

THE CONNECTION

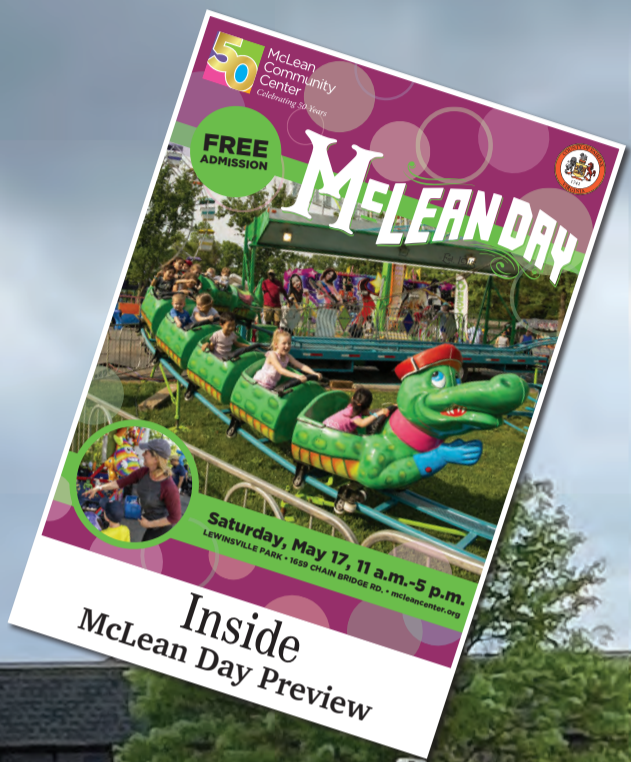
CENTRE VIEW ♦ Chantilly ♦ Great Falls ♦ Herndon ♦ McLean ♦ Oak Hill ♦ Oakton ♦ Reston ♦ Vienna

Good News Along The Trail in Vienna

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Linda Colbert, mayor of the Town of Vienna, stands beside Supervisor Walter Alcorn, and to her left is Del. Holly Seibold. They and others prepare to plant redbud trees. Behind them is 125 Church Street, an obsolete office building adjacent to the W&OD Park (Trail) with no existing tenants. A study is underway on the feasibility of razing it and building a W&OD Trail Visitor Center.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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MAY 7-20, 2025

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Supervisors Reverse Proposed Real Estate Tax Increase

Some programs saved from proposed cuts; FCPS request not fully funded.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Facing a budget shortfall of \$292.7 million, on Tuesday, May 6, in the next-to-final step of the annual budget process, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors eliminated the 1.5 percent tax increase as proposed in the advertised budget, and reduced the tax rate by an additional quarter of a penny, to \$1.1225 per \$100 of assessed value. However, since home assessments have risen, the average tax bill for homeowners will increase by \$499, but less than the \$638 average in County Executive Bryan Hill's first proposed budget.

The board approved the final "marked up" version of their FY 2026 budget by a vote of 9-1, with Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) opposing.

According to Chairman Jeff McKay, the budget aims to balance fiscal constraints while preserving essential community services. "This budget can best be described as responsive and prudent," McKay said at the start of the meeting.

Key elements of the marked-up FY 2026 budget include setting aside a \$12.6 million reserve to address potential impacts of the continued uncertainty the region and Virginia are facing as a result of federal government actions.

The budget provides a \$119 million increase in school transfer funding to Fairfax County Public Schools. Still, it is lower than the \$248 million Superintendent Michelle Reid requested for the division's \$4 billion Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed School Operating budget.

The Board's marked-up budget raises the transient occupancy tax from 4 percent to 6 percent, maintains full funding of the county's compensation plan, and addresses potential economic challenges resulting from federal workforce reductions.

To address the nearly \$300 million shortfall in the first version of the budget, the board considered

proposed budget cuts totaling \$60 million. After hearing public testimony, the board ultimately decided to preserve several services. Among them is restored funding for four critical ambulance services: ambulance 416 (Clifton), ambulance 420 (Gunston), ambulance 441 (Crosspointe/Fairfax Station), ambulance 439 (North Point/Herndon). Funding was reinstated for crossing guards at high schools for 2026, while encouraging the Police Department to explore a cost-saving plan to provide the service.

The FY 2026 marked-up budget restored funding for post-secondary education services specifically aimed at students with developmental disabilities. The board restored full funding of \$34,000 for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and funding for county parks maintenance. The board kept \$3.93 million funding proposed to be cut for the middle school after-school program, with the directive to find ways to cut costs, such as a fee-based program for those who can afford to pay.

"The CERT program, while a relatively small item in the budget, provides significant value to both the volunteers who serve and the broader community," said Supervisor Andres Jimenez (D-Mason). "I strongly have advocated for its continued funding, recognizing the vital role it plays in the community's preparedness and resilience."

Herrity proposed to amend the budget guidance and suggested, among other things, forming a group of citizens and consultants with budget expertise to provide recommendations on cost-efficient service delivery, review revenue diversification options, and benchmark with other jurisdictions. The board did not support Herrity's proposal.

Supervisor Alcorn commented on Herrity's ideas. "There have been a lot of good suggestions put out here. I do want to point



FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV LIVE STREAM

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, at the May 6 meeting for the FY 2026 Budget Markup.



CHAIRMAN JEFF MCKAY NEWSLETTER, MAY 6, 2025

FY2026 Budget Timeline

out some of them. We need more discussion at these committees, including some of the ideas put forward by Supervisor Herrity."

Herrity said in a release after the meeting that while he was glad to see the board not cutting criti-

cal services, he was "disappointed that spending continues to be out of control."

He cited "collective bargaining, prevailing wage and project labor agreements, the Sustainable Development Policy, and our Opera-

tional Energy Strategy," as areas of concern.

The supervisors will formally vote to adopt the FY 2026 budget on May 13, but there are typically no changes between markup and adoption.

FCPS Wants it All Superintendent says she can't cut \$150M from her \$4B budget.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The 2026 Fairfax County Advertised Budget underfunds the public schools by \$150 million,

according to FCPS. Dr. Michelle Reid, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools says she cannot manage the \$150 million gap in the division's \$4 billion district budget.

Over 96 percent of FCPS' budget is funded. The shortfall of \$150 million is 3.75 per-

cent of the \$4 billion budget.

On April 9, Chantilly High School's Advik Sood, student journalist, asked Reid what happens if the FCPS doesn't get 100 percent of its request. Reid said that FCPS is at a crossroads — the division cannot cut its

budget without impacting the classroom experience. Reid invited student journalists from 24 FCPS high schools to a roundtable discussion on the budget.

County and state revenue combined

SEE FCPS, PAGE 10



Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn (far left), with Paul Gilbert, executive director of NOVA Parks, looking on, introduces the planting the seven redbud trees above the banks of Little Bear Run in the Town of Vienna located in a segment of the W&OD Park (Trail) where Dominion Energy's transmission lines coexist. Dominion has a public service obligation to maintain its lines, including those in the park. Dominion clear-cut this area and other areas along the Trail instead of pruning, leaving no remaining vegetation or canopy of monarch trees.



Linda Colbert, mayor of the Town of Vienna (black dress, white trim), stands beside Supervisor Walter Alcorn, while to her left is Del. Holly Seibold. They and others prepare to plant the seven redbud trees. Behind them is 125 Church Street, an obsolete office building adjacent to the W&OD Park (Trail) with no existing tenants. A study is underway on the feasibility of razing it and building a W&OD Trail Visitor Center.

On Arbor Day New agreement to protect vegetation along the W&OD, and the possibility of a W&OD Visitors Center in Vienna.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In a show of environmental resilience, on Friday afternoon, April 25, Arbor Day 2025, Fairfax County Supervisor Walter Alcorn joined the Mayor of the Town of Vienna, Linda Colbert; Paul Gilbert, executive director of NOVA Parks; Virginia State Delegate Holly Seibold; and others who gathered on a portion of the Town Green in Vienna behind the Freeman House and Museum. They would plant seven redbud trees parallel to the stream bank of Little Bear Run that flows alongside the W&OD Park (Trail) and make two announcements.

One announcement would be the result of community collaboration. Local leaders, including Alcorn, Colbert, Seibold, and Gilbert, demonstrated a united front in advocating for environmental protection. They challenged Dominion Energy's actions and, working together, drafted a new memorandum of understanding for responsible trail management, the 2025 Vegetation Management Memorandum of Understanding Between Dominion Energy and NOVA Parks for the W&OD Park.

The second announcement would center on future development plans and the Town of Vienna signing an option agreement to acquire an obsolete commercial building with plans to create a W&OD Visitor Center, transforming the trail user experience, and creating an economic impact for the town.

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Alcorn opened the news conference by identifying individuals who have demonstrated exceptional efforts to safeguard the environment and promote responsible stewardship. "First and foremost, Paul Gilbert from NOVA Parks. You know, we had this issue with a certain major power company," Alcorn said.

He explained that Gilbert advocates for the environment, trees, NOVA Parks, and the broader community. "This is a park system that runs — how many miles? 45 miles. So, unfortunately, this segment of the park really took the brunt of this," Alcorn said.

Alcorn stood at the podium, his back to the W&OD Trail and Little Bear Run. Its banks were raw and clear-cut with no remaining vegetation, no canopy of mature trees, and no shade offering homes to birds and animals along the segment of the trail where it and Dominion Energy lines coexisted. The stark contrast between the vibrant ecosystem that once thrived there and the barren landscape now visible was disheartening.

Alcorn emphasized the importance of rebirth and growth. Despite the loss of trees, planting new trees symbolizes a fundamental aspect of Arbor Day.

"Even though we really have not been able to be successful in saving these trees, I think the fact that we are here and we have a rebirth of trees really does show how important it is to come back, to basically double down on our environmental issues and do what we can to make this a better place,"

Alcorn said.

Falls Church's Dave Gustafson, a member of the NOVA Parks Board, explained the significance of planting the native redbud trees. They symbolize new beginnings and hope. He discussed the shock and disappointment over Dominion Energy's clear-cutting of trees and shrubs along the W&OD trail from Vienna to Dunn Loring and their announced plans to continue aggressive cutting along the remainder of the 37 miles of the Trail under its transmission lines.

"These actions violated a 2005 Memorandum of Understanding that controlled cutting and prescribed replanting along the trail," Gustafson said. "Each of our member jurisdictions and the Town of Vienna has separate resolutions calling on Dominion to stop the cutting and adopt a selective and thoughtful approach."

According to Gustafson, they gave Dominion a draft MOU that calls on them to restore the area. "We're looking for selective pruning, restoration of impacted areas, and help in managing invasive vegetation. We're completely confident that we can address Dominion's safety of its transmission lines," Gustafson said.

Paul Gilbert, in jest, said he was sure everyone gathered to admire the beautiful building behind him, a long commercial structure facing the other side of the W&OD Trail. Located at 125 Church Street, it is an obsolete office building with no existing tenants and is adjacent to the Trail.

"The news that we have is that this week, NOVA Parks and the Town of Vienna signed an option agreement to acquire two properties, one of them (pointing to the commercial building), and then the historic bank building just across the street, being the other."

Gilbert said Vienna sits in the geographic center of the 45-mile W&OD Trail, and this location can be its hub. "Our plan is to take that building down and put up a visitor center, a W&OD Visitor Center," he said. Gilbert explained that they will seek additional funding in the coming months and work on dual trails "separate [for] pedestrians from cyclists."

"The Town of Vienna was created because of the train, and now it can be expanded and improved even more with this beautiful vision of an enhanced W&OD Trail that, with the MOU, hopefully will also have the ecological value, transportation value, historic value, cultural value, and community value," Gilbert said.

Mayor Linda Colbert said that the visioning process is the beginning. If the feasibility study supports it, the transformation will significantly boost the local economy. "I really believe that we owe a debt of gratitude to both Nova Parks and to Congressman Gerry Connolly for working with us so diligently on the visioning process, and especially to Congressman Connolly for obtaining federal funding to help support this project," Colbert said.

Two Fair Oaks Police Officers Shot in Greenbriar

Both are OK;
suspect is killed
by third officer.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Two Fair Oaks police officers were shot and a third killed the man who pulled the trigger. The incident occurred April 23 in Chantilly's Greenbriar community; the officers are now recovering from their wounds, and police identified their assailant as Jamal Wali, 36, of that neighborhood.



Police Chief
Kevin Davis

It began that day at 2:36 p.m., when an officer was conducting routine traffic enforcement with a radar gun in the 4000 block of Majestic Lane near the Greenbriar Town Center. After stopping a silver 1999 Toyota Corolla driven by Wali, things quickly took a turn for the worse, Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis explained later in a press conference at the scene.

Wali's vehicle was headed toward Majestic's nearby intersection with Route 50 when radar clocked him driving at "a high rate of speed," said Davis. "The officer puts on his emergency equipment and the driver pulls over abruptly and slams on his brakes."

No one else was in the car and, after the officer approached Wali on the driver's side, Davis said Wali became "immediately hostile, argumentative and combative. He refuses to identify himself or produce any identification, whatsoever. He does tell the police officer that he is armed, and that officer tells him to stop reaching for his firearm."

Davis said the weapon – a Glock semi automatic pistol – was in a holster attached to a belt Wali was wearing over his clothing. Meanwhile, the officer had called for backup; and after two officers responded within minutes, one of them – a 19-year police veteran – also "tells the driver to stop reaching" for his weapon, said Davis. He said the



The police barricade on Majestic Lane near Route 50 east on April 23.



Police vehicles at the Majestic Lane/Route 50 intersection on April 23.

officers were trying to de-escalate the situation, but Wali was "agitated and acting in a bizarre manner."

"[Wali] takes his gun out of the holster, leans back in his seat and immediately opens fire on two, uniformed, Fairfax County police officers standing at the driver's side door," continued the chief. "A third officer – he, too, assigned to patrol in the Fair Oaks District – is on the passenger side. He sees this deadly encounter unfolding and discharges his firearm, killing the gunman – who was simultaneously shooting at the [other] two officers."

Davis said Wali shot the two officers in the elbow and arms, and they were treated for

non-life-threatening injuries at local hospitals. He also noted that they "never drew their weapons." Responding officers quickly began performing life-saving measures on both Wali and the two wounded officers. However, Wali died at the scene and was officially pronounced dead at a hospital. Police said he was struck by four bullets.

Davis explained that, in the police Mobile Command Center brought to the scene, he was able to see what had happened by viewing footage from the officers' body-worn cameras, plus their cruisers' dashcams. So, he said, "I'm certain these officers are lucky to be alive, I'm certain they were fired upon by a gunman whose intention was to kill



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

Wali's gun, a Glock semi-automatic pistol, was recovered at the scene.

them, and I'm certain that the bravery exhibited by the third officer ultimately saved their lives."

Police said that officer who killed Wali has been with the Department for two years, and one of the injured officers has 18 years of service. Davis said he's "just breathing a sigh of relief that these officers will be OK and will live to police this area another day."

As per Police Department policy regarding use-of-force incidents, the officer who killed Wali was placed on restricted-duty status, pending the outcome of criminal and administrative investigations. Conducting them are detectives with the Major Crimes and Internal Affairs bureaus.

Police said a toxicology report would be made during Wali's autopsy to determine if he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when he was stopped. Davis said Virginia State Police and the ATF (the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) also responded and he appreciated them "reaching out to offer assistance."

Usually, Greenbriar is a quiet, peaceful bedroom community that's home to more than 9,000 people plus two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. But because of the shooting, Majestic Lane between Route 50 and Meadow Hill Lane was closed to traffic for several hours so police could investigate and preserve the scene.

As people arrived home from work that evening, around 6 p.m., Majestic Lane near Route 50 east was still blocked off to traffic by a barricade formed by police and their vehicles. All in all, said Davis, what transpired was "startling. It was a beautiful April Day. But we're taught to never consider a traffic stop normal, routine or benign – because a traffic stop like this one turned into a deadly encounter."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA HALL

Band Director Melissa Hall conducting Wildcat Band members.

Springtime, Cool Band Concert and Food Trucks

‘A Night of Toons:’ Centreville High presents its annual ‘Bandemonium!’

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Springtime and warm weather mean it’s time for Centreville High’s band concert under the stars. The Wildcat Band’s Fourth Annual “Bandemonium!” is set for Friday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the school’s bus loop.

Featured will be Centreville’s music groups, Winterguard, JazzCats, Percussion Ensembles, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. And the talented, young musicians comprising them plan to dazzle audiences with a variety of great music.

But that’s not all; this event promises something for people of all ages. Attendees may get their faces painted by students in the school’s Art Club, have balloon animals made for them, get Wildcat pawprint tattoos and dance to some swingin’ jazz tunes.

In addition, food trucks El Jefe Wood Fired Pizza, KBBQ Box, Two Smooth Dudes, Kona Ice and Adam’s Delights Ice Cream will be onsite so guests may purchase food to enjoy while the music plays. El Jefe offers tasty pizzas, KBBQ Box combines Korean

and international cooking traditions, and Two Smooth Dudes serves gourmet tater tots, wraps, salads and pineapple smoothies. Desserts will be available as well.

Some 500 folding chairs will be available for guests to sit in, but people are also encouraged to bring picnic blankets and camping chairs. In case of rain, the concert will be moved indoors into the cafeteria.

This year’s “Bandemonium!” theme is “A Night of Toons,” with each band performing a selection of music from popular cartoons. The event brings together every component of the CVHS Performing Arts Department, with band, orchestra, choir and theater students all participating.

“It’s such a joy to have created a new tradition at Centreville High and our surrounding community that’s always so well received,” said Band Director Melissa Hall. “The students and I are always excited to share ‘Bandemonium!’ with our community.”

Kicking off this year’s festivities will be a piece performed by all the bands together. It’s called “Halcyon Hearts” by composer Katahji Copley, and the title denotes a time

SEE ‘BANDERMONIUM!’, PAGE 15

Park and Bark Is this Saturday in Chantilly

On Saturday, May 10, from 1-4 p.m., Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Friends will hold a special, dog-themed event called Park and Bark at the Walney Visitor Center, 5040 Walney Park Drive in Chantilly. A Forever Home will be there with puppies and dogs for adoption, and ScentHound will give away three months of free services to anyone adopting a puppy at the event.

Lazy Dog Restaurant will offer a variety of beers, and there’ll be live music from Lucas Mason. Also participating will be local vendors and young entrepreneurs, including Baskets by Ava, The Owl Mobile Thrift, Laura’s Custom Cakes, Love Bites Dog Treats and FlyDogz hot dogs.

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Park and Bark fun is set for this Saturday.



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The History and Significance of Hickory Forest Park

Sign dedication honors land donation that created it.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In 1987, Centreville's Virginia Run community donated 66 acres to Fairfax County in support of the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. They eventually became Hickory Forest Park; and on April 23, some 38 years later, community leaders and residents gathered there to dedicate a sign honoring that contribution's anniversary.

"The value of that land today is well over \$15 million," said John Litzenberger, a member of Virginia Run's homeowners' association. "We're doing this to remind the greater Western Fairfax community of the importance of taking care of our local environment. Those acres are part of the Bull Run Stream watershed, which flows directly onto the Occoquan Reservoir – one of the main, drinking-water sources for Fairfax County residents."

The park's entrance is at the southern end of Smiths Trace in Virginia Run, where a sign now marks its existence. Litzenberger said the community wants people to know about it so they may enjoy "this passive-recreation gem here in Western Fairfax." It also wants to deliver a more serious message.

"We noticed a number of folks were dumping contractor debris, yard clippings, etc. on the parkland we donated toward the Chesapeake Bay restoration program," explained Litzenberger. "So this sign is our way of tactfully getting the word out in order to protect the beautiful park Virginia Run donated."

At the outset of the ceremony, Virginia Run Community Association President Jay Johnson welcomed everyone and acknowledged some local dignitaries there. They included Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully), former Sully Supervisor Michael Frey, Sully Planning Commissioner Evelyn Spain, plus Litzenberger and Jim Hart, both former Sully planning commissioners. Then various speakers discussed the land's importance and history.

Litzenberger noted that, in 1982, the county's Board of Supervisors downzoned 41,000 acres in western Fairfax County so intense development wouldn't adversely impact drinking water in the Occoquan Watershed. It meant that homes in that area couldn't be built at a density higher than one house per 5 acres. Therefore, less runoff from yard fertilizer and impervious surfaces such as driveways would flow into the Occoquan.

"Mike Frey was then [former Supervisor] Elaine McConnell's chief of staff in the Springfield District, but he was instrumental in making this happen," said Litzenberger. "He was elected the very first Sully supervisor in 1991, taking office in 1992."

And in his new role, Frey continued his involvement in Virginia Run's land donation. "What it really started was the creation of far more than this piece of property," he said. "It was the first public parkland that would ultimately become the Sully Woodlands, which is a couple thousand acres."



Group photo of the participants in the sign-dedication ceremony.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Former Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey



Current Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith



Jim Hart



John Litzenberger



Jay Johnston



Evelyn Spain



Richard Roan

imately become the Sully Woodlands, which is a couple thousand acres.

"During the course of my years on the Board, and which Kathy continued, the county put together a lot of property that had originally been planned and zoned for the same kind of density as Virginia Run. So the fact that this community is now surrounded by parkland – with some future, community-type uses to come – is really a result of, and a follow-up to, this land dedication. So thank you all for doing that – for starting an exciting process and creating the base for a fabulous county park."

Smith said she was "just fortunate" to follow Frey on the Board of Supervisors because "he'd gotten done a lot of great work when he served, and I appreciate that. It's really generous when a community donates property to the county, and it serves all of

us well. We have green space we can walk around, it's important for the environment and we want to keep chemicals out of the Occoquan."

"Having a sign is important because even some people who live in this neighborhood don't know about this park," continued Smith. "We're lucky to live in Fairfax County where we have over 50,000 acres of open space that people can go to. So thank you for donating this property and, also, for letting people know it's here."

Hart explained the land's significance. The sign calls it a diabase forest, and Hart said a diabase is a kind of rock used in construction. "Over eons, as the stone weathers, it creates a unique type of soil," he said. "It has an unusual pH [a measure of soil's acidity or alkalinity], so it's not good for farming and doesn't perk well. But under certain

circumstances, it can support a very diverse plant community."

He said the 66 acres are behind the houses on the west side of Smith's Trace, and Bull Run Post Office Road runs parallel to that street, on the other side of the trees. "This area is part of the largest stand of a globally rare forest in Virginia," said Hart. "It's an oak/hickory forest on diabase soil. And in conjunction with other parts of this forest, it's a large, contiguous area that not only protects water quality, but creates room for habitat for certain creatures needing a large range for feeding."

Regarding the downzoning, he said it was done after a study showed that, from the 1950s to the 1970s, water quality in the Occoquan had deteriorated. "The Board then

NEWS

Police Chase Ends in Fatal Motorcycle Crash

At approximately 12:09 a.m. April 27, 2025, Virginia State Police observed a motorcycle travelling at speeds above 100 miles per hour on Interstate 66 eastbound in the area of Nutley Street in Fairfax County. The trooper attempted a traffic stop, but the motorcycle continued to speed off, and a pursuit was initiated.

Shortly after initiating the pursuit, the trooper terminated it for safety reasons and slowed down. After terminating the pursuit, the trooper approached a crash that occurred along the interstate, involving the same motorcycle and an SUV. The crash caused

the motorcycle to catch fire. The trooper attempted to douse the flames with his fire extinguisher and was aided by fire and rescue crews. The motorcycle driver died in the crash and the resulting fire.

The driver of the SUV suffered minor injuries and was transported to an area hospital. The motorcycle struck the SUV in the back of the vehicle on the passenger side.

Identification of the motorcycle driver is still pending.

The crash remains under investigation.

LETTERS

Fairfax County Must Stick to Trust Policy

To the editor:

I want to remind our county Sheriff and Board of Supervisors that Fairfax County must stick to our Trust Policy. They must not make any voluntary exceptions to work with ICE because doing so puts innocent people at risk.

As a Reston native and educator with more than 15 years of experience in public and private schools in northern Virginia, I have built countless relationships with immigrant students and families. It's been devastating to see parents unable to take their kids to school or participate in parent events, for fear of being permanently taken away from their families and homes. It's awful to see children trying to function while living in

fear of losing parents or siblings to an unnecessary politics.

We cannot allow others to criminalize the rich contributions that immigrants make in our community. The simple act of relocating or merely existing should never be "wrong" or "dangerous." In fact, immigrants are less dangerous and statistically less likely to commit crimes than those of us born in the USA.

Elisa Jácome, an economist and professor at Northwestern University co-conducted a study showing that immigrants are 60% less likely to be incarcerated than those of us who were born here. The American Immigration Council analyzed crime data against demographic data and found that between 1980

and 2022, immigration had doubled but crime had fallen more than 60%.

Our neighborhoods are safer and more beautiful when we have immigrant neighbors. Being surrounded by other languages, cultural arts, cuisines, religious practices, fashions, and more helps us grow our perspective on the world and our place in it.

We need to focus our attention legislatively and as a community on protecting and partnering with immigrants in our community, not with threatening, disparaging, or detaining them — nor deliberately tearing apart their families.

Bethany Davis
Reston

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Have some extra time to drive a neighbor to a doctor's appointment? You pick the days, times, and places that are convenient for you. There is no minimum driving requirement. Not only do you help older adults in need, you also get to meet wonderful folks, often with very interesting backgrounds and stories to tell. The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), is an all-volunteer, non-sectarian, non-profit organization. Its mission is providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies. Visit the website at <https://scmafc.org/volunteer>, or email contact@scmafc.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE WISH LISTS

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer organization that partners with several Title 1 elementary schools across the region. These schools have a high percentage of low-income students whose families have a difficult time providing basic necessities. Assistance League helps fulfill basic needs by providing food and clothing. The series of monthly wish lists helps Assistance League

expand the scope of what can be provided. The May Wish List "Tushies and Toes" focuses on new underwear and socks - basic clothing items that are greatly needed and frequently requested by the schools the organization serves.

Please help Assistance League provide these important necessities for the students we serve by making a contribution from this month's wish list. There is a variety of colorful multi-pair underwear and sock packages for boys and girls in all sizes. Use this link: tiny.alnv.org/tushies-toes to make your selection and help the schools replenish their supply of these essential items that many children need. If you would prefer to avoid using Amazon, you can pay by personal check for these items. Please send your check, made out to ALNV, to P.O. Box 209, Herndon, VA 20172 and include "Wish List/month" in the memo line.

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.



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Youngkin Fails to Collaborate

Youngkin's four-year total of vetoes: 437; surpasses McAuliffe prior record of 120.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, Gov. Glenn Youngkin completed action on the state budget and legislation from the General Assembly after we took action on his first round of proposed amendments and vetoes. The actions bring a conclusion to four years of an usual style of dealing with the General Assembly and a disappointing end to this budget cycle.

Governor Youngkin vetoed an additional 38 bills bringing this four-year total to 437 vetoes which broke the prior record of Governor McAuliffe by 317. None of Governor Youngkin's budget vetoes were discussed with the General Assembly in advance and the pure number of vetoes and amendments was unprecedented. Prior governors such as Mark Warner and Tim Kaine governed with legislatures controlled by the other party and typically vetoed less than 10 bills per session.

This behavior is contrary to the Governor's campaign promises to work towards bipartisan compromise. For example, he vetoed many bills that passed unanimously and one of my procedural cleanup bills that received just two negative votes after four committee hearings and six floor sessions. Most of these vetoes came with no notice or dialogue prior to announcement.

The Governor also made 37 "line item vetoes" to our state budget and claimed it was necessary because the Commonwealth needs to reduce spending and reserve funds due to



economic uncertainty. While I appreciate the Governor's recognition that the Trump Administration has created extraordinary risk to the Virginia economy, his line item vetoes were unusual in many respects.

First, the Governor vetoed \$900 million of capital spending – most of which he proposed in his December budget. This is the second year that Governor Youngkin has rejected

budget proposals that he initially proposed. It is impossible to cooperate with someone who cannot agree with his own proposals.

Second, the Commonwealth currently has the largest combined revenue reserves we have ever held in the history of the Commonwealth — \$4 billion. These are a combination of constitutionally required "Rainy Day Fund" deposits and a General Assembly established revenue reserve fund we created consistent with our conservative budgeting which maintains our triple A bond status that keeps borrowing costs low for taxpayers.

He also gave no notice that he wanted to cut this spending and engaged in no dialogue. In addition, construction spending is exactly what economists recommend in economic downturns because of the broad impact it has on various sectors. The Trump Administration's tariffs are also likely to make these projects more expensive if the Commonwealth delays them even six months.

The Governor also cut much needed and merited spending including a new first time

homebuyer program and renter's assistance to help young people with affordable housing.

Governor Youngkin also rejected our proposal to lower the body mass index required to obtain new weight loss drug regimes funded by Medicaid. The General Assembly proposed a BMI of 35 or more or 30 if someone has diabetes. A BMI of 30/35 equals about 200/235 lbs. for a 5'10" person. His rejection of the lower BMI proposal saves taxpayers only \$7 million while forfeiting \$40 million in federal matching funds, and will cost taxpayers millions more in obesity-related healthcare expenses. He also vetoed additional investments in Geriatric and Dementia services for elderly in nursing homes.

We also saw line item vetoes for community violence reduction grants and over \$20 million towards our \$400 million state park deferred maintenance needs. He also vetoed tens of millions in storm water mitigation, Hurricane Helene relief money, and environmental education programs.

Other than actions we will likely have to take this fall to triage The Trump Administration's proposed massive cuts to Medicaid, education funding and climate change policy, this was Governor Youngkin's last chance to reach bipartisan compromise in our regular budget cycle before his term ends. He has continued to attempt to govern as a partisan candidate and make decisions based on his next Republican primary or act unilaterally like a business executive rather than work with the legislative branch of government to reach consensus. I am hopeful our next Governor will not make the same choice.

Sen. Scott Surovell is Virginia Senate Majority Leader & State Senator from 34th District of Virginia

Your Actions, Our Climate: Fairfax Needs You Now

Bold goals for Fairfax County: cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

BY JOHN MORRILL,
DIRECTOR, OEEC

2024 was the hottest year ever recorded in Fairfax County. Extreme weather and high energy bills are hitting many households hard. From prolonged heatwaves to higher utility costs, it's becoming increasingly clear that climate change and economic strain are affecting us all.

In response, Fairfax County is taking steps to reduce the emissions that drive climate change and helping our community adapt to its growing impacts. A community-led climate action plan in 2021 set bold goals for Fairfax County: cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.



While your local government is taking steps to reduce its emissions, most of Fairfax County's carbon footprint comes from everyday community activities—meaning we all have a role. We can only get

there if everyone does their part. That's why we've launched the Sustain Fairfax campaign — an important initiative designed to empower everyone in Fairfax County to be part of the solution.

Why Every Resident's Action Matters

Community-wide participation isn't just helpful; it's necessary. With the county government's impact limited to a fraction of total

emissions, collective individual actions are critical. Every small step you take at home or in your daily commute adds up significantly.

Simple but impactful actions you can take right now include:

- ❖ Conserving energy at home, such as adjusting your thermostat and using energy-efficient appliances.
- ❖ Choosing electric vehicles

SEE MORRILL, PAGE 14

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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Honoring John Lovaas of Reston

Activist, volunteer founded Reston Farmers Market.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Reston Association honored John Lovaas with a new plaque on Saturday, April 27. The plaque recognizes his many contributions to the community, including founding the Reston Farmers Market at Lake Anne in 1998. The plaque is attached to a bench at Lake Anne.

"I can't think of anything better than being so honored by Lake Anne, the community that means so much to us. And right next to Bob Simon's statue by the lake," Lovaas said the day after the unveiling.

Lovaas retired from his position as market manager of the Reston Farmers Market



RESTON ASSOCIATION

John and Fran Lovaas

in December of 2023 after 26 years as volunteer managing the market with his wife Fran, who continues on as market manager.

The market opened with 12 vendors and currently features 34 farmers/vendors. It has been named the best in NoVA several times, and draws upwards of 2,000 customers each Saturday as it enters its 28th season.

During his tenure, Lovaas added valuable features to the market including SNAP participation and a gleaning program that collects excess fresh foods to distribute to those in need.



INSTAGRAM

John Lovaas (second from left) tries out the bench at Lake Anne in Reston that includes a plaque honoring him for his contributions to the community, including founding the Reston Farmers Market. From left, Max Cummins, CEO of Reston Association, John Lovaas, honoree, Sen. Jennifer Boysko, Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra, Supervisor Walter Alcorn, and Irwin Flashman, RA board, Lake Anne director.

Burke & Herbert Donates \$28,800 to Support Local Families

Goals for Good Recipient, NVFS, receives record high contribution.

Burke & Herbert Bank representatives presented Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) with a check for \$28,800 at the conclusion of the Bank's annual Goals for Good Program. The amount is the highest presented to an organization in the program's ten-year history. NVFS amassed this sum by receiving \$100 from the Bank for each goal scored by the Washington Capitals during the 2024-2025 National Hockey League (NHL) regular season.

"Thanks to a great hockey year, we're delighted to provide our highest donation in our Goals for Good program's ten-year history to Northern Virginia Family Service," said David Boyle, Burke & Herbert Bank Chief Executive Officer, "NVFS is doing the heroic work needed to build self-sufficiency and empower our local neighbors in need. Our historic bank remains committed to supporting the communities where we do business."

Through this partnership with Monumental Sports, the Bank has raised awareness and funds for a variety of worthy not-for-profits in the DC Metro area since 2014 including Capital Youth Empowerment Program, Willing Warriors, GrandInvolve, Operation Renewed Hope Foundation, Homestretch, Inc., Rebuilding Together DC-Alexandria, Connect our Kids, Inc., Alice's Kids, Inc. and Most Valuable Kids, Inc. In all, the bank had donated over \$225,000 to support children, housing and veterans in our community.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Burke & Herbert Bank's Goals for Good program supports NVFS in reaching over 40,000 families in the past year. "Every day, NVFS is at the forefront serving our community, creating pathways to health and economic wellbeing

for our neighbors," said Stephanie Berkowitz, president and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS). "We are grateful for this partnership and for Burke & Herbert Bank's dedication to making a real difference in the lives of so many."

Northern Virginia Family Service's (NVFS) works to empower more than 40,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. With these essential resources, our community is better equipped for future success and engagement among all of our neighbors. NVFS celebrated 100 years of service in 2024. Learn more at nvfs.org.



Burke & Herbert Bank presents NVFS, the Bank's Goals for Good recipient, with a \$28,800 donation. From the left: Angie Zirk, Burke & Herbert Bank; Kathleen McMahon, NVFS; Phil Quintana, Burke & Herbert Bank; Sara Kreitzer, NVFS; Yvette Golladay, and Jane Petty, Burke & Herbert Bank.

Sign Dedication

FROM PAGE 6

determined that impervious surface was the biggest, single threat to water quality," said Hart. "So in 1982, it lowered residential density to [decrease it]."

Furthermore, he added, "The Board also determined that nonresidential uses would be limited to corridors along arterial [major] roadways. Side roads, like Bull Run Post Office, would be protected from development like institutional buildings with big rooftops and parking lots. Instead, they'd remain essentially undisturbed forest – both for the wildlife and the water quality."

"Everything that goes down the storm

drain and into the ditches ends up in the Occoquan Reservoir. Everything that goes underground goes into the aquifers. All the homes along Bull Run Post Office Road, plus Virginia Run's irrigation system, are on wells. We're all dependent on the same aquifer, so we still need to be vigilant and concerned about everything going into the water and protect areas like this park from impervious surface and development."

Spain said she and her late husband lived in Virginia Run and "never knew about this forest. So thank you for the opportunity to be part of this ceremony and to share with the rest of the community what an asset we have here."

Lastly, retired Marine Col. Richard Roan – who'll lead a Scout troop in removing trash

and debris from this forest – spoke about the site's history. "This is actually hallowed ground," he said. "In the First Battle of Bull Run, the Federal [Union] and Confederate forces were on opposite sides of this land. The Confederates were by Bull Run, and half the Federals were sent toward them – directly through Virginia Run and this forest – to envelop them."

However, said Roan, "The Federals got to the battlefield too late, and the Confederates won a decisive victory. But, throughout a night in history, 30,000 Federal troops were marching right through here. There would have been skirmishes along the way, and some of our fellow Americans died in that forest. So this is a place of real history and memory."

FCPS Wants it All

FROM PAGE 2

provide 95.8 percent of FCPS' operating revenue, according to the published FCPS budget. The Fairfax County FY 2026 Advertised Budget includes a requested transfer of \$2.9 billion.

Projected state funding totals \$1.019 billion for FY 2026 or 25.2 percent of FCPS' operating revenue, including sales tax revenue.

Fairfax County Schools receive \$168 million in federal aid for free and reduced-price meals, special education and student support programs. If that money is cut, the county may have to fill the gap, potentially diverting funds from other priorities like teacher salaries and other services.

As the \$150 million gap remains, students voiced their concerns — from potential cuts to programs to teacher pay and class sizes. The gap could mean impacts across the board.

FCPS' FY2026 advertised budget totals \$4.0 billion, with instruction, salaries and benefits accounting for most of it, 85.2 percent according to Fairfax County Public Schools.

According to board documents, to address Fairfax County's \$300 million budget shortfall, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering implementing a four percent food tax, a two percent transient occupancy tax on the hospitality industry, plus \$60 million in spending cuts.

Like school districts around the country, FCPS must, as of March 28, figure out how to pay some bills after the Department of Education announced it won't pay out hundreds of millions of dollars in promised Covid-19 relief funds.

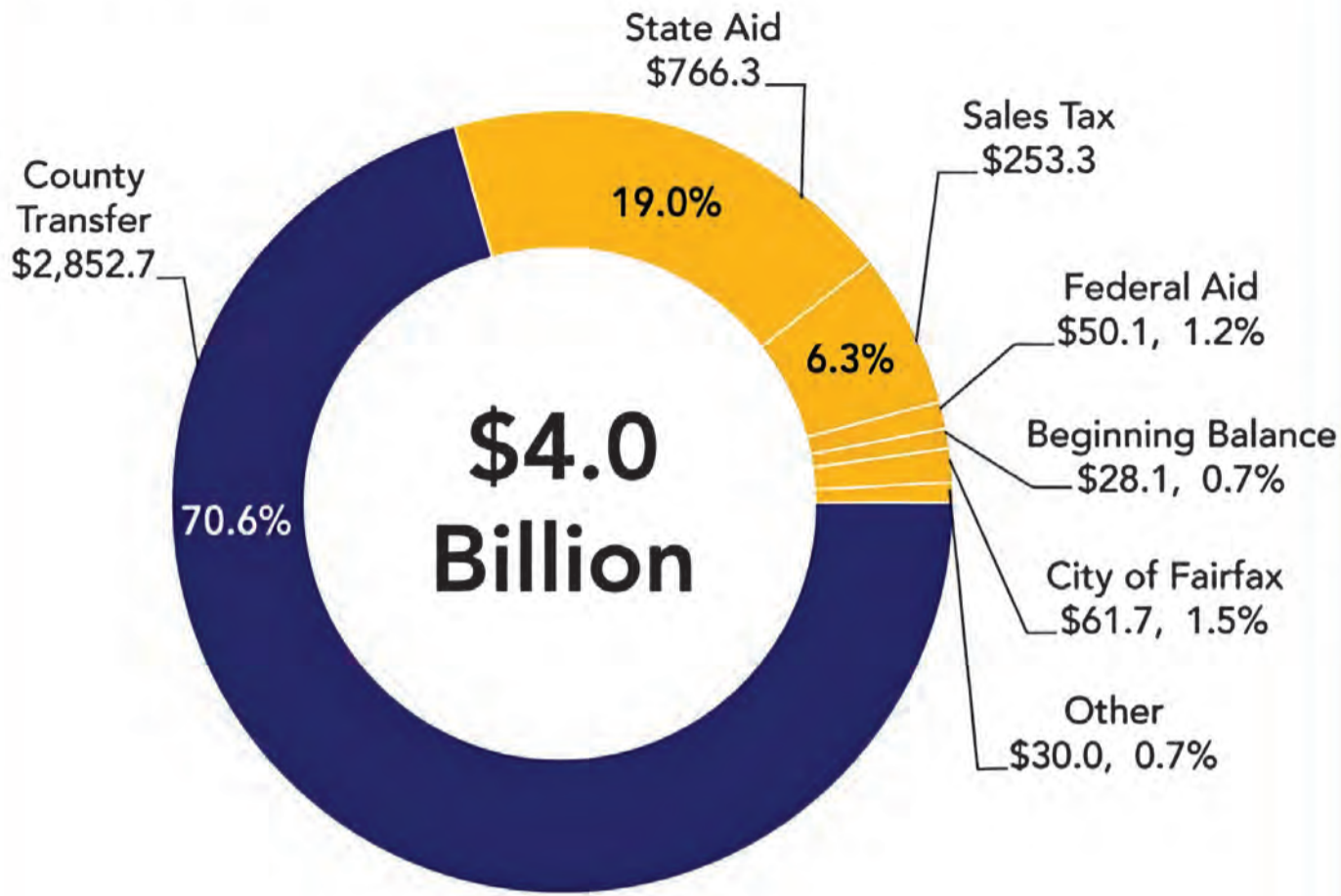
In April of this year, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin said that once his budget amendments are adopted, increased education funding to school districts "will pump about \$1 billion annually to Fairfax County Public Schools, the highest allocation to any school district in Virginia." An aggregate of Direct Aid to Public Education if the governor's amendments are adopted indicate that state funds to Fairfax County Public Schools were \$689.1 million in FY19, rising to \$1.048 billion in FY25, and proposed at \$1.059 billion in FY26, according to Governor.virginia.gov/newsroom.

FCPS is the ninth largest school division in the U.S. with 199 schools and centers. According to FCPS by the Numbers, the division serves a diverse population of nearly 183,000 prekindergarten through grade 12 students, speaking more than 200 languages.

Reid urged the students at the roundtable to "read these reports and hold your elected officials accountable. ... These are our tax dollars and your parents' tax dollars, and soon to be your tax dollars. And we want to make sure that they're spent in a way that really shapes and lifts up future generations. Because the budget, while it's not the most glamorous topic, drives everything you do," Reid said.

One student said that she read online

Where it Comes From - Revenue FY 2026 Advertised School Operating Fund (\$ in millions)



Where Does FCPS' Revenue Come From?

that the middle school after-school program might be cut. "What criteria does FCPS use to determine what programs are reduced?" she asked.

Reid said: "So right now in our budget, we didn't plan to reduce or eliminate any programs. We've worked on efficiencies. But in your example of a middle school after-school program, the county actually funds that program, not the school division. And they've chosen to cut that. So that wasn't a cut we would have chosen to make."

On May 6, at the budget markup session, the Board of Supervisors reinstated funding for middle school after school programs and high school crossing guards, both of which had been on a list of likely cuts.

If FCPS does not receive a full transfer, it may have higher class sizes, and perhaps fewer services, in some places, Reid said. County officials frequently refer to FCPS as a "world-class school system."

"The schools here in Fairfax County are one of the biggest priorities for this county.

People move here because of the quality of our schools. We have amazing schools," Reid told the students.

Advik Sood, the student from Chantilly High School, asked Reid about the potential consequences if FCPS were to miss out on that funding or the extra financial support they were seeking. "The ramifications are that we aren't going to pay for the things that we budgeted to have," Reid said. FCPS is in a challenging position, she said, unable to cut its budget without jeopardizing the "quality of the classroom experience."

"We have heard teacher salary is very central to the reallocation of this budget," said Rebecca Paz from Marshall High School. "What have you seen from teachers?" Reid highlighted that through first-time collective bargaining, the budget included a 7 percent compensation adjustment for all staff. However, Reid emphasized that it was not "set in stone." Reid informed the students that if the school system lacks full funding, "that will likely require us to go back to the bar-

gaining table to talk about how we're going to respond to that."

Many Fairfax County residents are increasingly worried about their property tax bills supporting increased funding requests by Fairfax County Public Schools. Home values in Fairfax County are high, pushing property taxes higher. Fairfax County has mailed over 357,000 updated 2025 real estate assessment notices to all property owners.

"Based on equalization changes [market-driven value increases or decreases], countywide residential real estate assessments are up an average of 6.65 percent, with the average assessment for all homes at \$794,235. In 2024, the countywide average home assessment was \$744,526," reports the county. On average, home prices increased, "due to demand exceeding supply."

See story on budget on page 2 for more details on what the Board of Supervisors included in the final markup, including a cut in real estate tax rate.

Ticket Sales and Donations Down for GLOBAL's Annual AcceptAbility Gala May 21

NIH Funding Cuts Loom for Down syndrome research.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Michelle Sie Whitten, president and CEO of the non-profit organization Global Down Syndrome Foundation (GLOBAL), fears the impact of two impending financial blows to the foundation. Their annual AcceptAbility Gala on Wednesday, May 21, is seeing a decrease in gala table and ticket sales this year, as well as donations. There is a reported drop in philanthropy in part due to eliminating thousands of positions in the federal government and economic uncertainty.

"We want people to support the gala. We want people to donate, buy tickets, and buy tables, however they can support it. We even need volunteers," Whitten said.

Whitten said that this situation coincides with the second potentially imminent financial setback. That is, federal cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for Down syndrome research, despite the recent enhancements in funding due to the INCLUDE Project (Investigation of Co-occurring Conditions across the Lifespan to Understand Down Syndrome), according to Whitten. NIH launched its INCLUDE Project in June 2018 to support a Congressional directive in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Omnibus Appropriations. The directive called for a new NIH research initiative on critical health and quality-of-life needs for individuals with Down syndrome.

David Egan and Frank Stephens are



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLOBAL DOWN SYNDROME FOUNDATION
David Egan stands beside Michelle Sie Whitten, the CEO of GLOBAL, and her daughter, as Republican U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5) addresses them at the 2023 AcceptAbility Gala. Rogers served in office from Jan. 3, 2005, to Jan.3, 2025.

self-advocates for Down syndrome. In separate interviews with The Connection, they discussed their involvement with the GLOBAL, which focuses on research and advocacy.

Egan highlighted the importance of NIH funding for improving healthcare for individuals like him with Down syndrome, citing his near-death personal experience with COVID-19 and long COVID. Egan noted Virginia's lack of Down syndrome clinics and the need for better healthcare support. He is the author of *More Alike Than Different: My Life with Down Syndrome*.

Egan served on Capitol Hill as a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellow with the House Ways and Means Committee, testified before the Senate HELP Committee, and spoke at the United Nations. Egan is a Special Olympics athlete, received the Quincy Jones Award, and advocates for improved research and care for people with Down syndrome.

Frank Stephens emphasized funding research, public education, and the importance of the Accessibility Gala, held on May 21.

He shared his emotional connection to the event, honoring his mother, who died in January from Alzheimer's. He also mentioned his participation in the Special Olympics, particularly in golf, basketball, track, and horseback riding.

Stephens has had notable speaking engagements and media appearances, advocating against the use of the term "retard." He expressed his desire to contribute to society.

"I don't need to be cured or pitied. I need to be given the opportunity to be the best person I can be and contribute my talents to making this a better world for everyone. I want what everyone wants, to make my life a good one. I'm very grateful to my mother."

The 2025 AcceptAbility Gala by GLOBAL recognizes Stephens' mother, Cornelia "Corny" Stephens, in loving memory on its

fundraising page.

The AcceptAbility Gala is at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. It starts at 6 p.m. with a reception and red carpet, followed by a three-course dinner, a live auction, and performances by local dancers with Down syndrome, and multiplatinum artist and actor, Phillip Phillips.

The gala emcees are Chuck Todd, host of The Chuck ToddCast and former moderator of Meet the Press, and Autria Godfrey, Emmy Award-winning former WJLA ABC News anchor.

Whitten stated that a significant shift in NIH funding took place in 2017. Advocacy efforts by the GLOBAL transformed Down syndrome research at NIH from being the most underfunded genetic condition to a well-supported research priority.

"We worked with Congress, and we were just so honored and relieved. It's kind of like finally finding somebody who listens to you or believes in you," she said. "So, the leading cause of developmental delay in the U.S. and in the world is the least funded genetic condition at the NIH? And it was like, yep," Whitten said. Funding dramatically increased.

Whitten said that while the average lifespan for a person with Down syndrome has doubled from 30 to 60 years, individuals with it deserve better care through medical research, especially as they age.

Gala tickets start at \$700 and can be purchased online at www.globaldownsyndrome.org. GLOBAL leverages the Gala to raise awareness and funding for Down syndrome research. This year, bipartisan congressional members and celebrities stand poised to champion Down syndrome research. Two U.S. representatives, Republican Robert Aderholt (AL-4) and Democrat Diana DeGette (CO-01), are to receive GLOBAL's highest honor.

Update on Comstock-Town of Herndon Controversy

Mediation between the parties begins.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon and Comstock Venture LC are entering mediation in June, a spokesperson for the town told The Connection in an email. "The Town is not party to any litigation concerning this project," said Brent M. Heavner, the town's new Chief Communications Officer, in mid April.

It has been nearly five months since Dec. 6, 2024, when Comstock first notified the Town of Herndon of the company's election not to proceed with construction of the downtown redevelopment project.

After the project's collapse, Comstock was supposed to execute certain documents to transfer the property back to Herndon, but according to the town's website on the project,

it, it has failed to do so.

Since Comstock has not transferred the land back to the town, in January 2025, the town notified Comstock that it was exercising its contractual right to have the property returned. In the hopes that Comstock's failure to return the property could be easily resolved, the town demanded "that the parties submit to nonbinding mediation."

In December 2020, the town transferred a 4.7-acre parcel of town-owned land in the historic downtown district within a portion of its arts overlay district to Comstock at no cost under rules governed by a comprehensive agreement signed by both parties. At the time, a press release stated, "The public-private partnership between the town of Comstock will create the centerpiece of Herndon's revitalization plan for its historic downtown."

The mixed-use redevelopment project

faced numerous challenges and delays after being agreed upon by both parties in 2017. In 2018, three neighboring property owners, under their rights, appealed the approval of Comstock's project by the town's Heritage Preservation Review Board which granted the developer the necessary Certificates of Appropriateness that allowed the developer to demolish buildings at 770 Elden Street and 750 Center Street. The appeal forced Comstock to withdraw its development plan and resubmit a new plan, which the Review Board later approved in May 2019. Economic uncertainties followed, and in April 2022, this caused a two-year pause due to increased construction costs and supply chain disruptions further delayed by COVID-related issues.

According to the current town post regarding mediation, as of Monday, April 28, "This would allow the parties to work with a neutral mediator, with the hope that the town can avoid having to file a lawsuit against Com-

stock. This mediation process will last no longer than 90 days." The online post states that Comstock would either reconvey the property back to town or not. If not, both sides would have to spend money on litigation.

The collapse of the Herndon-Comstock Redevelopment project impacted the town and Comstock, but it also left buildings razed and businesses affected. Comstock razed the buildings at 770 Elden Street, the site of the former Stohlman Subaru. The company erected a construction fence around a portion of the property. The fence remains.

On Dec. 4, two days before Comstock announced the project's collapse on Dec. 6, A Thousand Stories, the local Herndon bookstore located at 750 Center Street, announced it was closing because the building they were in "is closing next year due to the upcoming downtown Herndon development."

"We haven't been able to find a new location." The bookstore closed.

ENTERTAINMENT

FREE GUIDED WALK AT MEADOWLARK

Enjoy free garden admission and a refreshing one-hour walk through Meadowlark's beautiful 95 acres located at 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct., Vienna. Each walk will cover hilly terrain, feature a positive focus, and include a silent, meditative portion — plus a few fun facts from the docent along the way.

MONTH OF MAY

Fairfax City Celebrates Small Businesses During Small Business Month. In honor of national Small Business Month in May, Fairfax City Economic Development is celebrating its many unique small businesses. Fairfax City Small Business Month invites the community to explore the city's diverse retail and small business offerings, take advantage of special promotions and experiences, and support local entrepreneurs and charitable causes. Participating businesses are offering a variety of specials and promotions, including:

- Romp n' Roll: \$5 off a trial class; \$25 off 10-20 class pass (in-store); and \$25 off in-store birthday parties
 - Gaming Giant: 5% off single item with donation
 - Smiley Skin: 25% off waxing services and a \$25 bonus gift card with a \$100 gift card purchase
 - Lucy Loves: Raffle entry with a \$10 purchase
 - OSA Martial Arts: Waived registration fee for tae kwon do, judo, bon kuk gum bub and hapkido classes
 - Kaizen MMA: One-week free trial
 - BE2 Pilates: Five sessions for \$150
 - Ace Hardware: Buy three, get 10% off rubs and spices
 - Fairfax Pilates: Buy one class, get one at half price
- Other participants include Bond's Escape Room, Fran's Cake and Candy Supplies, Joylife Spa, Mode on Main by Mara, Paradise Games and Gifts, Cinema Arts Theatre, DIY Scent Studio, Omni Wellness & Performance, eXurb Fitness, Weber's Pet Supermarket, and more.
- On Saturday, May 31, Fairfax City will host a retail fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Old Town Square (10415 North St., Fairfax) where shoppers can browse select products and services from multiple local businesses, all in one place. Participating businesses will have demonstrations including fashion shows, pilates classes, etc.

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



The Wellness and Safety Expo will take place on Friday, May 9, 2025 at the Vienna Community Center.

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>.

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>

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.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 7

360 Allstars. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Inglewood Ave., McLean. Spinning circles around the competition, 360 Allstars showcases a dream team of sensational champs in a supercharged physical performance celebrating street culture—BMX, basketball, breakdancing, beatboxing, acrobatics, drumming and more. Boasting a stellar international cast of world champions and world record-holding athletes and artists, the show has had sold out runs on Broadway and at Sydney Opera House and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

MAY 8-9

Mid-Atlantic Masters Seminar. At McLean Bible Church in Tysons Corner. The Mid-Atlantic Masters Seminar is a regional event designed to explore how hope can be intentionally taught and sustained in young people and communities. Founded by Rick Miller, creator of Kids at Hope and professor of practice at Arizona State University, the seminar draws on nearly two decades of work through the national Master's Institute. This year's theme, Creating & Activating Hope, brings together professionals from education, behavioral health, juvenile justice, recreation, and child welfare sectors to examine how hope-focused practices can transform outcomes for youth and families.



Join us for a day on the green in support of the arts!

Foursomes & Sponsorships Available Now!
Contact Kaitlin Hoesch at (732) 977-6612

Learn more & Register: WorkhouseArts.org/golf



The Workhouse Arts Center Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser will take place on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at Laurel Hill Golf Course in Lorton.

MAY 8-10

"Anything Goes." 7:30 p.m. At George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. "Anything Goes" is set aboard the ocean liner S. S. American, where nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney (Saniya Desai) is en route from New York to England. Her pal Billy Crocker (Jacob Lee) has stowed away to be near his love, Hope Harcourt (Dena Talebnejad/Evie Richardson), but the problem is Hope is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (Joan Alfarro/Shahrad Valizadeh).

Performances are:
Thursday May 8th, 2025 at 7:30pm
Friday May 9th, 2025 at 7:30pm
Saturday May 10th, 2025 at 2pm
Saturday May 10th, 2025 at 7:30pm (Senior Night)

THURSDAY/MAY 8

MPA Spring Benefit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At the McLean home of Reggie and Dharini Aggarwal. Sponsored by McLean Project for the Arts, which relies on the funds raised at Spring Benefit to further its mission to educate and inspire the community through contemporary visual arts exhibitions and arts education programs. Those include MPA

ArtReach, which extends these exhibitions into the community through gallery tours and workshops for FCPS Title I elementary schools and other underserved groups. Co-chaired by Cindy Green and Christine Wang, the May 8 sunset party will feature festive fare from Windows Catering, music, and much more. Visit www.mpaart.org or call 703-790-1953.

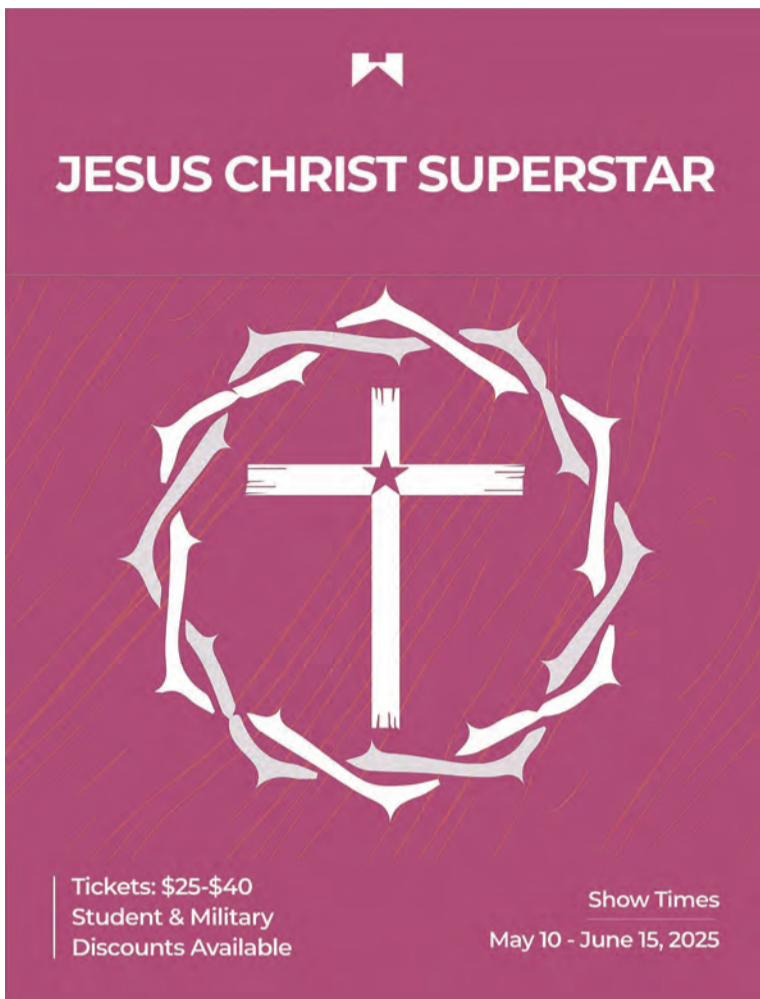
FRIDAY/MAY 9

Wellness and Safety Expo. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. More than 50 local vendors, including government agencies, nonprofits, and local businesses will be on hand to provide a wide range of resources designed to help attendees enhance their physical and mental well-being. Exhibitors will offer information on health and wellness topics such as exercise, independent living, health and life insurance, hypnotherapy and more. Visit www.viennava.gov/wellness.

MAY 10-JUNE 15

"Jesus Christ Superstar." 8-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Produced

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Check out “Jesus Christ Superstar” May 10-June 15, 2025 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, this groundbreaking musical has captivated audiences for over 50 years. Set against the backdrop of the final days of Jesus Christ’s life, the story is uniquely told through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Explore the personal relationships, struggles, and betrayals between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, and others, all told through a powerful rock score.

Visit <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/jesus-christ-superstar>

SATURDAY/MAY 10
27th Annual Eagle Festival. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mason Neck State Park. This festival highlights the importance of eagles and their habitats as well as the natural history of Northern Virginia and combines fun with educational activities that encourage guests to gain a new appreciation for the environment. Park staff will be joined by various exhibitors on the visitor center lawn for a full day of animal shows, live music, hands-on activities and outdoor recreation clinics. Parking for the event is offsite at George Mason’s Gunston Hall located at 10709 Gunston Rd, Mason Neck, Va. Shuttles will provide free transportation to and from the festival at Mason Neck State Park and will be running about every 15-20 minutes from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Virginia Touch-a-Truck. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Stone Springs Hospital Center, 24440 Stone Springs Blvd., Dulles. Horn free hour 10 a.m. to 11 a. for sensitive ears. Admission is \$5. First 300 kids receive a free diecast car/truck.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Masterpiece Mini-Golf at the Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Launching during the Second Saturday event, Masterpiece Mini-Golf is a fully artist-designed, 18-hole mini-golf course that fuses fine art, interactive education, and family-friendly fun. The first nine holes debut this May, with the second nine set to open in June. Each hole pays tribute to a legendary artist or movement—think Monet, Kahlo, Banksy, Michelangelo—with imaginative design, interpretive signage, and hands-on engagement. It’s art history reimagined as a vibrant, participatory game—where every putt is a brushstroke of discovery.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Stamp Out Hunger Postal Food Drive. Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one-day food drive in America, and letter carriers are proud to deliver for every food bank counting on us — over 1.9 billion lbs of food collected since 1993. All you have to do is leave your donation by your mailbox on May 10. Neighbors served by the West Springfield, Burke, Central and North Springfield post offices can help stock the ECHO Food Pantry with donations to the Letter Carriers’ Food Drive.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Asian American & Pacific Islander Festival. 12-4 p.m. At Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. This free, family-friendly event promises to be a day of culture, community and fun, with activities and entertainment for all ages. Event Highlights: Cultural Performances: Enjoy captivating dance and music performances

from local AAPI artists, bringing traditional and modern expressions to life on stage. Interactive Workshops: Participate in hands-on workshops, including calligraphy, origami and martial arts demonstrations, perfect for all ages. Culinary Delights: Savor delicious AAPI cuisine with food vendors offering a variety of authentic dishes and treats. Art Exhibits: Explore stunning art displays featuring works by AAPI artists, celebrating heritage and creativity. Children’s Activities: Kids can enjoy face painting, storytelling sessions and engaging crafts designed to teach and entertain.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Craft and Vendor Faire. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Woman’s Club of Springfield Craft and Vendor Faire – Shop unique craft and vendor items!

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Terrapin Puppet Theatre: “The Paper Escaper”. 4 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. At first, the world of the Paper Escaper exists only in white, blacks and greys—but then, the Illustrator reveals a vividly colored pop-up book and the book’s newest character, Benny. The plucky puppet protagonist has aspirations that take him off of the page and he is eager to explore the world beyond the book. This non-verbal work uses striking visuals and puppetry, as well as dynamic original music and cartoon-like sound effects, to tell a story of determination, friendship and the power of following your own path.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Annual Spring Faire. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Craft and Vendor Show. Proceeds benefit the Bethany House.

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 include 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

TUESDAY/MAY 13
NARFE Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. Guest speaker Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert. Free. Members and guests welcome.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 14
“The King of Masks” (China; directed by Wu Tianming) in Mandarin with English subtitles. 6:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In 1930s China, Wang is an aged street performer who practices the change-mask opera art of bian lian. He laments that he has no male heirs to carry on his mysterious and complicated art and trade. At an illegal child market, Wang buys what he believes to be an orphan boy to become his adopted grandson and apprentice.

THURSDAY/MAY 15
“Ki Ho’alu: That’s Slack Key Guitar”. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This compelling look at Hawaiian slack-key guitar unveils a cultural richness that is uniquely Hawaiian. The story is told not by a narrator but by the artists telling their stories in their own words so that the spirit and feeling of the Hawaiian people emerge.

THURSDAY/MAY 15
Military Mental Health and Transitions. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Facilitators: Robyne Davis, MA, LPC; Mimi Miller, Military Wife, mother and daughter; Katie Altman, M.Ed., FCPS School Counselor. They will discuss common stressors faced by service members and their families during times of transition. Strategies will be provided to help relieve stress while navigating these transitions. Primary topics will include support for children who move schools, support for families to connect with new communities and support for families regarding stages of development. Military and civilian resources will be shared, including Blue Star Families, Military OneSource and other relevant organizations.

THURSDAY/MAY 15
Workhouse Arts Center Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. 12-5 p.m. At Laurel Hill Golf Course, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. This exciting event brings together arts supporters and golf enthusiasts for a day of friendly competition, networking, and philanthropy. Proceeds benefit the Workhouse’s arts education programs, exhibitions, and community outreach initiatives. Registration & Sponsorship: Sponsorships and foursomes are available now. Visit www.workhousearts.org/golf to register or become a sponsor. Schedule: 10:30 a.m. - Registration Opens 11:00 a.m. - Box lunch 11:45 a.m. - Mega Putt Contest 12:00 noon - Shotgun Start 4:45 p.m. - Awards/Reception

THURSDAY/MAY 15
Vienna Economic Summit. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Vienna Community Center. This free event brings together local officials and regional economic experts for a morning of insight and recognition. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding

of Vienna’s current economic outlook, upcoming development projects, and trends affecting the region—particularly the impact of federal workforce changes on Northern Virginia. In addition to expert panels, the summit will include Legacy Business Awards, celebrating Vienna businesses that have been operating for 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years. Visit the website, www.exploreviennava.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 15
Bike to Work Day 2025. More than 100 Pit Stops Located Across the Metropolitan Washington Region. Join thousands of area commuters for the free 24th annual event celebrating bicycling as a fun, low-cost, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to get around. Riders can find Bike to Work Day pit stops around the metropolitan region in DC, Suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The first 18,000 to register and attend one of the pit stops will receive a free commemorative red Bike to Work Day T-shirt. Pit Stop information is available at <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/find-your-pit-stop> Website: <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/> Registration: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4886950>

FRIDAY/MAY 16
Art Guild of Clifton Art Show. 9-5 p.m. At the Clifton Presbyterian Church, Manse, located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Fine Art Original Paintings in oil, acrylics, and watercolor along with exquisite jewelry, quilling (not quilting) demonstrations and live painting en Plein Air. All welcome, admission free.

FRIDAY/MAY 16
McLean Day Friday Night Carnival Rides. 2-10 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Come enjoy carnival rides and games the afternoon and evening before the McLean Day festival! Ride wristbands and tickets are sold onsite and online. Advance purchase is available at qrco.de/McLeanDay25. Patrons can also vote for their favorite candidates running for seats on the MCC Governing Board from 4-8 p.m. in the voting tent.

FRIDAY/MAY 16
Clifton Homes Tour. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. CCWC’s 48th Homes Tour for charity. Four homes and Cloverleaf Equine Center will be open. Clifton Presbyterian Church will have a Vendor Fair, Silent Auction, etc. Tickets \$35 in advance. Website: <https://cliftoncwc.org/>

SATURDAY/MAY 17
Civil War & Militaria Show. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Vendors welcome. Admission is \$5 per person. Contact dhakenson@verizon.net, 703-785-5294

SATURDAY/MAY 17
Spring Fest. 6-10 p.m. At Lansdowne Resort. Presented by EMS Studios. This year’s event aims to raise awareness and funds for the local charity Reset180, an organization

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Morrill

FROM PAGE 8

(EVs) or reducing car dependency by choosing public transportation, carpooling, biking, or walking.

❖ Using solar energy not only reduces emissions but also enhances energy independence.

❖ Composting food waste and adopting sustainable waste practices.

Introducing the Sustain Fairfax Challenge

Fairfax County developed the Sustain Fairfax Challenge — a user-friendly, interactive online platform to make these actions easy, enjoyable, and impactful. This resource provides Fairfax-specific information, rebates, and tips to help you cut carbon emissions and save money.

Participants can track their impact, earn badges for their achievements, collaborate with neighbors, and join community-wide sustainability challenges. This interactive approach creates a powerful sense of collective accomplishment, transforming individual efforts into community-wide victories.

Simple Changes, Significant Benefits

Your participation isn't just good for the environment—it's great for your wallet, health, and community well-being. By adopting sustainable practices, you can immediately see benefits, including:

❖ Lower utility bills from straightforward energy-saving measures.

❖ Better comfort and health thanks to cleaner air, reduced pollution from EVs, and less traffic congestion due to increased use of public transportation.

❖ Enhanced safety, preparedness, and resilience through targeted initiatives aimed at storm preparedness, flood mitigation, and cooling centers during heatwaves.

These actions also support smart energy choices. Improving your home's efficiency helps reduce emissions and energy costs while making your space more comfortable and future-ready.

Join Us Today—Your Actions Matter

The Sustain Fairfax Challenge is accessible, easy to use, and designed for immediate impact. You'll join your neighbors and actively help shape the future of Fairfax County by participating. I invite you to visit sustainchallenge.fairfaxcounty.gov today and sign up. Let's prove our actions can create a healthier, more resilient Fairfax County. Our climate goals are ambitious, but they're achievable if we collaborate. We can build a greener, healthier community, one action at a time.

John Morrill is Director, Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

dedicated to combating human trafficking in Northern Virginia. P20 was introduced to Reset180 through its membership with the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, which allowed the studio to learn more about the significant impact the organization has in the local community.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

McLean Day 2025. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. At Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. McLean's biggest annual festival is celebrating its 110th Birthday! Enjoy rockin' music, beer and wine garden, gourmet food trucks, exhibitors and sponsors, giveaways, balloon animals, games, a magician, petting zoo, amusements, large and small carnival rides, and much more! This event draws approximately 10,000+ patrons throughout the day. Ride tickets sold onsite and online. Advance purchase is available at qrco.de/McLean-Day25. Patrons can also vote for their favorite candidates running for seats on the MCC Governing Board from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in the voting tent.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Photography Exhibition. 12-4 p.m. At St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 6320 Hanover Ave., Springfield. Photography Exhibition by Veterans Behind the Lens Collective and a Juried Show of Fairfax County High School Students. Donations and proceeds from sales

benefit FACETS (<https://facetscares.org/>).

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.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Asian Festival. 12-6 p.m. In Historic Old Town Fairfax, Fairfax City. Sponsored by the Old Town Fairfax Business Association, this year celebrates the "Year of the Snake" and is shaping up to be one of their biggest and best events to date. This fun, free, family-friendly event features a full line up of live entertainment and cultural performances, 60+ Asian food vendors and food trucks, 60+ non-food vendors and exhibitions, kids activities, cosplay contest, beer garden and karaoke. The Choy Wun Lion Dance Troupe, with its crowd-favorite Lion Dance, will return to celebrate the Lunar Year of the Snake. Visit the website: asianfestivalonmain.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

3rd Annual Northern Virginia Tea Festival. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza in Reston.

Hosted in partnership with the RoSgle Foundation and Reston Community Center, this vibrant, family-friendly outdoor festival brings together tea lovers, small businesses, and culture enthusiasts from across the region for a one-of-a-kind celebration of all things tea. This year's festival will feature:

A curated marketplace of over 40 tea vendors, artisans, and wellness brands
Live cultural performances and tea ceremonies
Educational talks and demos from tea experts
A Kids' Tea Tent with activities for families
Live music, food vendors, and more!

SUNDAY/MAY 18

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have N gauge model trains on display and running. 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/MAY 18

Open House. 1-3 p.m. At Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Center, 10800 Belmont Blvd., Lorton. Enjoy free pony rides, tours, and an ice cream truck! Visit <https://simplechanges.org/>

[events/open-house/](#)

MAY 29 TO JUNE 1

Tyson's Library Book & Media Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests.
Thursday, 29 May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, 30 May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, 31 May, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 1 June, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.:
Bag sale. \$10 for a full grocery sack or half price if less
<https://www.tysonslibraryfriends.org/>

SUNDAY/JUNE 1

Night of the Stars Annual Homecoming Concert and 25/26 Season Kickoff. 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center. Join in a festive evening featuring dynamic performances by returning artists and a special reveal of the upcoming season. After the concert, guests can stay for music, dancing, and light refreshments. Admission is "Pay What You Will," and all proceeds support the Workhouse Performing Arts Program.
Event Details:
Sunday, June 1 | Doors 5:30 PM | Concert 6:00 PM
McGuire Woods Gallery (Bldg. 16, 2nd floor), Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA
Free onsite parking | Casual purple-and-gold attire encouraged
More info: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/homecoming-concert>

Vegging Out in Print



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

During my "formative years," childhood to now, other than baby food vegetables my late mother no doubt fed me (they didn't/don't have cream cheese and American cheese sandwiches - my go-to food staple, in a jar), other than Green Giant corn niblets and/or seasonal corn on the cob, I never, and I mean never, ate vegetables. Now whether it was my maternal grandmother's Eastern European cooking or my mother's need to clean up the kitchen by a certain time, I was never made to eat or even exposed to many vegetables while eating at home. (When my mother did cook a vegetable - primarily for my father, she used a pressure-cooker. Whatever life those vegetables had going into that pot, they came out limp and lifeless.)

As my eating habits have evolved (even cavemen and women evolved), I have occasionally had vegetables on my plate. Never a large portion but enough that I wasn't the object of ridicule. Mostly I have come to semi-tolerate green vegetables, even spinach believe it or not, Popeye cartoons notwithstanding. Apparently, vegetables, as I learned later in life, are not necessarily supposed to be cooked in a pressure-cooker or squeezed/eaten out of a can. And when prepared properly, some vegetables actually taste okay.

In summary, I've become mostly civilized when it comes to food. Nothing to brag about and nowhere near normal. If the dinner was not prepared/selected, off the children's menu, it's likely most choices I won't eat for any number of reasons: name, look, smell, texture, country of origin, et cetera. I don't own any big-boy pants, so yours truly is more often than not, yours stupid/stubborn.

Recently however, I crossed the line between me and normal. Inadvertently, due to availability, I bought some pre-packaged French green beans. After eating them I found their "pencil thin mustache" width appealing in taste and appearance and not because they reminded me of Ricky Ricardo, as sung by the late, great Jimmy Buffett. As with Mikey, from those old Life cereal television commercials, Kenny likes it.

Unfortunately, ever since that first unintentional purchase and subsequent serving for dinner, in repeated trips to our local Sprouts supermarket where I originally bought these fancy green beans, I have been too late. The beans are all gone. After my third unsuccessful venture into their store/produce section, I did the first of two actions I've never done before. First, I asked a produce employee about a vegetable's availability, since during my mid-afternoon arrivals, the beans were always gone. Her answer was that the French beans are popular, and they usually run out. She then suggested I return in the morning.

This brings me to the second action. Never, ever, have I made a special trip - in the morning no less, to a supermarket/produce stand, whatever, to buy a vegetable. This kind of "special" action typically is reserved for an Entenmann's or a Ben & Jerry's ice cream sale, but a vegetable? To invoke one of my wife Dina's favorite quotes: "Hardly." I can't say I'm proud of my behavior, but neither am I embarrassed. As my father-in-law so often says: "It is what it is."

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

'Bandemonium!'

FROM PAGE 5

when a person is happy or at peace. "This work represents the warmth that love brings us," explained Hall. "The introduction - which is sudden and colorful - symbolizes the feeling of the unexpected journey to find love. Using the colors and natural energy of the ensemble, this sound of ambition and passion is created throughout the work."

The JazzCats, Centreville's own Jazz Ensemble, will perform music with the theme, "Let's Eat!" Music from many jazz genres - including swing, funk, rock and Latin - will be featured. Three vocal selections, "Mack the Knife," "Pure Imagination" and "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got that Swing)" will showcase student vocalists from the Centreville Band and Choral departments. And orchestra students are also performing in the Jazz Band.

Besides the "Theme to the Simpsons," the Concert Band will play a number by composer Carmen Gassi called "Compass Points West." Said Hall, "Imagine you were a member of the crew on those early ships of exploration leaving Europe in the 15th century to sail to America. Feelings of anticipation and apprehension would give way to feelings of adventure and joy."

Noting the music is considered the universal language, Hall said cartoons should probably have the same distinction. "The wonderful humor of the animated characters takes us into a world where anything is possible," she said. "The Symphonic Band will dazzle with the Looney Tunes Overture and those marvelous Warner Bros. 'toons are

theme songs known wherever motion pictures, television and computers are found."

They'll continue with "The Runaway Circus Train" by Erik Morales. "Once you hear the piece, you can easily visualize the story," said Hall. "A circus packs up and the train begins to move to its next destination; but trouble looms ahead and chaos ensues. Be brave, though, for there's light at the end of the tunnel." This band will then conclude with "Tijuana Taxi," as originally recorded by Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass.

The Wind Ensemble will open with an original piece by Rick DeJonge called "A Toonful Tune" - a zany tribute to cartoon music and sound effects. From clever melodic references to hilarious effects including a high-pitched scream, ensemble laughter and whoopee cushions, Hall said this piece is "absolutely guaranteed to bring the house down."

The ensemble will also perform Frank Ticheli's moving rendition of "Shenandoah." The work's mood ranges from quiet reflection, through growing optimism to profound exaltation.

Additionally, Centreville's band will play selections from the hit musical and movie, "Wicked," before ending the night with its traditional, end-of-year performance of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa.

"As always, this is a free, family-friendly event that we hope will bring in many guests from the Centreville community," said Hall. "Come celebrate another tremendous year of in-person music-making, along with the Centreville High Wildcat Band family. We hope to see everyone there."

Stamp Out Hunger

Stamp Out Hunger is the largest one-day food drive in America, and letter carriers are proud to deliver for every food bank counting on us - over 1.9 billion pounds of food collected since 1993. All you have to do is leave your donation of non-perishable food by your mailbox on Saturday, May 10.

Car Seat Inspections on May 22

Parents may get their children's car seats inspected this Thursday, May 22, from 5-8:30 p.m., outside the Sully District Police Station. It's at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Inspections are done on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants should install the child safety seat themselves so the inspection can be performed. The seat will be properly re-installed if necessary, and parents will be taught how to install the seat properly. Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for June 12, at the same place and time.



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McLean
Community
Center
Celebrating 50 Years



**FREE
ADMISSION**

McLEANDAY



Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

LEWINSVILLE PARK • 1659 CHAIN BRIDGE RD. • mcleancenter.org

MCC's 2025 Governing Board Election Culminates at McLean Day

Dranesville Small District 1A residents are encouraged to vote during festival.

McLean, Va.— McLean Community Center encourages residents of Dranesville Small District 1A to take time to vote for candidates who are running for seats on its 11-member Governing Board while attending McLean Day activities. Voting for adults and youth is available on both days of the festival: Friday Night Carnival Rides on Friday, May 16, from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents can meet-and-greet youth candidates on Friday Night and adult candidates will be on hand to meet-and-greet at the full festival on Saturday. McLean Day is held at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

The all-volunteer Governing Board provides oversight of MCC through policy guidance, strategic planning and financial stewardship. MCC divisions include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. The adult candidates who receive the three-highest vote counts will serve three-year (3) terms. Youth candidates, one from the McLean High School boundary area and one from the Langley High School boundary area, will serve one-year (1) terms. Youth candidates do not have to attend these schools to serve on the board.

Adult Candidate Personal Statements

Kim Anderson

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



Kim Anderson

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

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 cul-

tural 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.



Anna Bartosiewicz

Ron Keesing

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.



Ron Keesing

Liz Lawson

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.



Liz Lawson

Christopher Roberts

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.



Christopher Roberts

Nan Tian

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.



Nan Tian

Youth Candidate Personal Statements

Langley High School Boundary Area Candidates

Anastasiia Dudnik-Dubiniak

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 wel-



Anastasiia Dudnik-Dubiniak

coming 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

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.



Katie Myshrall

Aakriti Rustagi

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.



Aakriti Rustagi

McLean High School Boundary Area Candidates

Buse Arici

As an older sister, I've learned leadership values and responsibility from a young age. I'm running for MCC Governing Board to

SEE GOVERNING BOARD, PAGE 3

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McLEAN DAY 2025

MCC's 2025 Governing Board Election

FROM PAGE 2

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.



Buse Arici

Aanya Jain

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



Aanya Jain

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

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



Alexander Lee

express themselves but also enjoy fun through events that bring our community together. I'd be honored to have your support!

Sean Noh

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.



Sean Noh

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.



Kathryn Thomas

Venita Wang

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!



Venita Wang

Write-in candidates are allowed. Write-in candidates must receive at least 10 votes from 10 residents of the center's tax district to have their votes counted. For youth write-in candidates, the 10 votes must come from teens who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 or visit mcleancenter.org.

A Free Family Fun Day in the Park

McLean Day 2025 is Saturday, May 17.

McLean, Va.— McLean Community Center's annual party in the park, McLean Day, returns to Lewinsville Park on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. A free event that offers activities for all ages, it has been "the place to be" for more than 100 years. Beginning with Friday Night Carnival Rides from 2-10 p.m. on Friday, May 16, and continuing from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, this year's festival includes enhancements in celebration of MCC's 50th Anniversary. Admission to the festival is free; ride tickets, food and beverages will be for sale. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

Celebrating Its 110th Anniversary

McLean Day has been in ex-



istence for 110 years. It began in 1915 as a school and community fundraiser put on by the McLean School and Civic League at Franklin Sherman School. Over the years, a host of community orga-

nizations kept it going until the mid-1970s when MCC began producing it and then moved it to its current home, Lewinsville Park, in 1988. SEE A FREE FAMILY FUN, PAGE 6

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2025 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



Vote on McLean Day!



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

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, May 16, 4–8 p.m. or Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE

1. You must be a resident of the MCC tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old on Friday, May 16, to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old on Friday, May 16, to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes: one candidate in McLean High School boundary area and one candidate in Langley High School boundary area.
4. You must bring identification as proof of residency in the tax district, such as a driver's license, passport or utility bill, or you must sign a sworn affidavit statement.

In-person voting at McLean Day is open only to individuals who did not vote early by absentee ballot.

QUESTIONS? elections@mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

mcleancenter.org





KEY

- Info Tent #1
- Info Tent #2
- Info Tent #3
- Info Tent #4

Volunteer Tent

Port-a-Johns

ATMs

Ride Tickets

Ambulance & Fire Truck

Shuttle Bus

COMMUNITY STAGE SCHEDULE

Supervisor Bierman to deliver the resolution honoring MCC's 50th
11 a.m.

Art in Motion
11:05 a.m.

(the) Unruly Theatre Project
Noon

Art in Motion
12:30 p.m.

The Sounds of Soul
2:15 p.m.

Teen Character Awards
3 p.m.

The Sounds of Soul
3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m.

McLEAN DAY
Est. 1915

LEWINSVILLE PARK

1659 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101

50 McLean Community Center
Celebrating 50 Years

YOUR landscape COMPANY
Wheat's

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Park Authority

Rotary
Rotary Club of McLean

MARS
Tomorrow starts today

McLean
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MEDICINE

90 YEARS
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Friday Carnival Rides
Friday, May 16, 2-10 p.m.

McLean Day Festival
Saturday, May 17, 11-5 p.m.

MCC Governing Board Elections
Friday, May 16, 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, May 17, 11-5 p.m.

McLEAN DAY 2025

A Free Family Fun Day in the Park

FROM PAGE 3

Vote for MCC Board Candidates

The McLean Community Center's 2025 Governing Board Election will be held at the festival on Friday, May 16, from 4-8 p.m. at the Friday Night Carnival Rides, and on Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the festival. Fifteen Dranesville Small District 1A residents are running for seats on the board. Six adults are vying for three vacant adult seats, and nine teens are vying for two vacant student seats (one for the Langley High School boundary area and one for the McLean High School boundary area). Only residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are permitted to vote in the election. For more information, visit MCC's website, mcleancenter.org.

Friday Night Carnival Rides

Patrons can enjoy carnival rides on Friday, May 16, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the park. Ticket prices vary, and some rides have height requirements. The rides are in two areas of the park, near the main entrance and toward the back of the park, where small carnival rides are located. Additionally, patrons can enjoy free bubble ball and field games on Friday night. Ride tickets and wristbands can be purchased in advance from Cole Rides through a link on the center's website, mcleancenter.org, or onsite on Friday and Saturday.

50th Anniversary Celebration Continues

In recognition of the McLean Community Center's 50th Anniversary, several enhancements are planned for this year's festival. Virginia State Delegate Rip Sullivan and Dranesville District Supervisor Jimmy Bierman will present 50th Anniversary resolutions on the stage at the start of the event. A special 50th edition t-shirt will be offered to patrons who fill out an event survey. A 50th photo opportunity will be in the park and a free reusable water bottle will be distributed to patrons at the four information booths while they last. For more information on MCC's 50th, visit mcleancenter.org.

Festival Activities

Carnival amusements and rides are a big draw at McLean Day. Large rides are in the parking lot near the main entrance. The Kids' Way area of the park offers ticketed rides especially for younger children. Popular costumed char-



acters will be available to interact with patrons and pose for photos on the porch of the white house. Other free activities include bubble ball, two rock-climbing walls, balloon twisters, a magician jugglers and a petting zoo.

Live Performances Onstage

Free performances will be offered throughout the festival on the Community Stage, which is centrally located. Students enrolled in dance classes at MCC will open the show at 11:05 a.m. by performing several routines they have learned. At noon, (the) Unruly Theatre Project, The Alden's teen improv group, will perform. MCC dance students will return to perform again at 12:30 p.m. At 2:15, The Sounds of Soul will perform the first of three sessions. Performing a combination of Motown classics mixed with some of the greatest pop and R&B hits ever written, the outstanding singers, dancers and songwriters of this group maintain a performance schedule of more than 325 shows per year. The show features hits from The Temptations, The Four Tops, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, The Supremes, Lionel Richie, Tina Turner, Barry White, and more! McLean Citizens Association will present the Teen Character Awards at 3 p.m. followed by the return of The Sounds of Soul for a second show at 3:15 p.m. and a final performance at 4:15 p.m. There is also a Jugglers' Stage, located in the children's ride area, with free performances throughout the event.

Food and Beverage Options Abound

Returning this year is the McLean Day Beer and Wine Garden, offering a variety of beer and wine for patrons age 21 or older. In addition, some of the area's best gourmet food trucks will be on hand to

serve the crowds in the food court.

Transportation Options Abound

Parking is not available at Lewinsville Park on the day of the festival. Patrons can take free Fairfax Connector shuttles from three satellite locations to McLean Day. Free shuttle buses will run from the parking sites to the park starting at 10:25 a.m. and running through 6 p.m.

Shuttle Satellite Routes are as follows:

Red - McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean, VA 22101, McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.
Yellow - McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101. Patrons should meet near the main entrance of the center where signage indicates.

Blue - Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101. Patrons should meet the buses at the church entrance in the parking lot.

Patrons can also take Fairfax Connector Route 721 to stop ID 5429 for just \$2 each way. All Fairfax Connector Shuttles to McLean Day are air-conditioned, ADA and wheelchair accessible, have low floor ramps or are lift-equipped. They also have two bike racks and allow service animals. For more information, visit the MCC website, mcleancenter.org.

Sponsors Help Make McLean Day Happen

McLean Day is produced by the McLean Community Center. Community-minded local businesses enhance festival offerings. To date, this year's sponsors are: Wheat's Landscaping (Park Beautification), Fairfax County Connector (Event



McLean Day 2025 is Saturday, May 17.

Transportation); Fairfax County Park Authority (Venue), MARS, Inc. (Marketplace), McLean Properties (Picnic Tent - Food Court), Johns Hopkins Community Physicians (Picnic Tent - Kids' Way), Northwest Federal Credit Union (Balloon Twisters) and Lafayette Federal Credit Union (Climbing Walls).

Clean and Comfortable for All

For a third year, MCC has taken efforts to help McLean Day stay clean and green by hiring a company to manage and process all the waste and recyclable materials generated at the event. Patrons are encouraged to help by using the proper bins when disposing of items throughout the event.

Additional Information

Patrons are encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and

report suspicious activities to MCC staff, Police and Fire personnel. Balloons and controlled substances are not permitted on the park grounds. Only alcohol purchased from the MCC contracted beer and wine garden will be permitted onsite and within the designated area. Patrons are requested not to smoke cigarettes or vape on park grounds. Political candidates, exhibitors and other vendors must contain their activities to their assigned booths. Soliciting or pamphleting is not allowed on the grounds of the park during McLean Day.

For festival updates, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map, visit: mcleancenter.org/special-events or call MCC at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711. The center's telephone will be answered from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of the festival.

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McLean Day 2025

Guide to Sponsors,
Exhibitors and Food

Celebrating Our Hometown since 1915!

(See Map, Pages 4&5)

At press time, exhibitors include:

Sponsors

Wheats
Connector Fairfax
Fairfax County Park Authority
Rotary Club of McLean
Mars
McLean Properties
Johns Hopkins
Lafayette Federal
Northwest Federal

My Gym McLean
Nova Spine & Rehab Center
Nuthing Bundt Cake
Palmercare Chiropractic McLean
Paw Mind Body
Pet Evolution
Prince William Home Improvement
Primis Bank
Renewal by Anderson
Riverbend Park
Roof-ER
Skinspirit McLean
Stemtree Education Center of Vienna
The Brookfield School
The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints
Timber Pizza
Winsome For Governor
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board
Veterans of Foreign War Post 8241

General Exhibitors

Amaryllis Author Collective
American Legion Post 270
Bach to Rock
Broadway Dental Association
Capital Remodeling
Christian Science Reading Room
Broadway Dental Associates - Dental Center of Tyson's Corner
Dolley Madison Library
Dranesville District Democratic Committee
Dranesville District Supervisor James N. Bierman Jr.
Fairfax County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management
Fairfax County Republican Committee
Generations Wealth Management
Golden Agers LLC DBA Nurse Next Door McLean
Golden Boot Soccer
Green Valley Custom Builders
Heidi Pix
IGWECO
Integrated Psychology Associated Associates of McLean
JaSole
Langley Hill Friends Meeting
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Maid Brigade of Alexandria
Mathnasiam of McLean
McLean Baptist Church
McLean Citizens Association
McLean Community Players
McLean Family Dentistry
McLean Trees Foundation

Marketplace

AI For Abilities
B Fabric Art
Charles Schwab
Chesterbrook United Methodist Church
Craftmans Auto Care
DAR
Dua Jewelers
Fairfax County Public Schools
Gwen's Blends
Just For You Baskets
Lucite Creations
Manjul Rainzda
McLean Area AAUW
McLean Historical Society
Musicfully
National Capital Lyme Disease Associates
NBJ Basket of Jewels
Plane Art
Sadiyas Touch
Sidney's Portraits
Friends of Pleasant Grove
The Nassar Group of Compass
Ukraine Aid
Virginia Players Alliance
"WE" Adore Wood
Wick Bliss A Candle Company
Yniverse Studios



McLean
Community
Center
The Center of It All

CLASSES

- Fitness & Culinary Arts
- Dog Training
- Dance & Music Together
- Seniors in Action

SPECIAL EVENTS

- McLean Day
- Independence Fireworks
- McLean 5k
- Holiday Art & Crafts Festival

THE ALDEN THEATRE

- Professional Artist Series
- Summer Concerts
- Kids & Family Series
- Films & Lectures

THE OLD FIREHOUSE

- Summer Camps
- After School Programs
- School Break Trips
- Family Events

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

mcleancenter.org



McLean Community Center



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