairfax County have more things-that-go-bump-in-the-night?

she was pregnant. Sightings have her in a flowered dress. “Women started reporting the bathroom stalls locked from the inside,”

Paranormal Tales

Come hear these tales and more from Alex Matsuo:
NOV. 7, 2024:
 Elaine’s Book Event 6pm-9pm (Alexandria)
NOV. 18, 2024:
 Cascades Library Event 7pm (Potomac Falls)
NOV. 22, 2024:
 Manassas Park City Library 5:30pm

Matsuo said.

The book is full of stories that include sightings and noises in the Manassas Battlefield Park and the Remy Mausoleum in Lorton that many locals know as “The Lorton Crypt.” She’s investigated that one too. “There’s a guardian still watching over the place, some sort of guardian,” she said. Matsuo works with a folklore club from George Mason University on some of the legends she pursues.

In October, she’s had some interest in the book and has done book presentations at Spooky Boozy Book Fair at Audacious Aleworks in Falls Church, and another at the Courthouse Library in Arlington. There are more coming up in the next few weeks.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FREE HALLOWEEN WEEKEND LYFT RIDES

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Traffic Safety Administration, more than one-third (39%) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month’s Halloween celebration.

Offered by Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2024 Halloween SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26th and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 27th as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this 12-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 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26th on www.SoberRide.com.

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.

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.fairfax-county.gov/healthymindsfairfax 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. Meet-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 19

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BIRD SAFE



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

The glass windows of the Martha Washington Library reflect trees and vegetation.

Glass and Light Pollution Threaten Birds

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

On the Saturday overnight of Oct. 19-20, 352,400 birds crossed Fairfax County, most migrating to their wintering grounds. Every fall, around four billion birds fly from Canada into the United States and another 4.7 billion fly over the U.S. southern border, according to Cornell University experts. But birds face multiple hazards, including collisions into windows and human-caused light pollution, three speakers told 75 attendees at an Oct. 9 online program sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance.

NVBA has launched a campaign to prevent bird deaths, citing a National Audubon Society study that found a 30 percent drop in bird populations in North America since 1970, which means more than one in four birds or three billion birds have been lost since then.

Most birds migrate in the fall to find food, explained Greg Butcher, retired Migratory Species Coordinator for U.S. Forest Service. While some birds like swallows and finches migrate during the day to feed on the wing, 80 percent migrate at night, he said.

COLLISIONS WITH GLASS

Over one billion birds die by colliding with glass in buildings in the U.S., Christine Sheppard of the American Bird Conservancy, told the group. A few bounce off, but “scavengers are good at snatching up carcasses,” she added.

“We are getting collisions everywhere because the birds are sucked into the built environment, not just high up in skyscrapers,” Sheppard explained. A Smithsonian Institution analysis estimated that houses and other buildings one-to-three stories tall account for 253 million bird fatalities; low-rise



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Yellow outdoor lights are less attractive to and kill fewer insects than brighter white lights. Many birds are insect eaters.

buildings four-to-11 stories high account for 339 million bird deaths; and high-rise buildings 11 floors and higher cause the deaths of 508,000 birds a year. Taller structures like skyscrapers have higher per building mortality rates, but residences are responsible for most because of their numbers.

Birds crash into windows because they perceive glass reflections of vegetation, landscapes or sky to be real and they try to reach the area. Last October, in one night, nearly 1,000 birds collided into Chicago’s mostly-glass McCormick Place Lakeside Center, the highest number on record then. American Bird Conservancy reports that once New York City’s Javits Convention Center was renovated and bird-friendly glass installed, collisions dropped by 90 percent.

NVBA is promoting bird-friendly designs for buildings and bird-friendly glass, for homes, for example, screens, decals and tape on windows’ exteriors.

Some localities have adopted bird-friendly building requirements, Sheppard said, including Washington, D.C.; Howard County, Maryland; New York City; and Portland, Oregon.

Dark Sky’s Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:

- Use light only if needed.
- Direct light so it falls only where needed.
- Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Use light only when needed. Use controls like timers and motion detectors.
- Use warmer color lights where possible.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://DARKSKY.ORG](https://darksky.org)

Find Out More:

Reducing collisions, <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>; www.Birdsmartglass.org.
Lights out, <http://www.darkvirginiasky.org/>
Bird migration, <https://birdcast.info/>

LIGHT POLLUTION

Laura Greenleaf from Dark Sky Virginia began by saying, “In the last 100 years, we’ve turned night into day ... natural darkness is fundamental for all of us.” She contends that on the east coast, light pollution is increasing ten percent every year. The NVBA campaign brochure defines light pollution as “lights that are too bright, too white, misaligned or on all night,” like lit parking lots.

“We’re lighting up so much more than we need to, especially landscaping lighting,” she argued. “You can light sport fields without lighting the sky.”

Artificial night light affects birds’ foraging, predator-prey balances, emergence from shelter, communication, navigation and migration, Greenleaf maintained. “Insects are the foundation of the food web, but lights suck them out of the environment.”

Lights Out D.C. volunteers walk Washington’s streets before sunrise during the migration season and collect dead and stunned birds.

Advocates are urging government officials to enact policies to “adopt lighting, construction and other measures to protect birds and other wildlife from the worst impacts of

our built-up environment,” explained Tom Blackburn, NVBA Advocacy Chair. He added, “Revisions to lighting ordinances could be very effective in reducing light pollution. Rapidly-developing areas such as Tysons, Reston and Leesburg could require new construction to include bird-safe windows and incorporate Dark Sky International’s Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting into building design.”

The campaign also seeks to “convince business owners to adopt ‘Lights Out for Birds’ practices during spring and fall migration seasons, as many other towns and cities have done and to convince developers and architects to incorporate bird-safe windows into building designs.”

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Government policies vary widely. Kelly M. Atkinson, with Fairfax County’s Planning and Development Department, said, “Fairfax County is committed to safeguarding local wildlife and has implemented measures to mitigate the effects of outdoor lighting on birds and other wildlife. In 2020, the county amended its Zoning Ordinance to adhere to updated lighting industry stan-

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BIRD SAFE



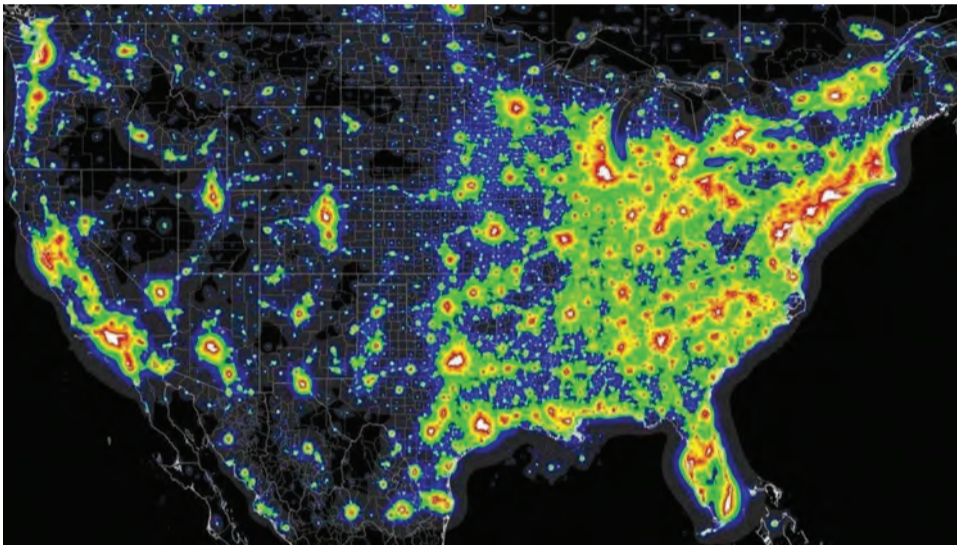
PHOTO BY TOM BLACKBURN

A building in Reston that reflects vegetation and causes birds to collide with the windows.



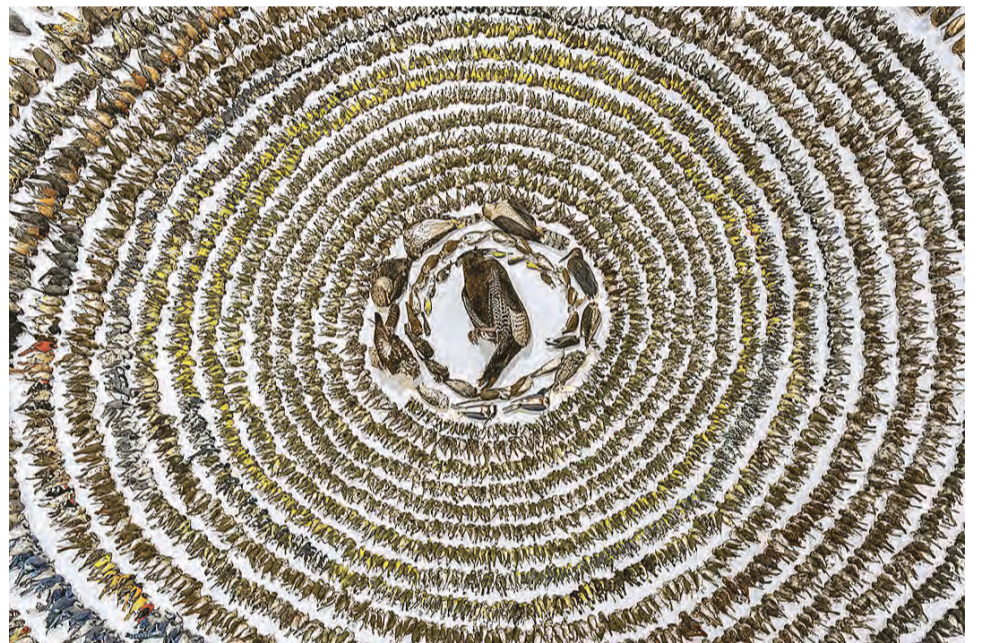
PHOTO BY POWELL HUTTON

Paracord hung in front of a window to warn birds to not fly into it.



DARKSKY INTERNATIONAL

Map showing light pollution in the United States.



PATRICIA HOMONYLO BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024

Titled 'When Worlds Collide,' this photograph features a display of over 4,000 birds that died after colliding with windows in Toronto, Canada.



PATRICIA HOMONYLO BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2024

Titled 'When Worlds Collide,' this photograph features a display of over 4,000 birds that died after colliding with windows in Toronto, Canada.

dards that prioritize energy efficiency and restrict outdoor lighting to a maximum color temperature of 3,000 K.

“During the review of commercial and multi-family proposals going through the public hearing process, we ask applicants to provide information on bird-friendly design strategies which could include window glazing, lighting practices to reduce light emitted during evening hours and incorporation of natural landscaping around the building. Additionally, the Fairfax County Park Authority actively advocates for dark sky-friendly initiatives, urging residents and businesses to adopt measures that reduce light pollution and protect local ecosystems.”

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Blackburn responded, “I am very pleased that Fairfax County has taken steps to reduce the adverse impacts of our built-up environment on birds and other wildlife. I am hopeful that we can work with county officials to promote additional measures, including supporting a ‘Lights Out’ policy during migration and reducing the recommended color temperature for lighting to 2,500 K.”

FIND OUT MORE:

Reducing collisions, <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>; www.Birdsmartglass.org.

Lights out, <http://www.darkvirginiasky.org/>

Bird migration, <https://birdcast.info/>



BONSTRA HARESIGN ARCHITECTS

The Capital One Tower at Tysons, 470 feet tall, the second-tallest building in Virginia.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Halloweekend at The Perch event takes place Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 at Capital One Center in Tysons.

FRESH EVERGREEN WREATHS AND DECORATIONS

Assistance League of Northern Virginia (ALNV) is partnering with Lynch Creek Farm to offer a variety of fresh evergreen wreaths and decorations for your home or as holiday gifts. Lynch Creek offers a beautiful assortment of fresh wreaths, centerpieces, swags, and tabletop items, all hand-crafted from natural materials such as noble fir, pine cones, berries, and white pine. These long-lasting arrangements are perfect for autumn and Thanksgiving or the winter holidays. ALNV, a non-profit providing assistance to needy students across the region, will receive 15% of the proceeds from your order. Use the following link to place your order: <https://tinyurl.com/LynchCreekBeauty> To order by phone, call 1-800-426-0781 and mention our campaign ID #9630516. Orders will be sent directly to your selected recipients. You can specify the dates that your orders will ship, and you can include multiple recipients in the same order. Standard Ground Shipping is offered to the contiguous 48 states for all orders at a flat rate of \$4.95 per item. The deadline for submitting orders is December 15, 2024.

POTOMAC HARMONY CHORUS IS SEEKING SINGERS

If you enjoy holiday music, this is for you. Potomac Harmony Chorus will be rehearsing holiday classics during November and December and you can sing along! No experience necessary! No cost! Just a love of music required! They sing a cappella, are an open and safe environment for women and non-binary singers, and love what they do. Singing brings joy, so come get some! Contact Jackie Bottash at JackieBottash@gmail.com.

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.

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 RestonArtGallery.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



The Festival of Frights & Trunk or Treat event takes place on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024 at the Old Firehouse in McLean.



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

their trail experience, guests can enjoy Halloween fun in the Rizer Pavilion: DJ-mixed music (Fridays, Saturdays, and Halloween Night); refreshments at the bar, including Halloween-themed alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks; sweet and savory food truck treats; and Halloween art and trinkets in the Haunt Pop-up Shop. Tickets are on sale now; prices start at \$25 per person. Visit www.workhousearts.org for schedule and event details.

SPOOKTACULAR FUN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS

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.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



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

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 Monster Mash 5K Dash, Halloween Fun Run 1-Mile, and Spooktacular Tiny Tot Trot with moon bounce and obstacle course for ages 2-4. Cost varies by event.

OCT. 18-NOV. 3

“Moon Over Buffalo.” At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., 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. 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.

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.Pavakis@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 medica-

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

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 Boyksko 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.



BLACK COMMUNITIES of FAIRFAX *A History*



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.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Halloween Carnival. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come and Trick or Treat with the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Each child will receive a goodie bag (while supplies last) and 6 tickets for games. Weather permitting, there may be outside events; if not, all games will be inside. Each game requires 1 ticket to play. Prizes for each game will consist of candy. There will be entry forms for the items on the prize table. You need not be present to win. You will be called or emailed if you have won any of the wonderful gift baskets. Additional game tickets can be purchased at \$1 for 5 tickets. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Military (active and retired) \$4. Seniors, \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 30

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 1

VolunteerFest 2024. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At The Park at Tysons, 8508

Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Volunteer Fairfax presents VolunteerFest 2024 with a community fair where the attendees can learn about a wide range of service activities that they can take part in aimed at addressing various community needs such as emergency preparedness, hunger relief, environmental conservation, animal welfare, and more. Attendees can learn about local nonprofit organizations, enjoy music, food from a food truck, an art exhibit, and play games. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org for more information.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Railroad Museum Fall Fest. 12:30-5 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy the original Bavarian Dance Group of Washington, ‘Alt Washingtonia’ for dancing, yodeling, cowbell ringing, Alphorns and traditional German food and crafts. ‘Alt Washingtonia’ will provide entertainment in the true Bavarian style. Performances are at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Try your hand at blowing an Alphorn, ringing a cowbell and more. Enjoy German food and create and learn about traditional German holiday crafts. Admission: Adults 13 and older, \$5; Seniors, children ages 5-12, and military \$4; children ages 4 and under, free. First craft is free. Additional craft supplies can be purchased for \$2 each at the craft table. Food and crafts available while supplies last.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Project Community Connect Resource Fair. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College Loudoun Campus. PCC

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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22	23	24	25	26	27
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Let us know about an upcoming event
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Legals

ABC LICENSE
MyPI Foods LLC trading as Chowrastha, 905 Herndon PKWY STE A, Herndon, Fairfax County, VA 20170. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Restaurant, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ravi Poddaturi. 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.

Legals

Legals

DIVORCE NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEDFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
JEAN M. NASCA V. LAWRENCE NASCA
DOCKET NO. 698 for the year 2024

The said Lawrence Nasca, residence unknown, is hereby notified that the said Jean M. Nasca has filed her Divorce Complaint in the above court. If you wish to defend, you must enter a written appearance personally or by attorney and file your defenses or objections in writing with the court. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you without further notice for the relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

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NEWS BRIEFS

The Rockets to Perform at Rock the Block

Fairfax City's last Rock the Block of the season will be held Friday, Oct. 25, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., at Old Town Square, 10415 North St. There'll be food and beer vendors, and performing will be The Rockets, a high-energy party band.

Arbor Day Celebration in Fairfax City

Fairfax City will mark its 37th year of being designated as a Tree City USA with a special tree planting at Kutner Park. It's set for Saturday, Oct. 26, at 9 a.m., at 3901 Jermantown Road in Fairfax.

Free Safe Rides for Halloween

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

Storck

FROM PAGE 8

one to easily report parking violations. The tool features a simple questionnaire and maps to help you pinpoint the exact location of violations, categorize the type of infraction and even identify vehicles with out-of-state plates. Reports are then sent directly to the traffic enforcement team and the appropriate District Supervisor's office, ensuring that action can be taken swiftly with priority. We look forward to you joining us to clean up our roadways!

You can NOW use the new Parking Reporter Tool at <https://tinyurl.com/stoptruckparking>.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

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

The Judy Carmichael Trio. 2 p.m. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingle-side Ave., McLean. A stride pianist so accomplished that Count Basie nicknamed her "Stride," Judy Carmichael is more than just a great jazz musician in the style of Fats Waller. She's an enchanting performer and sharp as a tack. Many will know her from public radio show "Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired," and she brings the same charm, warmth and humor to the stage. The program will celebrate swing favorites of the American Songbook, from Gershwin and Cole Porter to Frank Loesser and Harold Arlen.

SUNDAY/NOV. 3

Jug of Punch. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring multi-award winning singer and guitarist



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

Pat Egan from Co. Tipperary and Westport, Ireland; clarsach exponent Sharon Knowles who emigrated from Scotland to the US in 1997 and is a sought-after teacher of the Scottish harp; Tabby Finch on piano, accordion, Celtic harp and hammered dulcimer performing trad music from South America to Quebec, Euro Cafe to Ireland; and John Knowles who contributes fiddle, cittern, and concertina. Jug of Punch takes listeners back a couple of hundred years to a time when Scottish fiddling thrived and earliest manuscripts were first transcribed. Visit

[<https://www.facebook.com/4JugsofPunch/>]

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Fall Civil War & Militaria Show and Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Books, relics and memorabilia from all wars. Admission is \$5 per person. Vendors welcome.

SUNDAY/NOV. 10

From Ballet to Blues: Entertainers Pay Homage to American Icons of Music and Dance. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Vault at Capital One Hall in Tysons Corner. Come enjoy Alchemy Ballet's "Gala Americana," a family-friendly and vibrant mix of classical and contemporary dance works and musical compositions celebrating America, featuring both masterpieces and new creations. To purchase tickets go to: <https://www.capitalonehall.com/events/detail/gala-americana>

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

MCA 110th Anniversary Celebration. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. At McLean Community Center Community Hall, 1234 Ingle-side Avenue, McLean. There will be a brief program as they highlight past accomplishments and celebrate the people and organizations who have shared in our progress.

Burton Will Be Hurtin'



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Of that I am certain, or maybe it's me who'll be hurtin'. And why might we both be hurtin'? Because on Wednesday, Nov. 20, I'll be takin' Burton to get neutered. I'll need to drop him off between 7:00 and 7:30 am. He'll be ready for pick-up between 2:00 and 3:00 pm later that same day.

I have waited until now (two-plus years old) to schedule this appointment for two reasons: (1) As a fellow male, I can feel/imagine Burton's future pain. Having had a male golden retriever neutered once before (Bailey), I've witnessed how resilient dogs are. At the office where I went to get Bailey after his procedure, I remember I checked in and they said he'd be right out. As soon as I saw him, I called his name and he came running over to me, like nothing had even happened. Amazing. I realized, in the scheme of veterinary surgery, this procedure, especially for a male, is fairly straight forward/uncomplicated. Nevertheless, I'm sure I'll be signing forms waiving the practice of any responsibility should something unexpected occur - just like we mostly do when we go for our own surgeries. But it's this particular surgery which has me unsettled a bit considering they're doing.

The second reason for the procedure to be scheduled two years and three months after Burton's August birthdate is the relatively recent/evolving opinion in the veterinary world concerning the appropriate timeline for these specific procedures. Back in Bailey's Day (golden retriever number two), the conventional wisdom/advice was neutering should occur six to nine months after birth. However, these days (and I'm not sure when this became a thing), the timeline has lengthened. The recommendation now is to wait 18 -24 months-ish. The thinking is that it's better for the dog to wait until it reaches its physical maturity before any neutering happens so its development is not impaired by stunting the dog's growth by "proceduring" prematurely.

Well, 27 months in, you can't say we're stunting Burton's growth. He's over 70 pounds now like he's supposed to be. Moreover, having decided that we're not interested in the future puppy-making business, which is very much a business, especially if your dog is registered with the AKC (America Kennel Club) which Burton most definitely is (meaning he has papers/is pure bred). Also, Burton having this surgery sort of nips him the bud as a potential sire. In addition, not getting involved in this breeding business will simplify our lives and save us from worrying about Burtons comings and goings - and wanderings, particularly as a male. They can smell a female in heat a mile away (it's an expression, but far) and since we don't have a fenced-in yard/have any real means of restricting his movements, it's possible he could follow a scent and be who knows where in a matter of minutes. Not to mention the fact that we live a quarter mile from a relatively busy four-lane state road whose lights at nighttime and noise all the time fascinate Burton. I'm always afraid he'll head up that way. The surgery, generally speaking, decreases some of these urges in the male dog.

Not to invoke "Forrest, Forrest Gump" yet again, but "one less thing." And 'one less thing' for a cancer patient (yours truly if you haven't been reading along for the last 15+ years) to worry about is super helpful. My goal is to minimize the negative and maximize the positive, especially since my late brother Richard is not here. Because being diagnosed with cancer is all it's cracked up to be and oh by the way, so are golden retrievers. They're full of positivity.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

ings 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' BeFriend-A-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 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.



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