

THE CONNECTION

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

Landfill Grasslands Provide Essential Habitat

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A sign at the landfill spells
hope for grasslands.

NO MOWING
MEADOW HABITAT

Medicaid Cuts: What's at Stake

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Sports Tourism Delivers

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH/THE CONNECTION

APRIL 2-15, 2025

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

MEET THE CANDIDATES

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2025 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of MCC's 2025-2026 Governing Board.

1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Va. 22101 | 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 | mcleancenter.org



McLean
Community
Center

Celebrating 50 Years

ADULT CANDIDATES THREE POSITIONS OPEN



KIM ANDERSON
kim4mcc@gmail.com

I have proudly called McLean home for 30 years. As a local business owner, I understand the community's needs and opportunities. I am running for the McLean Community Center Governing Board to help enrich our programs, events and resources for residents of all ages. I am running for the McLean Community Center Governing Board to ensure its programs, events, and resources continue to enrich residents of all ages. With experience and passion, I would be honored to serve and strengthen our community.



ANNA BARTOSIEWICZ
annaformcc@gmail.com

As a member of the MCC Governing Board, it has been my honor to build a strong, responsive partnership between the center's talented staff and the citizens of McLean these past three years. As a mom and McLean resident, I appreciate the MCC's fifty-year tradition of making world-class cultural enrichment accessible to all of us. I am dedicated to helping MCC continue to grow and evolve as it welcomes and embraces everyone in our community. Having a place to come together strengthens our bonds and fosters a shared sense of curiosity and belonging between neighbors.



RON KEESING
keesingr@yahoo.com

I'm honored to serve as a current member of MCC's Governing Board and support its work bringing together all members of our diverse community. I'd like to continue assuring MCC delivers an extraordinary array of services and programming; provides rich opportunities for every McLean resident to learn, play, celebrate and grow; embraces feedback to improve continuously; and strengthens our bonds as a community. As a technologist and business leader, and through my work on Fairfax County's Council on Economic Opportunity, I'll focus on making sure MCC continues to evolve and grow sustainably as it begins its next 50 years.



LIZ LAWSON
lizformcc@gmail.com

My husband, son and I moved to Northern Virginia in 2020. Since, we've attended camps, performances and festivals at MCC and have grown deeply appreciative of everything it offers our family and community. Support of the arts is incredibly important to me. I've worked in the field for 20 years, first in the music industry and currently as a New York Times bestselling author and believe my background will bring a unique perspective to MCC's Board. With your support, I'll work with the entire MCC team to help continue its tradition of diverse and inclusive programming for all.



CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS
chris4mcc25@outlook.com

I've called McLean home for over 25 years. I raised my children here, and we enjoyed a wide range of programs/activities offered by MCC. I'm running for the board as a way of giving back to our community. I've served on academic and corporate boards, and in senior management roles in public and private companies. I believe my professional experience will bring a fresh perspective to the board. If elected, I'll listen to your feedback on existing programs and consider all suggestions and new ideas, while ensuring tax dollars entrusted to MCC are used wisely. Thank you for your vote.



NAN TIAN
ntian.MCC@gmail.com

I've lived in McLean since 2009. I'm a mother of three teenage children who have benefited from numerous MCC programs for years. As an MCC board member, I will focus on expanding family-friendly events, promoting diversified cultural activities and listening to residents' needs. I hold a master's in public policy from Duke University and an MBA from the University of Maryland and have been working in international development for over 20 years. I believe in finding solutions through collaboration, innovation and teamwork, which would benefit MCC. I also volunteer in Chinese language education and advocate for the performing arts.

YOUTH CANDIDATES ONE POSITION OPEN LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY AREA



ANASTASIIA DUDNIK-DUBINIAK
anastasiadudnikdubiniak@gmail.com

My name is Anastasiia Dudnik-Dubiniak and I'm a sophomore at Langley High. My ambition of running for the MCC board is rooted in a genuine desire to enhance McLean's liveliness, vibrance and responsiveness to the diverse needs of its residents. I aim to create a lively and welcoming community, uniting us all by organizing inclusive and engaging events, such as movie nights, outdoor activities, fundraising events and promoting teen nonprofit startups. With my fresh perspective and dedication, I intend to amplify the voices of teens and enhance MCC's inclusivity statement by promoting a vibrant and welcoming community for all.



KATIE MYSHRALL
katie.myshrall@gmail.com

I'm Katie Myshrall, a junior at Langley High School. I've been involved with the McLean Community Center my whole life. I've taken and taught dance classes at MCC for 12 years, and I've been an MCC Youth Ambassador. As a board member of the MCC, I will advocate for resources for teen events and programming. At Langley, I play in the orchestra, I'm on the varsity cheer and gymnastics teams, I'm a junior class officer and I'm an editor of the yearbook. I'm also a Gold Award Girl Scout. Please vote for me as your representative on the MCC board.



AAKRITI RUSTAGI
aakriti4mcc@gmail.com

I, Aakriti Rustagi, am running for the MCC Governing Board to ensure all youth in our community are represented equally and have a voice in decisions that affect them. As an MCC Youth Ambassador, I am well-equipped with knowledge of MCC programs and services and have worked closely with youth board members. This experience has given me insight into the role's responsibilities and the dedication it requires. I am passionate, hardworking and detail-oriented and want to use my leadership skills to make a meaningful difference. I am committed to ensuring the MCC continues to support all areas of the community.

YOUTH CANDIDATES ONE POSITION OPEN MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY AREA



BUSE ARICI
busearici.mccgoverningboard@gmail.com

As an older sister, I've learned leadership values and responsibility from a young age. I'm running for MCC Governing Board to bring my passion for organization, determination and community to the table. Whether I'm journaling or indulging in some chocolate, I try to reflect, grow and find joy in the simple things. Having lived in Turkey, Belgium and the USA, I've developed a global perspective that fuels my desire to create meaningful change. I strive to be part of a new generation of leaders, dedicated to serving our community and inspiring others to take part in advocating for one another.



AANYA JAIN
aanyajmcc@gmail.com

I'm running to be a representative on the MCC board! I was born and raised in McLean and, without a doubt, the MCC has played a pivotal role in my active involvement within my community. From a young age I was exposed to the diverse summer activities and plays kindly sponsored by MCC! Thanks to this exposure, I'm part of clubs like Raising Student Voices, where I can further my community engagement and advocacy. By getting the opportunity to serve on the board, I strive to help promote the magnificent programs MCC has and can't wait to represent the Highlanders!



ALEXANDER LEE
alexmcc2526@gmail.com

Hello, I am Alexander Lee, a student at TJHSST and a former Longfellow and Chesterbrook student. I am running for the MCC Governing Board to strengthen connections between MCC and local students. As my class council's treasurer, I have learned to listen, budget wisely and organize engaging events. I want MCC to showcase student talent in arts, innovation and more—helping young people grow and discover new possibilities. My goal is to make MCC a place where students not only express themselves but also enjoy fun through events that bring our community together. I'd be honored to have your support!



SEAN NOH
snoh382@gmail.com

My name is Sean Noh, a sophomore at McLean High School, and I'm running for the MCC Governing Board. Understanding the need for community advocacy, I've been a part of several public projects through my time in Raising Student Voices and our school's Environmental Committee, strengthening my organizational and collaborative skills. As a board member, I hope to cultivate an inclusive environment that voices the lives of McLean's diverse residents, pushing for growth and inclusivity in our community. I will also continue the MCC's work by bringing educational and cultural activities representing the opinions of teens in McLean.



KATHRYN THOMAS
thomas.kathryn@gmail.com

MCC's commitment to fostering a positive youth environment and encouraging creativity is especially important to me, as it provided me with many great experiences, allowing me to embrace others, my creativity and my community. Once participating in youth art classes and choir, I now showcase my artwork at the art show and enjoy McLean Day with friends. I understand the importance of giving back. In my spare time I work as a basketball and swim coach, granting me the opportunity to invest in community, something I hope to further advance as a candidate for the 2025 MCC Governing Board Election.



VENITA WANG
venitaleewang@gmail.com

Hi, I'm Venita Wang, a student at McLean High School. The MCC is a vital part of my life, and I'm passionate about giving back. I will prioritize developing innovative projects and strengthening connections between MCC and McLean residents. My goal is to ensure the needs of our residents are met and that McLean is a welcoming and inclusive community for all. My leadership and volunteer experience, including serving as MCC Youth Ambassador and teaching at Hope Chinese School and other leadership roles have prepared me to make a real difference. Please vote Venita for the MCC Governing Board!

For more information on the election, visit mcleancenter.org or email elections@mcleancenter.org.

Medicaid, What's At Stake

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Medicaid is a massive federal and state-funded program that provides health and long term care coverage to low-income people. It covers one in five people nationwide.

Democratic members of Congress are sounding the alarm about the impact of Medicaid cuts on Virginia and the nation. Republicans are saying there is no need for alarm. Both parties are clashing verbally after the U.S. House agreed to H.Con. Res. 14, on Feb. 25, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

Mary Lee Ruby of Fairfax is very concerned about the possible cuts or program changes to Medicaid. It “would be devastating,” Ruby said. Ruby is a Medicaid-funded home care provider for her 24-year-old grandson, Austin, who is severely and permanently disabled after a brain bleed occurred during birth.

The House budget, which included \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, would reduce federal spending by at least \$1.5 trillion.

The Senate passed its budget resolution the previous week, on Feb. 21. The House and Senate budgets are at odds, and legislation needs to agree on and approve the same budget framework.

The ranking member of the U.S. House Budget Committee, U.S. Rep. Brendan F. Boyle (PA-02), a Democrat, says that the “GOP [House] budget would force the largest Medicaid cuts in American history.” Medicaid is a safety-net health care program for low-income adults and families, people with disabilities, older adults, and pregnant women. It provides free or low-cost health insurance to 150,000 people in Fairfax County, over 2 million in Virginia, and 72 million nationwide, including 2 million veterans.

U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (VA-11), a Democrat, serves the constituents in parts of Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax in Northern Virginia. Defunding Medicaid is unacceptable to Connolly, said in an email. “President Trump said during the campaign that he would not touch Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security. That was simply not true. The Republican budget will cut Medicaid by \$881 billion to pay for tax cuts for billionaires,” said Connolly.

Boyle wrote in his March 18 fact sheet that the House’s adoption of the Republicans’ budget (H.Con.Res.14) “requires deep, damaging cuts to Medicaid.” The Republicans’ budget “instructs the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$880 billion [over ten years]. ... Medicare and Medicaid make up more than 97 percent of the total



SOURCE X.COM/GOVERNOR VA

“Once adopted, the changes to our current biennial budget will ensure that all our obligations, including Medicaid, are fully funded,” said Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, a Republican



SCREENSHOT: SOURCE

U.S. Rep. Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA)

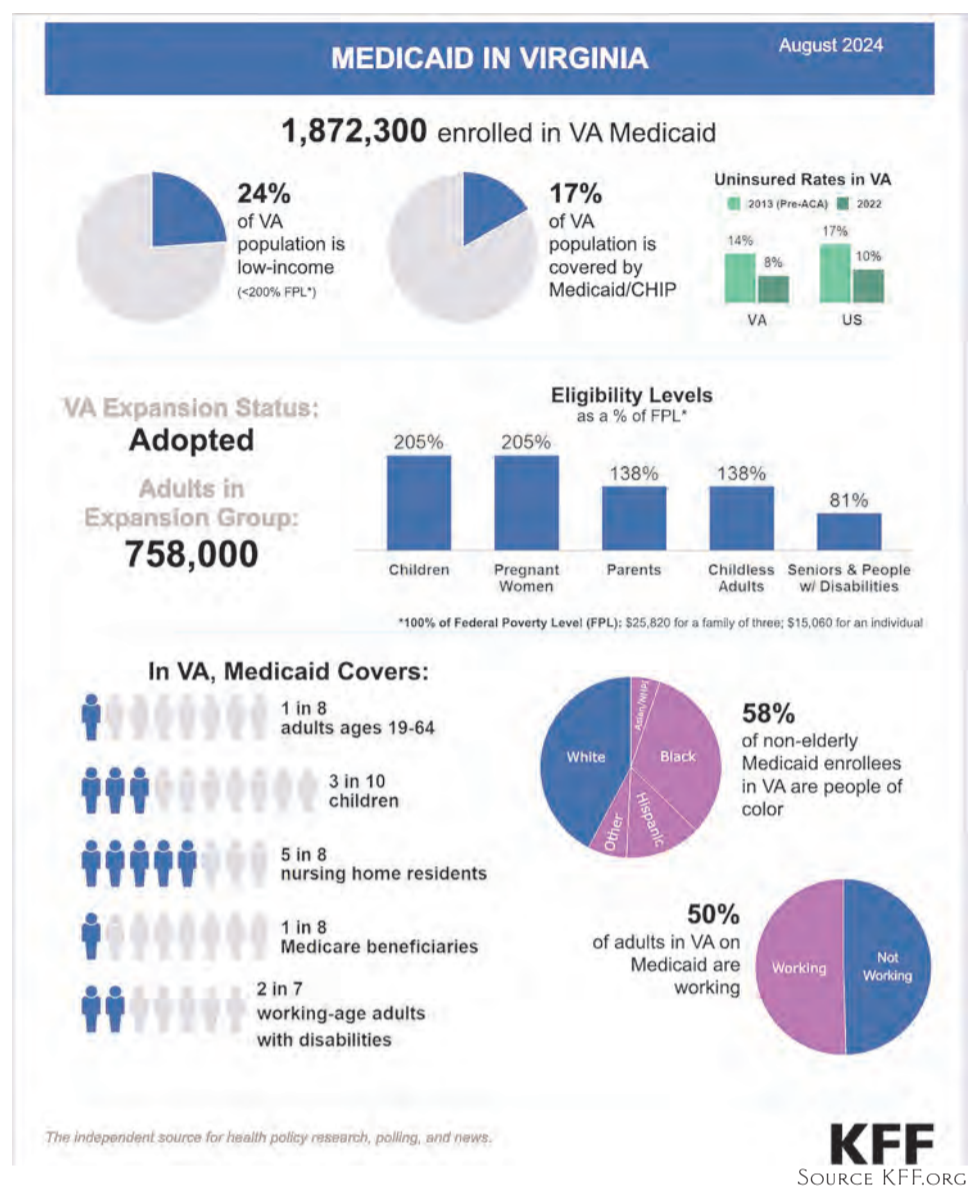
spending overseen by the committee, so ... the math doesn’t work without deep cuts to Medicaid,” Boyle said.

The federal and state governments fund the program together. Federal and state Medicaid spending totaled \$880 billion in the 2023 fiscal year. The Republican House majority’s aim to cut \$880 billion from healthcare and energy over the next decade would be detrimental to low-income Virginians.

The federal government’s share of Medicaid spending varies by state, ranging from a minimum of 50 percent to 77 percent. Lower per capita income states receive a higher federal medical assistance percentage, meaning the government covers a more significant share of their Medicaid costs.

What the Public Thinks about Medicaid

According to the latest KFF Health Track-



Medicaid in Virginia as of August 2024



SOURCE X.COM/GERRYCONNOLLY

U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (VA-11), a Democrat, at his telephone town hall in March.

ing Poll, March 7, 2025, fewer than one in five adults (17 percent) want to see Medicaid funding decrease, and most think funding should either increase (42 percent) or be kept about the same (40 percent). KFF is an independent health policy research, polling, and news source.

Ruby’s grandson, Austin, attends a Medicaid-funded daycare center, and she provides him with Medicaid-funded care outside of his daycare hours “to give his mother a break.” Ruby said her son, Austin’s dad, is a fire marshal in Fairfax County but “doesn’t make a whole lot of money.”

“Virginia law mandates drastic cuts to enrollment or benefits if the federal government reduces its contribution to the Virginia program.”

— U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (VA-11)

Ruby explained Austin weighs about 65 pounds, is blind, and sits in his chair all day. He can do nothing for himself, not even move his hands. “When you walk him through a door, you have to move his hands in because otherwise he’ll get stuck in the doorway. He really requires total and complete care.”

What Austin can do, though, is hear and he can smile. “He has a beautiful smile,” Ruby said.

In the debate over federal Medicaid cuts, the KFF focus groups report that Medicaid enrollees emphasize the program’s importance to people and their families. Although not part of the KFF focus groups and unaware of them, Ruby said, “It would be ter-

SEE MEDICAID, PAGE 4



SOURCE INSTAGRAM SEIU_VA

Frontline @seiuvirginia512 care workers from Virginia's 2nd Congressional District traveled to Washington, D.C. to ask their representative Jen Kiggans to protect Medicaid for children, families, older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans. They joined hundreds of SEIU members from around the country who travelled to Capitol Hill to share their personal stories, according to @seiuvirginia512.

Medicaid, What's At Stake

FROM PAGE 3

rible if Medicaid were cut... devastating for him (Austin) to have to be without the care Medicaid covers."

What About Medicaid in Virginia?

Medicaid is a complicated health insurer. One reason is that each state, Virginia included, sets its standards for eligibility, how it addresses population health needs, and how it funds its share of the joint federal and state program.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, unveiled his 2025 Session Budget Amendments, HB1600 (Governor's Recommendations), to the House of Delegates on March 24. Youngkin said he had taken action to fund Medicaid. "Once adopted, the changes to our current biennial budget will ensure that all our obligations, including Medicaid, are fully funded." <https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2025/1/HB1600/Enrolled/GR/>

"This budget provides an additional \$824.5 million for Health and Human Resources over the biennium. It meets and clears a significant hurdle by fully funding the Medicaid and SCHIP forecast increase with \$720.5 million in general fund, bringing us to a total of \$16 billion in general fund and \$53 billion in general and nongeneral fund support to those Virginians most in need," Youngkin said.

Given what Youngkin said, Ruby's stress about Virginia funding Medicaid may have lessened somewhat. Still, federal cuts and program changes, called by some "backdoor cuts," have not been expressed clearly. Nothing is set about the actual dollar amounts committed by the federal government to Medicaid.

What About Virginia's Trigger Law?

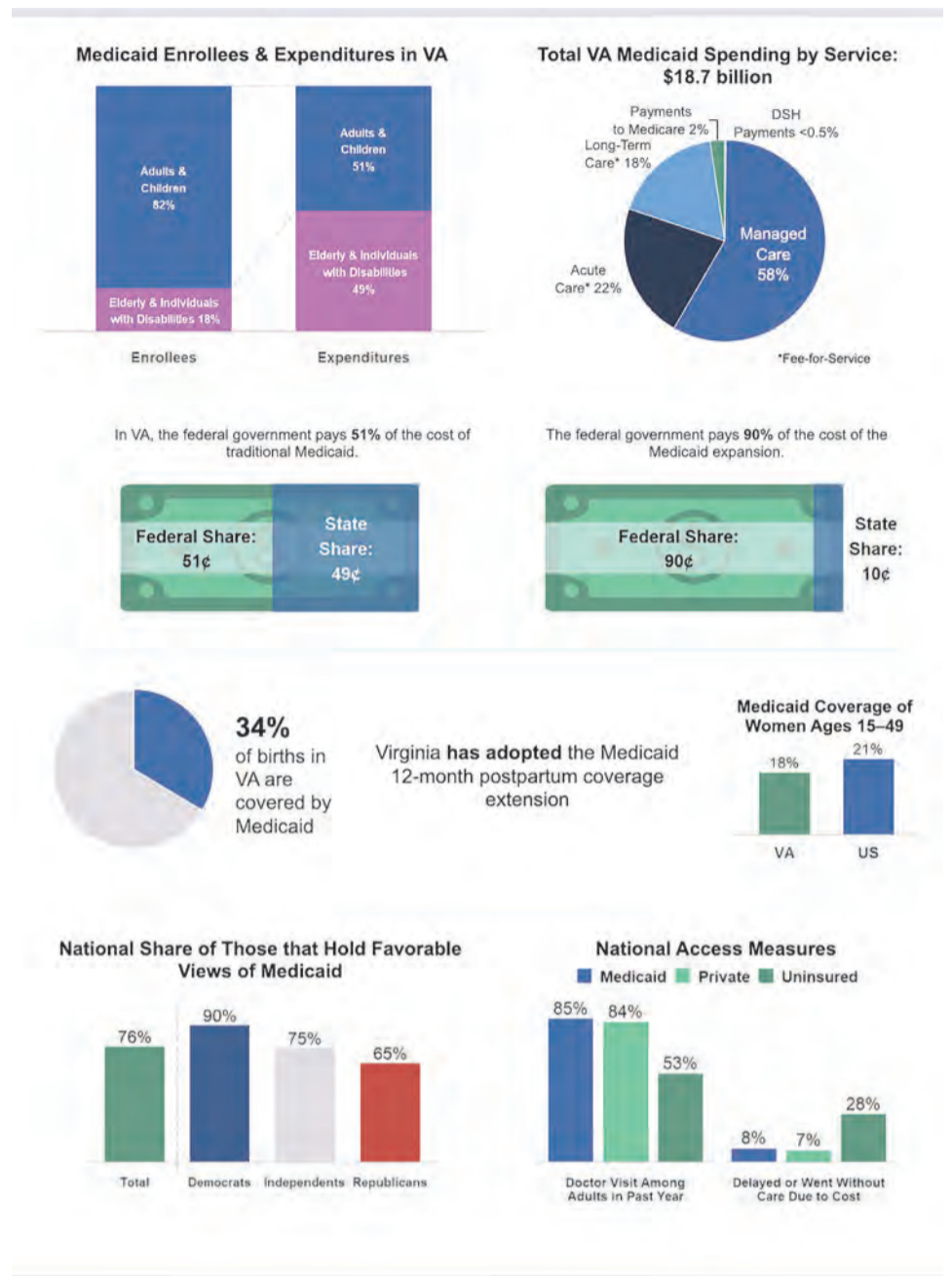
Connolly said that almost 90,000 of his constituents are "at direct risk of losing their health coverage. ... But that is just the tip of the iceberg. Medicaid is increasingly the tool that seniors use to access nursing home care, memory care, and assisted living facilities. Forty percent of all births in America are covered by Medicaid."

The repercussions of cutting Medicaid, especially in the Commonwealth of Virginia, are immense, given Virginia is one of nine states with "trigger laws." Virginia law requires significant cuts to enrollment or benefits if the federal government reduces its contribution to the Virginia program due to its trigger law. Now, the state pays 10 percent, and the federal government pays 90 percent.

"The consequences of cutting Medicaid would be catastrophic, particularly in Virginia, where state law mandates drastic cuts to enrollment or benefits if the federal government reduces its contribution to the program. I fought hard against the Republican budget in the House, and I will continue to do everything in my power to prevent these unimaginably cruel cuts from ever taking effect," Connolly said.

Nine states are poised to eliminate the Medicaid Expansion component of the Affordable Care Act, as they have some provision, a "trigger law" to eliminate Medicaid Expansion if federal funding is reduced, according to the Virginia Network of Private Providers, Inc. "That would end coverage for the expansion population, resulting in some 3 million people losing their health care." Most of the nine states' triggers activate if federal funding falls below the 90 percent threshold currently funded by the federal government, as does Virginia's. If funding falls below 80 percent, Arizona's trigger will eliminate its expansion.

David Broder, SEIU Virginia state council



SOURCE KFF.ORG

Additional facts about Medicaid in Virginia as of August 2024



SOURCE LINKEDIN.COM

David Broder, SEIU Virginia state council executive director

"We've held round tables with three members of Congress in Virginia. ... Care workers and people with disabilities were on Capitol Hill lobbying. So we will keep doing that. We are going to keep holding actions, rallies and lobby days."

— David Broder

executive director, said on March 27 that SEIU is holding town halls so constituents can be heard even if their Congressional members are absent. The union plans to continue mobilizing constituents to demand meetings and town halls from their elected officials, even if they refuse.

"We've held round tables with three members of Congress in Virginia. We co-hosted a town hall that over 400 people came to in Congresswoman Jennifer Kiggan's dis-

trict, even though she didn't We know she heard us yesterday; care workers and people with disabilities were on Capitol Hill lobbying. So we will keep doing that. We are going to keep holding actions, rallies, and lobby days," Broder said.

Ruby addressed her commitment to caring for Austin if Medicaid is not funded: "He's my grandson. I would take care of him whenever they needed it, but it would be devastating."

FCPD Investigates Death of Inmate

Detectives from FCPD Major Crimes Bureau are conducting a death investigation concerning the death of an inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

NEWS BRIEFS On March 31, around 6:17 p.m., Sam Zu Yung, 32, was found unresponsive in his single cell at the Detention Center. Deputies and EMS immediately began performing life-saving measures. Yung

was later declared deceased.

Detectives continue to investigate Yung's death and preliminarily, foul play is not suspected.

Yung has been in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and incarcerated at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center since Feb. 16, 2025.

By policy, the FCPD investigates all Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in-custody deaths.

George Mason's Historic Season: Women's Basketball Rises to New Heights

Coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis turned a struggling program into Atlantic 10 Conference champions in just four years, leading George Mason University's women's basketball team to their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

When Blair-Lewis took over the program four years ago, the team hadn't won a single game in the Atlantic 10 Conference the previous season. The coaches had to sell recruits on a vision with no proof it would work.

"When you go into someone's house and say, 'We want you to come over here,' and they look and say, 'Coach, you guys didn't win a game last year,' and I'm asking you to believe something that there's no evidence of ... that's a big challenge," Blair-Lewis said.

Her approach to building the program centered on a season-long mantra: "running our own race." This philosophy was inspired by Olympic sprinter Noah Lyles, who Blair-Lewis noticed would often be behind for most of a race but finish strong.

"Last year, we suffered some rejection in the tournament," she said. "We spent our whole summer running our race, from getting out of the blocks, to the power of the race, to finishing strong ... going from rejection the year before to redemption."

Local Talent, Growing Support

Blair-Lewis has built her program primarily with local talent, with about 60% of the roster coming from the Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia region. As a DMV native, having played at Largo High School (for her dad) and Mount Saint Mary's University, she understood the rich basketball talent in the area.

"We sit in the biggest hotbed of basketball," Blair-Lewis said. "I just figured if I could get this opportunity and be able to pour back into the DMV, which is what we've done, I knew we could do something special."

The community has responded to the team's success, and home game attendance has grown

significantly during her tenure. Local officials, including County Executive Bryan Hill and Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read, and other community leaders, attended the games.

"A team can only be as successful as a community that supports it," said Blair-Lewis, adding, "We want to be Northern Virginia's champion."

Challenges in Modern College Basketball

Like all college coaches, Blair-Lewis faces the challenges of the transfer portal and Name, Image and Likeness deals.

"I think it's such a new landscape that we all are trying to find a way to adjust," Blair-Lewis said.

Despite these challenges, Blair-Lewis remains focused on building a program with staying power, including recruiting freshmen rather than just focusing on transfers.

Blair-Lewis sees her role as developing not just basketball players but future leaders.

"We talk a lot about more than basketball — becoming the leaders in this community for your children's children," she said. "What they should walk away with is resiliency, confidence, a chance to walk into any room and say, 'I can do this.'"

Looking Ahead

Despite losing several key players to graduation, including Paula Suárez, an Atlantic 10 Most Improved Player, and other significant contributors, Blair-Lewis remains optimistic about the future.

"I told a group of Mason people [at her initial press conference four years ago] to believe big with me, to believe bigger than what they've been. That I was going to hang banners in this gym, not one, but with an s." Four years later, she's delivered on that promise — and made it clear she's not finished yet.

Listen to the podcast: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/connect-with-county-leaders-podcast-coach-vanessa-blair-lewis>

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NEWS

Jackson Russell: Sully Police Officer of the Year

Honored for strong work ethic, dedication to the job.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

PFC Jackson Russell is the Sully District Police Station's 2024 Officer of the Year. He was honored at the March 12 meeting of the station's Community Advisory Committee (CAC). His nomination was written by the station commander, Maj. Jane Russell (no relation to Jackson Russell).

"PFC Jackson Russell has served with the Fairfax County Police Department for over two years, all of which have been spent at the Sully District Station," she wrote. "He is currently assigned to the Sully Midnights A-Squad. Known for his dedication and exceptional work ethic, Russell has consistently ranked among the top performers – both in the county and within the Sully District Station in 2024."

She noted that, over the past year, he made 148 arrests, wrote 190 incident reports and issued 54 traffic citations. "PFC Russell aims to make an arrest during every shift he works, directly contributing to the community's safety by removing criminals from the streets," she wrote.

Additionally, Maj. Russell praised PFC Russell's extensive knowledge of the district, saying he often helps fellow officers identify suspects based on lookout alerts or bulletins for recent crimes. She also wrote that his "commitment and expertise align perfectly with the Police Department's mission to combat and prevent crime."

Maj. Russell then gave details of some of his noteworthy cases during the past year:

One happened during a temporary assignment with the Fairfax County Summer Crime Team, a proactive team formed to combat specific offenses in higher-crime areas. She said PFC Russell and his team observed a vehicle from which they believed people were dealing drugs.

"After initiating a traffic stop, two occupants bailed out of the vehicle and fled on foot," Maj. Russell wrote. "PFC Russell announced a foot pursuit and found them hiding by a nearby building. The subjects were arrested, and a search incident to arrest led to the finding of a stolen loaded firearm, seven oxycodone pills and 139 M30 fentanyl pills. This case is just one example of PFC Russell's dedication and hard work, making Fairfax County a safer place."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MPO SCOTT RICHARDS

From left are Maj. Jane Russell, station commander; CAC Chair Karen Bilak; PFC Jackson Russell; and Capt. Aaron Spooner, assistant station commander.

In another case, while on a temporary assignment with the Sully Neighborhood Patrol Team, PFC Russell stopped a vehicle whose driver had committed a traffic violation in a known, narcotics location. "Officers observed furtive movements by the occupant of the vehicle, which led them to remove him from the car for their safety," wrote Maj. Russell. "PFC Russell observed evidence of narcotics in plain view, and the subject was detained.

"The suspect was questioned and admitted to having illegal narcotics – crack cocaine. A search incident to arrest led to the discovery of more narcotics. The suspect had oxycodone and morphine sulfate pills in his vehicle. Due to the suspicion of the suspect dealing narcotics, his phone was taken, and a search warrant was written to further the investigation."

Maj. Russell wrote that another of PFC Russell's many significant cases of 2024 came from a suspicious-vehicle call. He then found two such vehicles that had been reported by a community member. And instead of just asking their drivers to leave, he furthered his

investigation by speaking with them.

While doing so, wrote Maj. Russell, "He observed signs of narcotics use. The suspects were then detained, and probable cause was established to arrest them. The subjects were discovered to be selling cocaine."

Furthermore, she wrote, "PFC Russell located a semi-automatic rifle with a suppressor attached, in the rear of one of the vehicles. The owner of the firearm was charged with possession of a firearm with schedule 1 and 2 narcotics. PFC Russell took his time, investigated why the vehicles were at the location and took drugs, a gun and criminals off the street."

All in all, said Maj. Russell, "PFC Russell's dedication is evident through these brief examples of the cases he's been involved in. He is self-driven, demonstrates a strong work ethic, consistently brings a positive attitude to his duties, and embodies the qualities of an officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. For these reasons, the Sully District is honored to nominate PFC Jackson Russell for Officer of the Year."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Local Dog Rescuer Memorialized

Story tarnished at local park.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

This story was envisioned as one of a heart-stirring genre, often repeated, about how animals have a way of bringing people together. That it's not unusual for strangers to stop on a walk to share comments about love of dogs, over a dog. For admirers to soak up a bit of doggie enthusiasm for life or maybe collect a sloppy kiss; enjoying new social encounters, both canine and human.

The story is about one of the many dedicated animal rescuers who felt the pull to help animals, a rescuer who, sadly, died while pursuing that passion. His admirers, including strangers, sought to honor his memory with a bench and plaque commemorating his efforts. But then — the story took a dark twist.

Dedicated dog rescuer, Seuk Kim, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2024, while on one of his frequent Pilots N Paws flights to move homeless dogs to available shelters. In a flight intended to go from Manassas Regional Airport to Albany International Airport in New York, Kim's plane flew into a Catskills mountain, causing Kim's death, and the death of one of the three dogs who were with him.

Kim, a former financial and marketing executive, had become an avid flyer, earning his private pilot's license. About four years ago he started flying dog missions; sometimes making as many as three flights a week. He helped dogs find homes and avoid euthanasia by moving them to shelters with available space.

Veterinary college student Rebecca Lynn Randell, who works with rescue dogs and got them to Kim for flights, described him as one who "never said 'no', and was always willing to help dogs." Admiration for the 49-year-old pilot and his passion for helping animals drew attention after the crash.

At his accidental death, the animal rescue community sorely felt the loss of one of their own. A coalition of animal rescue pilots and volunteers, inspired by Kim, formed Seuk's Army. The group, based in Piedmont, SC, has carried on Kim's work to move animals on dedicated flights. They hope to establish a pet food pantry and mobile spay/neuter clinic, as well. The group recently celebrated National Puppy Day by transporting 64 dogs and nine cats to available shelters. Find more about the group's activities at

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572439051565>

The group of veterinary college students at Lincoln Memorial University, including Randell, donated funds



Seuk Kim is memorialized after his death in a crash during a dog rescue mission.

to memorialize Kim. Wishing to honor him, but unable to travel to attend a gathering for him, instead their college Shelter Medicine Club used bi-annual fundraising sales of LMU logo sweaters, along with added donations from other students who did not know Kim directly, to sponsor a memorial bench and plaque. Working through Fairfax County Park Foundation's program, they sponsored a bench in the newly created dog park in Monticello Park in Braddock.

When a reporter visited the park to photograph the bench the memorial plaque was missing. In its place was a sign from the county park authority asking that the plaque be returned. Investigation revealed that in early March an anonymous person's on-line posting said the plaque "was not authorized and if not removed, I will take it down in three days." The plaque later disappeared. An unofficial spokesperson from the Foundation said, "We were shocked and angered by this action."

A replacement plaque is on order and will be reinstalled soon.

"We all love and want to work with animals and help shelters find a place for animals to go," said second year LMU veterinary student Randell. Randell talks of Kim's tirelessness in that desire, often logging long flights and even landing on snow covered runways to give animals a chance at a home. He surely will be remembered by many for his good deeds — plaque or no plaque.

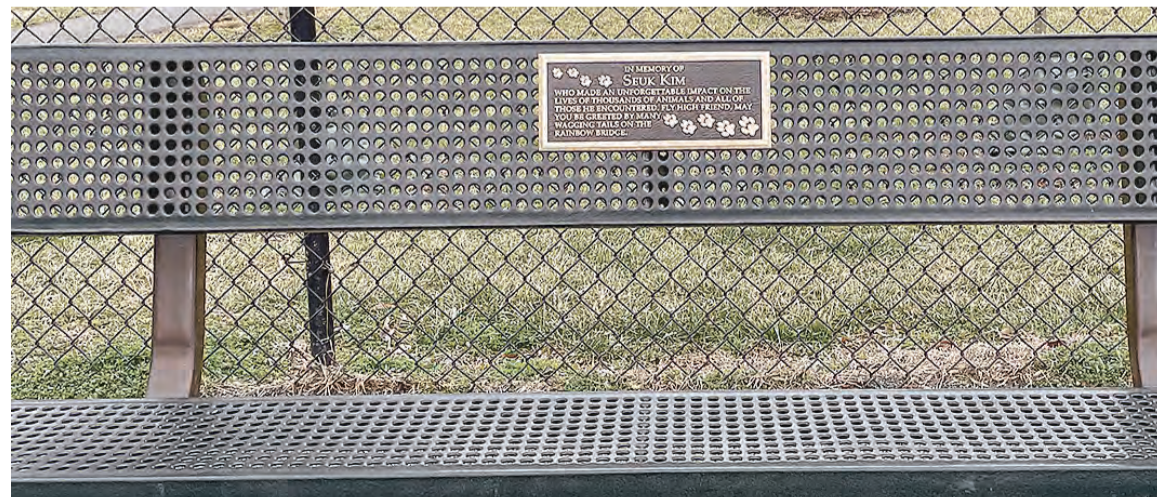


PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPA

The commemorative bench and plaque donated by students after its placement in Monticello Park dog park.

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McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER
2025 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



Absentee Voting

Wednesday, April 2–Friday, May 9

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are encouraged to vote for members of the MCC Governing Board. In-person voting takes place at McLean Day on May 16–17. In addition, absentee voting is available.

TWO WAYS TO VOTE ABSENTEE: 1. At MCC. Come fill out a ballot at McLean Community Center. 2. By mail. If you prefer to vote by mail, simply phone, send an e-mail or fill out the online request form to request ballots for members of your household. The requested ballots will be mailed to your home.

DEADLINE: Completed Absentee Voting ballots must be received in the ballot box or by mail at MCC by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 9.

TO REQUEST A BALLOT:

CALL: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711

E-MAIL: elections@mcleancenter.org

ONLINE FORM: mcleancenter.org



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A sign at the landfill and a kestrel box.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



The landfill's grassland with Reworld, an energy generation plant in the background.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Blair Evancho conducted bird surveys on the landfill site for Fairfax County.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

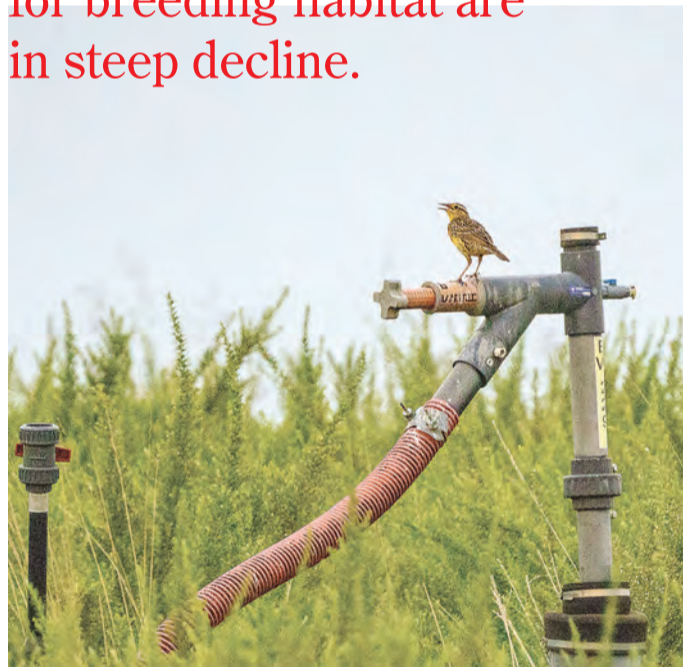


Grasslands also provide support for wildlife like this black swallowtail butterfly

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

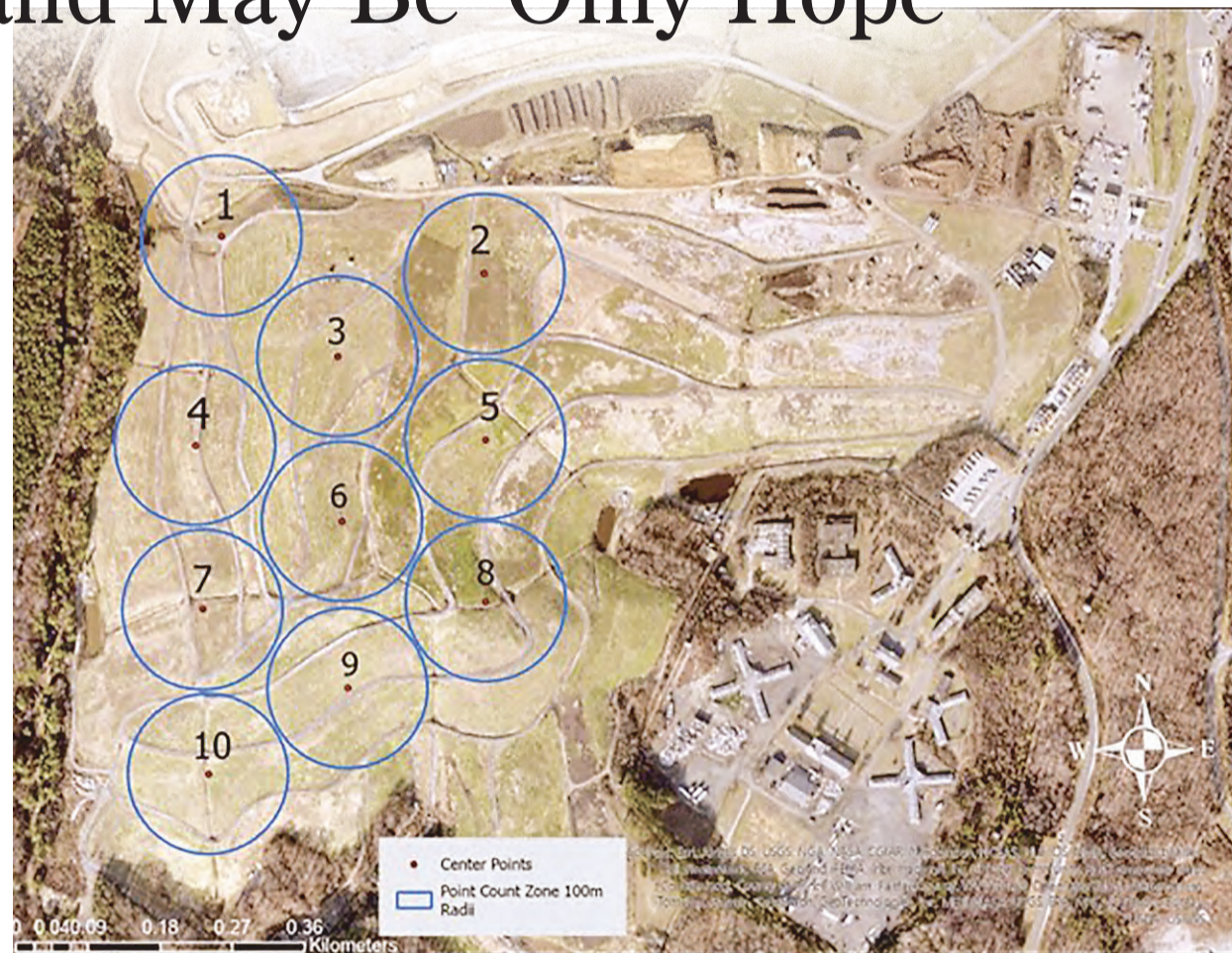
Landfill's Grassland May Be 'Only Hope'

More than half of bird species that depend on grasslands for breeding habitat are in steep decline.



PHOTOS COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

An Eastern meadowlark on a methane gas well at the closed-and-capped portion of the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton.



An aerial view of the I-95 Landfill Complex indicating the 10 circular sites where birds were scientifically surveyed in 2024.

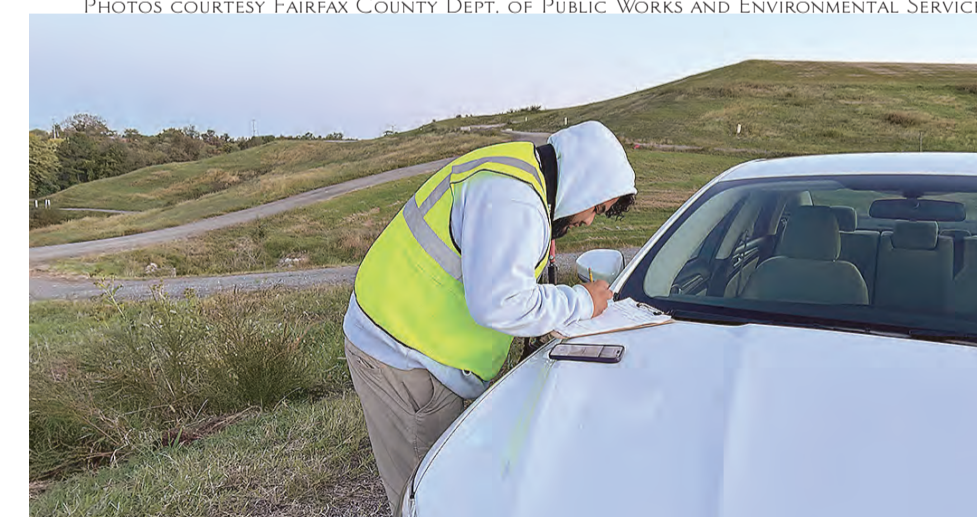


Carlos Leiva and Blair Evancho, of Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program, documenting the birds at a study site atop the closed-and-capped portion of the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton.

PHOTOS COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Blair Evancho, of Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program, who led the bird study, documents birds atop the closed-and-capped portion of the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton.



Carlos Leiva, of Fairfax County's Solid Waste Management Program, records a bird sighting within a study area atop the I-95 Landfill

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

In North America's spring, a bubbly song burbles up from some grassy meadows, the song of the breeding male bobolink. It is a "bubbling, jangling warble with short notes on widely different pitches; ending faster, fuller, higher," says the Sibley Guide to Birds.

Bobolinks fly up to 12,500 miles round trip to and from South America every year. With a white back, black underparts and a

straw-colored head, breeding males are unusual. Some say they seem to be wearing a tuxedo backwards.

Bobolinks are one of three grassland birds that have been confirmed in a 50-acre closed part of Fairfax County's I-95/Lorton landfill. The other two species are eastern meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows. These are grassland specialists, birds not typically seen in other parts of Northern Virginia where meadows and grasslands are scarce. This part of the landfill is in effect a grassland.

"More than half of bird species that de-

pend on grasslands for breeding habitat are in steep decline," concluded the recent State of the Birds report. Nationally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that grassland birds have dropped by 53 percent. Most experts point to habitat loss as a major factor.

Grasslands Are Rare

Of the United States' historical 550 million acres of temperate grasslands, 62 percent are gone. In April, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology found that the country is losing 2.5 million acres of grasslands a year.

Less Mowing

Some birds, like bobolinks, turkeys and pheasants, make nests, lay eggs and raise their young on the ground. At the urging of the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance (NVBA), in February, the Board of Supervisors directed the county staff to develop a plan to avoid mowing parts of the landfill property during grassland birds' nesting season, generally April 1 and mid-July, and to identify a "no-mow" area. County staff then designated an area and significantly reduced mowing there. Blair Evancho conducted a bird survey be-

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tween Aug. 22 and Oct. 17, 2024, and issued a report on March 18. Evancho documented 29 bird species in the study area. "The most recorded birds were grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow, American kestrel and eastern meadowlark, all of which are experiencing population declines," says the county's website.

County officials announced that they will continue to limit landfill mowing during the nesting season, raise the mower blades to a height of eight inches and continue monitoring birds at the site. While some mowing is needed to access methane gas wells and for worker safety, the revised mowing schedule "should give grassland birds a better chance to thrive," said Evancho.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, who initiated the effort with the Board of Supervisors, said, "The I-95 landfill is the largest and most important grassland in eastern Fairfax County. I was very pleased to work with Mount Vernon residents to bring a Board matter, which was very strongly supported by County staff, directing development of a plan to protect nesting grassland birds on the landfill. This action positions the County to be a leader in grassland management on landfills."

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The county's report concluded, "Declining grassland bird populations are a threat to healthy and diverse grassland ecosystems. On a national scale, grasslands provide essential and significant habitats for mammals, pollinators, reptiles and other wildlife of commercial, recreational, scientific, aesthetic and cultural value. Healthy grassland ecosystems provide services such as carbon

sequestration, carbon storage, drought and flood resilience, water filtration and water storage.

"If conservation of native biodiversity is not enough of a motivator, these factors should provide motivation to be invested in efforts to reverse the decline of North American grassland birds.

"Here on the East Coast, the vast majori-

ty of our natural grassland ecosystems have been erased leaving agricultural land and areas with enough open space and tall grass to attract grassland birds, such as I-95 Landfill Complex, as the only hope for grassland birds in this region to find suitable habitats. Implementing efforts to encourage the presence and health of grassland birds wherever they are found through monitoring and grassland bird-friendly land use is the best way to do our part in the growing effort to save these species from decline."

Libby Lyons, President of NVBA, commended the county and said, "Grassland habitats are under threat across the country, so this work will not only help our local birds, but can provide bird-friendly practices for other landfills. NVBA has worked with Fairfax for several years, for example, putting up kestrel nesting boxes there. NVBA volunteers and landfill staff will extend last year's study on how the new mowing regime impacts birds during their spring breeding season."

Information

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/i-95-grassland-birds>



On the ice at St. James.



The team is rallying behind their assistant captain who was diagnosed with kidney disease.

Local Girls Hockey Is Skating for Team Member's Illness

Upcoming tournament scheduled for area ice rinks.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

With the Washington Capitals leading the National Hockey League and their star, Alex Ovechkin getting ready to break an all-time goal record, hockey is hot in this area. The enthusiasm has spread to the team at St. James in Springfield where their slapshots are also in support of one their players who struggling with kidney disease.

Assistant Captain Payton Logothey was diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease in December 2023 and she struggled with treatments but was still a vital piece of the team's success. Despite the pain, she scored 25 points and 7 assists in 51 games during the 2023-2024 season until the pain became unbearable. Nonetheless, she plans to return to hockey in any capacity she can manage. Right now, the game is keeping her spirits up and the girl's on the team have found strength through Payton's determination.

The girls wear green ribbon stickers on their helmets and coaches wear green ribbon pins on their jackets to represent kidney disease awareness.

Drop the Puck

The play out on the ice is beneficial in other ways too. Matt Billman is the coach and guided the team to the finals last year before they lost in the semi-final match in 2024.



One of their trips took them to Notre Dame.

"A lot of our girls go on to the next level," Billman said, and although there isn't an NHL for the women in hockey, they could go on to college hockey or a job with an NHL team. Of the 20 players on this year's team, 11 of them played last year too.

In early April, the team is focusing on the 2025 Chipotle-USA Hockey Girls Tier II 16U National Championships where 28 teams

from 16 states will compete at rinks at The St. James in Springfield and the Ice House in Ashburn. Northern Virginia was one of 11 locations across 10 states selected to host a National Championship. Tournament games will kick off on April 2 at The St. James and the Ashburn Ice House.

This is part of a sports tourism effort by SportsNOVA and Visit Fairfax. According to

the information released by SportsNOVA, this hockey tournament is expected to produce an economic impact of \$1.2 million to the region.

Sports Tourism

Fairfax County assembled a "sports tourism task force," spearheaded by Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and they focus on bringing some of these sports and their financial benefits to the county. Places they are looking to expand sports tourism is the Alpine-X indoor ski facility in Lorton (which has hit some bumps), the newly renovated Mount Vernon REC Center, Mountain Road District Park, Baron Cameron Park, Oak Marr REC Center and Braddock Park. Most of these are places where there is room for these initiatives.

Last year, the Solheim Cup golf tournament in Gainesville was part of the sports tourism plan and mountain bike races at Fountainhead Regional Park in Lorton. The Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts are in touch with things that happen with the Fountainhead Trail. Other upcoming sports tourism events include the large soccer tournaments such as The Virginian over Memorial Day Weekend and WAGS Tournament which takes place on fields throughout Fairfax County over Indigenous People's Day Weekend in October.

"She Got Game" Basketball Tournament is scheduled at The St. James in December, and Baseball Tournaments at Patriot Park North and other satellite fields throughout Fairfax County from March through November.

Also Sports Tourism: Mountain Bike Races

Riders from all over occasionally converge in Fairfax County, contributing to tourism dollars.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There are two professional level mountain bike trails in Fairfax County where off-road races attract riders from all around, making it another as-

pect of sports tourism in this area. Just like the hockey tournament at St. James in early April, hundreds come into town for races at the Fountainhead Park mountain bike trail in Lorton and the Lake Fairfax

SEE MOUNTAIN BIKING, PAGE 10
APRIL 2-15, 2025



PHOTO BY FIRESPIRE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mountain bike racing at Fountainhead included women too.



PHOTO BY BRUCE BUCKLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Getting some air at a Lake Fairfax race.



PHOTO BY FIRESPIRE PHOTOGRAPHY

The finish line at Fountainhead in Lorton.

Mountain Biking Contributes

FROM PAGE 11

trail in Fairfax, creating a sporting event and with it, the financial windfalls of events like this. Whether it's hotel rooms for out-of-towners, restaurants, sporting goods shops or bike stores, there's sure to be money spent on these races. And tax revenue too.

They've even got world-class names. The races at Fountainhead are called "Cranky Monkey," and at Lake Fairfax, it's the "Rails to River Races."

EX2 Adventures is a force behind these mountain bike races. "Our events are more than races, they are carefully crafted experiences that leave you feeling alive and reinvigorated, with new friends, and a sense

of accomplishment that only comes from really challenging yourself," read their description on the web. EX2 is a local organization that was founded in 2000 by Jim and Kimberly Harman to produce endurance events that fuel a passion for the outdoors; inspire a sense of belonging, community and social responsibility; and celebrate the achievement that comes from doing hard things, like mountain biking.

The next EX2 events scheduled include the Spring Backyard Burn at Lake Fairfax on Sunday, April 6; Spring Backyard Burn at Pohick Bay on Sunday, April 27; the Rails to River XC Mountain Bike Race at Lake Fairfax on May 4; and the Fountainhead Half Marathon in Lorton on May 18.

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. Or via email calendar@connectionnewspapers.com

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

WISH LIST

Assistance League of Northern Virginia has been serving at-risk children for over 20 years with multiple programs to help meet basic needs. Assistance League invites the public to join its efforts by making a purchase from our current monthly wish list to augment the nonprofit's ability to serve even more elementary students at local Title 1 schools. The March wish list features the short-sleeve T-shirts that children will need for spring and summer. Use this link <https://tiny.alnv.org/wish-short-sleeves> to make your selection. Visit the website www.alnv.org.

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.fairfaxcounty.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. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at jtarr5@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.
Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.
Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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ENTERTAINMENT

GARDEN TOURS

Visitors can plan self-guided tours of the region's most splendid gardens, including these not-to-miss sites (check with the individual gardens for hours of operation):

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, a 90-acre oasis featuring more than 100 cherry trees surrounding a lovely lake, plus an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and the very unique Korean Bell Garden.

Green Spring Gardens, an outdoor classroom, national historic site, and museum featuring a wooded stream, a valley with ponds, a native plant garden, over 20 thematic demonstration gardens, and a greenhouse filled with tropical plants.

River Farm, a historic 25-acre site on the banks of the Potomac River that was once part of George Washington's original five farms and is now the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society.

George Washington's Mount Vernon, the home to America's first president, features four bountiful gardens to explore and enjoy. In addition, experience wide-open spaces, wooded landscapes, and a quarter-mile-long forest trail – not to mention the vast educational resources available on site.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS WANTED!

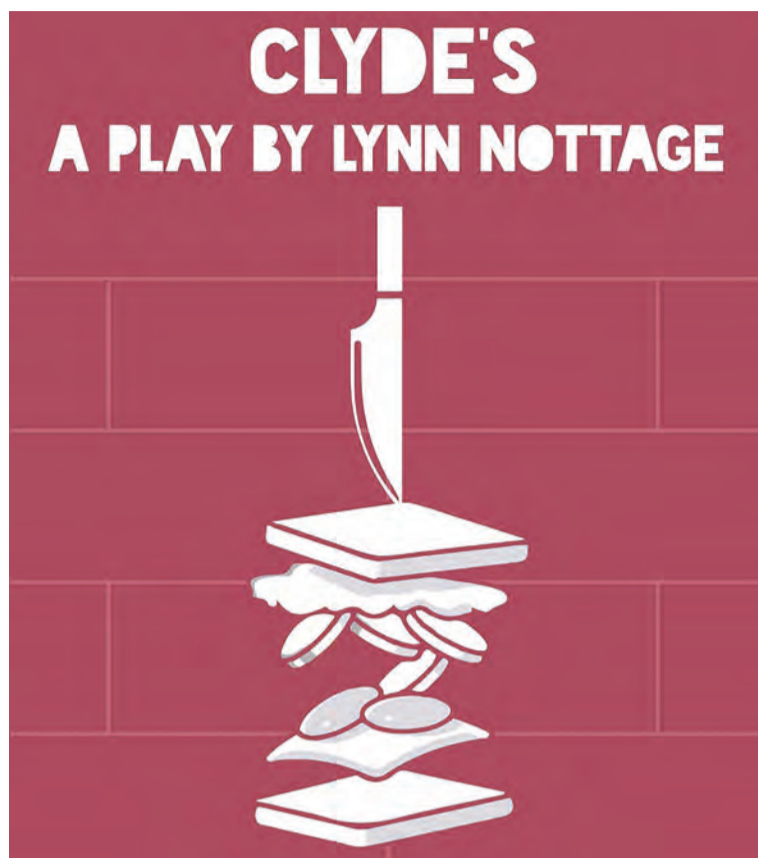
The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Women over 40 and all skill levels welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit goldengirls.org.

PLANT A TREE

The McLean Trees Foundation, Neighborhood Trees Program, wants to help you plant a native tree in your yard. Don't know how to plant a tree but want to support the environmental health of your community? Want your family to have the experience of planting a tree? If you live in McLean, Virginia, the McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) (a local nonprofit) will help you select an appropriate native tree for your property, deliver the tree to your yard, help you plant it, provide information on maintenance, and even check back with you a few months after planting to see how your tree is doing. If you are interested in participating in this terrific program to boost our native tree canopy in McLean, please visit our website at <https://www.mcleantreesfoundation.org/neighborhood-tree-program> and submit your application! A modest fee of \$100 is assessed to cover the costs of the program (limit one 6-7 foot tree in 15 gallon container per household). We have a separate program for those who are interested in spearheading a community tree planting campaign in their neighborhood. MTF's Tree Champion program makes it easy to help your neighbors plant more trees! For more information, visit the website at <https://www.mcleantreesfoundation.org/tree-champions-program>.

CITY OF FAIRFAX EVENTS

Funday Monday, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. This is a free program perfect for preschoolers, but children of all ages are welcome at the Stacy C.



Workhouse Arts Center Presents "Clyde's" by Lynn Nottage now through April 6, 2025.

Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series is now in its 35th Season! 8 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax. For more information, visit the website at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts> or contact Megan DuBois at 703.273.6097/ Megan.DuBois@fairfaxva.gov.

SCHEDULE

April 11 – Bobby J and the Hot Lanes

NOW THRU JUNE 9

Required Reading: A Visual Poetry Exhibition on Language & Silence. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. "What happens when words are rearranged, erased, or transformed into something new? Required Reading is an exhibition that challenges the limits of language, bringing together eight artists who break traditional communication structures and invite the viewer into an unexpected dialogue. Visit the website <https://www.workhousearts.org/required-reading-exhibit>

NOW THRU MAY 3

Exhibition: Appearance. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Muse Gallery, Building W-16, Lorton. Reception: April 12, 6-8 p.m. What does it mean to appear? A fleeting reflection in the mirror, the way we present ourselves to the world, or something more mysterious—an idea surfacing, an object taking new form, a presence felt but unseen? Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/appearance-exhibition>

<https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/appearance-exhibition>

NOW THRU APRIL 6

Workhouse Arts Center Presents Clyde's by Lynn Nottage. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, Bldg. W3 Theater. At a truck stop sandwich shop, a group of formerly incarcerated kitchen staff get a second chance at life. Under the oppressive rule of their tough-as-nails boss, they find purpose, redemption, and even inspiration in their quest to craft the perfect sandwich. This witty and uplifting play explores themes of resilience, reinvention, and the power of dreams as these five characters navigate life's twists and turns as returning citizens.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

National Walking Day. 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. At The St. James, 6805 Industrial Road, Springfield. Visit The St. James sports complex in Springfield for a special National Walking Day event presented by Sheehy Auto Stores. The event is free and open to the public. Guests will participate in a walking challenge with interactive sessions including fitness demos led by St. James trainers and professional rugby team, Old Glory DC, healthy cooking demos, hands-only CPR coaching and more. No advanced registrations or RSVPs required. Questions? Reach out to us at ESGWRHeartWalk@heart.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 4

Stop the Bleed. 10-11:30 a.m. At Reston Hospital Center, Pavilion II, 2nd Floor, Conf. Room A, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. Learn lifesaving skills needed to prevent the No. 1 cause of death after an injury: bleeding. A presentation will be followed by a hands-on practice of steps to stop bleeding. Learn more and register at hcairvirginia.com/calendar

FRIDAY/APRIL 4

Home for Life 2025 Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Stacy C. Sherwood Com-



Bobby J and the Hot Lanes will appear on April 11, 2025 at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center in Fairfax.

munity Center, 3740 Blenheim Boulevard, Fairfax. Hosted by Fairfax Village in the City, this free event includes 36 exhibitors and four guest speakers on these topics: decluttering, estate planning, how to be tech savvy, and dementia care. Free food and drink provided.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Cirque Mechanics: Pedal Punk. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Known for their modern circus incorporating mechanical marvels, Cirque Mechanics introduces the wildly astonishing Pedal Punk, set in a Steampunk-inspired world where cycling provides wondrous escape from pervasive obsession with technology. A 22-foot, pedal-powered performance platform (dubbed the Gantry bike) serves as the caravanning mobile centerpiece of this high-flying thrill ride, featuring spectacular storytelling and daredevil acrobatics. The awe-inspiring ensemble of aerialists, jugglers, and clowns—including a zany bike shop mechanic—interacts with the elaborate contraption as well as penny farthings, unicycles, and tandem cycles.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Sydenstricker Schoolhouse Trivia. 7-9:30 p.m. At Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Sydenstricker Schoolhouse Trivia Night with host Mike Loos! Teams limited to 6 persons due to space in the Schoolhouse. Contact Sharen Sheehan with team information – name / number of team members. Make payment at Schoolhouse website (www.sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org) using yellow 'donate' button on left side of home page.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Historic House Tours. 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At Sunrise at Silas Burke House, 9619 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The historic house at Sunrise at Silas Burke House will be open for free tours (10:30-12:15 April 5) given by the Burke Historical Society. Registration not needed.

APRIL 5-6

Art Blooms at Mosaic. Celebrate the arrival of spring at Mosaic District's two-day springtime festival, highlighting art, culture, and community at this popular shopping and dining district. (<https://mosaicdistrict.com>; 703-992-7832)

APRIL 5-6

SPRINGPEX Stamp Show. At John R. Lewis High School cafeteria, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Presented by Springfield Stamp Club. SPRINGPEX is the Washington D.C. area's largest club-sponsored stamp show. Features interesting philatelic exhibits, 20+ dealers, U.S. Postal Service booth, 2nd annual Postcrossing meetup, and free materials for young, beginning, and returning collectors. Free admission and parking. Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Details: springfieldstampclub.org/springpex

SUNDAY/APRIL 6

The Hot Lanes Perform. 6-8 p.m. At Earp's Ordinary, Fairfax. The Hot Lanes makes its debut at this fine eatery/bar/music venue that rivals Jammin Java! Tickets available at the door. Two sets of fine music in a two-hour span for \$15.

TUESDAY/APRIL 8

SPARK Movie Screening and Q&A (Virtual). 6-8 p.m. Join Insight Memory Care Center for a special viewing of the film SPARK - Robin Williams and his Battle with Lewy Body Dementia. This free event will be held via Zoom, with a live panel discussion after the movie screening. Register at insightmcc.org/getinvolved/events.

TUESDAY/APRIL 8

Red Cross Blood Drive. 2 to 6 p.m. At Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King is having a Red Cross blood drive. Register today at www.redcrossblood.org. Questions? Contact Melody Starya Moblely at 571-276-7356.

ENTERTAINMENT



Learn about Ageless Wisdom — Timeless Purpose: How Senior Sages Can Access and Use Your Life & Soul Wisdom on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Reston Library.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

Potomac Harmony Chorus. 7:30 p.m. At St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3241 Brush Drive, Falls Church. As the chorus prepares to participate in the Sweet Adelines Regional Competition, they will have a dress rehearsal in which they will present their two-song competition package as well as a few other fine tuned numbers. All music will be sung in 4-part harmony, a cappella style! For more information, contact Jackie Bottash at jackiebot-tash@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club (Virtual). 6-7:30 p.m. At Reston Library. A literary discussion that focuses on a character's personal growth and how it relates to our own. Led by life coach Shabnam Curtis. Will be discussing *The Women by Kristin Hannah*. Visit Journey Within: Self-Discovery Book Club - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

THURSDAY/APRIL 10

Northern Virginia Virtual 50+ Employment Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn how to apply for a Fairfax County job, get tips for creating resumes for the private sector, and join presentations from employers who hire people aged 50+ and have openings. Register at Virtual-Expos.AccessJCA.org. For questions, email EmploymentExpos@AccessJCA.org or call 703-6562-1518.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Community Comedy Show. 6:30-8:30 PM. At Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Reston. Hilarious, spontaneous comedy meets meaningful community impact at the inaugural event of Resonance Improv Alliance. Your laughter contributes directly to our mission to spread joy in Fairfax County. Improvisation is unscripted and may include adult content. Shows typically feature PG-13 content but may include adult situations and language. Recommend that children under 16 be accompanied by a trusted adult. Tickets are available at Resonance.betterworld.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

The Hot Lanes. 8 p.m. At Sherwood Community Center, City of Fairfax Town Hall Series, Fairfax. (FREE, Indoors). The Hot Lanes is delighted to return to the City of Fairfax's Old Town Hall Concert Series for the 2024-25 season. This event will be celebrating the highest accolades accomplished by Northern

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Saturday, April 26, 2025

The Lorton Spring Fling takes place on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at South County High School in Lorton.

Virginia's finest artists with two sets featuring our group and guest vocalist, Kristen Lee Sergeant! This concert is always sold out. To be assured of a seat, please arrive at least 20-30 minutes prior to the performance.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

New Windows on the Sky: Cosmic Rays, Neutrinos, and Gravitational Waves—In-Person. 1-3:30 p.m. At Reston Library, Reston. Join in a discussion of these new astronomies and the methods by which scientists discovered them. Led by Professor Michael Albrow, Scientist Emeritus at Fermilab, the U.S. premier particle physics laboratory. Visit New Windows on the Sky: Cosmic Rays, Neutrinos, and Gravitational Waves - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

La Fille Mal Gardée. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Virginia Ballet Company presents *La Fille Mal Gardée*, a charming, light-hearted comedy about two young lovers, a meddling mother, and failed attempts at making a "suitable" match, first presented in France in 1789. Visit the website: vaballet.org

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4; Military (active and retired) \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3 to 4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Prof. Meredith Lair (George Mason University) will discuss the History, Lessons and Legacies of the Vietnam War as the nation observes the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Patriot's Day Event. 12 noon. At the

grounds of Freeman House, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. The Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR) and the Fairfax County Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) are co-hosting the annual Patriot's Day event. There will be a color guard and readings of accounts from both British and colonist sources of the skirmish at Lexington and Concord, MA that occurred exactly 250 years ago.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Easter at The Perch. At Capital One Center, Tysons. Guests can enjoy the ultimate Easter Egg Hunt with 3,000 eggs at The Perch — a 3 acre sky park 11 stories in the sky with sweeping views of Tysons. Event activities will include a petting zoo with alpacas, bunnies and baby goats, a meet and greet with the Easter Bunny, and special experiences from Capital One Center partners — including free manicures from Nothing in Between, a pop-up of Flore Cafe serving festive hot chocolate, coffee, and artisan gelato, and Capital One Hall's pop-up box office offering fee-free tickets.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Senior Safety Summit. 10 a.m.-Noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Join the McLean Citizens Association, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, and the Fairfax County Police Department to learn about public safety. Topics will include community risk reduction, search and rescue, financial crimes against senior citizens, crime prevention and safety, emergency preparedness, and the Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign. No registration needed.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Ageless Wisdom — Timeless Purpose: How Senior Sages Can Access and Use Your Life & Soul Wisdom. 7-8 p.m. At Reston Library, Reston. Led by Patty Hagan, CEO of Lighthouse Coaching. Learn to see aging as a superpower, reclaim your right to dream, and step into your role as Wisdom Keeper. Visit Ageless Wisdom - Timeless Purpose: How Senior Sages Can Access and Use Your Life & Soul

Wisdom - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

APRIL 23 TO 27

George Mason Friends Book Sale. At George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Preview sale, Wednesday, 5-8 p.m. Entry fee \$20/adult. General sale, Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., free. Browse a wide variety of used books, CDs, and DVDs. For more details, visit georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com or call 703-813-6616.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Free Books for All. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lorton Community Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. Reading opens the World Book Drive and Family Literacy Fair. Some 30,000 free books for families and educators. Books are available on a first come, first served basis.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Lorton Spring Fling. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. The outdoor festival features a handcrafted marketplace, food trucks, and kid's carnival of games and activities. There will be live entertainment sponsored by Potomac Music and local police and fire departments and the National Guard will have their vehicles and trucks on display. Trademasters Home Services will host a complimentary 'Fishpond' for kids. In addition to the handcraft vendors for shopping, there will be several food trucks, on hand. Go to www.southcountypso.org for more information. Questions about the event can be emailed to SCHScraft-show@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Earth Day Fairfax. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Here's just a few topics you can expect at this year's Earth Day Festival: Strategies to grow bigger, better plants Information for identifying and getting rid of invasive plants Ways insects help the environment Effect of erosion on archaeology How to use a historic corn grinder History through activities Composting With live music, outdoor ice skating, the popular touch-a-truck exhibit and more, this is a learning experience you don't want to miss. Admission to the event is free, but there is a parking fee of \$10 per vehicle.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

RA's Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston (near the Reston Wegmans). Vendor space is sold out.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

RA's Community Yard Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston (near Reston Wegmans).

APRIL 26-27

Two Day Weekend HO Scale Model Train Show. 12-4 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Crew will hold a two day weekend HO Scale Model Train Show. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12,

\$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4; Military (active and retired) \$4. <http://www.fairfax-station.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR>, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Planet Virginia: A Plant-Based Lifestyle Expo. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Mason University, Wilkins Plaza. Co-sponsored by Sodexo, this family-friendly festival will bring together 5,000 attendees to explore how plant-based choices can improve human health, combat climate change, and save the lives of animals. With nearly 50 vendors, insightful speaker sessions, and a Planet Play Zone for kids, Planet Virginia promises a full day of education, inspiration, and entertainment.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Britain on the Green. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10706 Gunston Road, Lorton. The 27th Britain on the Green show will feature over 200 British cars and motorcycles, music, food trucks, and admission to historic Gunston Hall and grounds. Participant's Choice honors will be awarded in 25 or more classes of British cars and motorcycles. Additionally, the Nation's Capital Jaguar Owners Club will again hold their Concours d'Elegance during Britain on the Green. Visit the website: <https://www.britainonthegreen.org/>

TUESDAY/APRIL 29

Golf Tournament and Luncheon Fundraiser. At Westfields Golf Club, Clifton. Hosted by the Assistance League of Northern Virginia. Includes a continental breakfast, 18 holes of golf and a hot lunch buffet. There will also be raffle prizes and silent auction items available. All proceeds will help support ALNV's mission to assist area children in Title 1 elementary schools with food, clothing, books and other necessities. Contact at: sponsor@alnv.org for information about sponsorship options. Visit the website: alnv.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Scam Jam 2025. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale, 8430 Center Drive, Annandale. Take part in Scam Jam 2025: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. This event is dedicated to fraud prevention and the protection of older adults. Free event! Registration is required. Complimentary lunch. Watch HOAP: Heroes of Adult Protection, a short film from The Clowder Group, showcasing resilience of abuse victims and dedicated efforts of Adult Protective Services employees. Explore resource fair with exhibitors from local government agencies and non-profit organizations dedicated to fraud prevention and elder protection. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-county-silver-shield-anti-scam-campaign/scam-jam>

MAY 2 TO MAY 4

Friends of Centreville Regional Library Spring Book Sale. Friday, May 2, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, May 4, 1-4 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Shop fiction and nonfiction for all ages, DVDs, audiobooks, and more! No electronic scanners allowed. On Sunday, fill a grocery bag for just \$10!

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Free Community Document

Shredding Event. 9-11 a.m. (or until truck is full). At The Fairfax Community Center, 9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway, Fort Belvoir (located by the corner of Telegraph Road and Route 1, not on base). Sponsored by the Army Retirement Residence Foundation – Potomac. Max five boxes per person. Remove any plastic. For more information, call 703-781-2460 or email contactus@aarfp.org

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Forest Bathing. 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Forest Bathing is a slow, mindful immersion in Nature. This practice is deeply grounding and has many health benefits. The total distance traveled is often less than a mile. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Feed Fairfax 5K. At Greenbriar Town Center, Chantilly. Looking for a family-friendly way to support Western Fairfax Christian

Ministries (WFCM) weekend meal programs for students in Fairfax County Public Schools? Registration is now open for the Feed Fairfax 5K set for Saturday, May 3, at the Greenbriar Town Center in Chantilly. All proceeds from the race entry fees and donations will support WFCM's and Food for Others' weekend meal programs for students. For more information and to register, go to feedfairfax.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 7

Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia Forum.

10-11 a.m. Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Guest Speaker John Lechelt, Professor of Political Science, Northern Virginia Community College, will address the subject of Guns in America: A Complex National Dilemma. This program is free and open to the public without registration. Email any questions to admin@lilnova.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

44th Annual Spring Civil War Mosby Bus Tour, "Mosby and the End of the War." Sponsored by the Stuart - Mosby Historical Society. Tour Leaders will be Kevin Pawlak and Rob Orrison. Follow Mosby's Rangers during the closing acts of the Civil War, from the final fights to the disbandment at Salem. Cost is \$80 members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society \$90 for non-members. Tour does not in-



Forest Bathing will be offered on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

clude lunch. To sign up contact Rob Orrison at 703-431-2869 or email mosbytours@gmail.com or send your check to Rob Orrison (make checks payable to Rob) at 102 Melody Lane Stafford, VA 22554. Venmo: @Robert-Orrison. No refunds after May 1, 2025.

MONDAY/MAY 12

Our Man in Moscow – In-Person.

1-2:30 p.m. At Reston Library, Reston. International trade lawyer Steve Creskoff shares some amusing and revealing experiences he had while working on a project for the World Bank in Moscow in the early 2000s,

along with insight into today's US-Russia relations. Visit Our Man in Moscow - Fairfax Library Calendar - Library Home

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Spring Civil War & Militaria Show & Sale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Featuring books, relics and memorabilia from all wars. Admission: \$5 per person. All vendors are welcome! For additional information contact Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net, or call 703-785-5294 or contact Bud Mayo at mayo5304@cox.net or call 703-389-1505.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

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@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org.

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.

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.

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

FCPD Investigates Death of Inmate

Detectives from FCPD Major Crimes Bureau are conducting a death investigation concerning the death of an inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

On March 31, around 6:17 p.m., Sam Zu Yung, 32, was found unresponsive in his single cell at the Detention Center. Deputies and EMS immediately began performing life-saving measures. Yung was later declared deceased.

Detectives continue to investigate Yung's death and preliminarily, foul play is not suspected.

Yung has been in the custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and incarcerated at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center since Feb. 16, 2025.

By policy, the FCPD investigates all Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in-custody deaths.

prsinc.org. The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/. Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can

go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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

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

From One Kenny to Another



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It wasn't exactly earth-shattering. Nor was it heart-stopping (thank God!). But in its own way it was eye-catching. What was it, some of you may ask? It was the new/recent Dupixent television spot featuring "Kenny and Moseetta," identified as "actual patients." Kenny was into "martial arts," it was his "passion." Moseetta enjoyed "working out." Not that either of these users/spokespersons were known to me or were into routines with which I was familiar. But there was an interesting element of this ad that caught my attention. The male was named Kenny, "an actual patient." I am also named Kenny but not an "actual patient." But I took note of this commercial for two reasons: (1) My given name is shown front and center on Kenny's shirt (actually, it's more left of center) and (2) I am the son of a psoriasis (a condition for which Dupixent is offered up as a possible solution) sufferer: my mother, may she rest in peace.

I have childhood recollections of my mother's arms and legs covered red with psoriasis. I also remember, not in great detail, but enough to know that whatever she used to try and find any relief did not work (back in the 60s). And not that there's any possibility that any of the many psoriasis medications currently on the market could in any way have benefited my mother (she died early Dec. '08). Nevertheless, I find myself drawn to the psoriasis advertisements thinking of my late mother and wondering in arrears, if any of these new medications could have helped her. (I do the same for my father, deceased Dec. '06, when I see Claritin commercials. My father had allergies and was forever taking Claritin tablets. Still, I'm likewise wondering if today's medications/formulations could have offered him some relief.)

But the psoriasis advertisement really caught my attention because the first-person advocate for this product's (Dupixent) positive effect is someone named Kenny. And not that I knee-jerk/listen/believe what anybody named Kenny says but I will admit to sort of giving him the benefit of the doubt. Moreover, my thinking isn't that Kenny knows more than some other "actual patient" not named Kenny. It simply means that I'm more inclined to listen just to see what this Kenny is saying and whether this Kenny, meaning me, could ever see myself saying it. Almost as if there's some magic/positive effect in the words spoken because there being spoken by someone named Kenny. And yet again, nothing could be further from the truth. To invoke Sgt. Schultz from the long ago "Hogan's Heroes:" "I know nothing."

Not totally true. I know sports and chocolate, and after writing a weekly column for 27+ years, I know a thing or two about creating content (no comments from the peanut gallery, please?) And even though my columns are somewhat short on substance and long on "dribble," as my late brother, Richard (died Dec. '22) described them, I guess seeing my given name on a television spokesperson's shirt triggered some familial memories. For which I'm always grateful.

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



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