

CONNECTION

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



Melissa Beveridge beams while her delighted daughter, Jo Jo, 3, holds a monarch butterfly in the butterfly tent at Histree Day.

The Piano Man

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The Budget Vote

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History and
Environment
On One Day

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MAY 22 - JUNE 3, 2025

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

SENIOR LIVING

Jazz Artist Entertains Many At Senior Center

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Pianist Harvey Jacobson performs for his fellow residents at Brightview.

Former Mount Vernon resident now mans the piano at Brightview assisted living.

BY MIKE SALMON
<2B>THE GAZETTE

In the lobby at the Brightview assisted living center, the sounds of Fats Waller, Cole Porter or Scott Joplin that resonate in the lobby is not the background sound system, it's lifetime

musician Harvey Jacobson, 88, hammering out the classics on the grand piano over on the side. It's a sound that's appreciated by the residents and reminds people of the role jazz played in the United States.

"Mostly what I play is show music," Harvey said, "it speaks to the

consciousness, it's uplifting," he added. "They love my playing," he added of his fellow residents. He used to live in Hybla Valley and gave piano lessons at Fort Belvoir at that time.

Everyone enjoys the music at Brightview Woodburn, said Vibrant Living Director Lisa Semonick. "Harvey flourishes when his peers enjoy his performances. It's amazing seeing his smile just light

up when he finishes and everyone loves it," she said.

These moments in the lobby might be a moment in time for

SEE PIANO MAN, PAGE 7





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Endorsements for Walkinshaw for Congress

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

James R. Walkinshaw is running for the U.S. Congress to represent Virginia's 11th District. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly recently announced that he will not seek reelection in 2026 due to worsening of his esophageal cancer.

Endorsements for Walkinshaw, currently serving as the Braddock representative on the Fairfax County Board Supervisors, include elected and appointed federal, state and local officials. His most notable and first endorsement came from Connolly, and most recently from Jeff McKay, Chairman of the

"Leader for this five-alarm moment."

— Jeff McKay

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

"All Democrats on the Fairfax County Board endorse James Walkinshaw, call[ing] him the leader for this five-alarm moment," posted McKay on Instagram.

"It's an honor to work alongside these dedicated public servants on the Board of Supervisors. Together, we've stood up to Trump's reckless agenda, protected our values, and delivered progress for Fairfax fami-

lies. I'm proud to have their support, and I'm ready to carry that work forward in Congress starting on Day One," said Walkinshaw.

"I know James Walkinshaw is ready to carry the torch forward," said Connolly. "James was my Chief of Staff, my partner in progress, and one of the most capable and principled public servants I've ever worked alongside," said Connolly in his endorsement.

Michael Van Meter, a Springfield resident, is the Republican candidate who announced his intention to run for the seat in the 2026 midterm elections.

The election for this seat is November, 2026.



THREADS.COM/@JAMES_WALKINSHAW

James R. Walkinshaw is running for the U.S. Congress, VA 11th District

Local Details of 2025 Point-In-Time Count

Fairfax County findings of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, vs. other jurisdictions.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The number of people experiencing homelessness increased in Fairfax County by 3 percent to 1,322 (increase of 44 individuals) on Jan. 22, 2025, compared to 1,278 on Jan. 24, 2024, according to the recent report from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The Washington area jurisdictions' number of individuals experiencing homelessness decreased by one percent from their 2024 enumeration, shrinking by "115 persons from 2024," reports COG.

On May 14, COG released its "Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington, Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness," prepared by the Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee. Fairfax County is one of the four jurisdictions that recorded increases in their literal homelessness count, sheltered and unsheltered, within eight metropolitan Washington area jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, during the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness.

Fairfax County recorded the most significant one-year increase in the category of chronically homeless people, rising from 184 in 2024 to 248 in 2025 after two consecutive years of decline.

On two days in late January 2025, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee conducted its regional point-in-time count, providing a snapshot within its eight metropolitan Washington area jurisdictions of residents experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness. Volunteers and others conducted the count on two nights, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29. Inauguration-related security concerns this year caused the unusual two-night, rather than one-night, count.



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

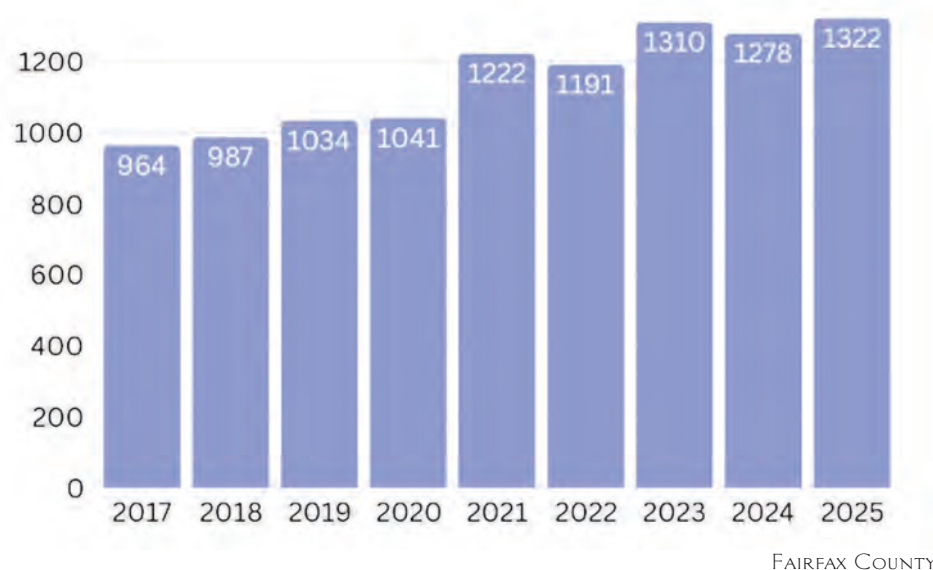
Survey volunteers and outreach workers, like the woman in the blue vest, interview people experiencing homelessness during the Point-in-Time Count.

COG reported that across its eight jurisdictions, including Fairfax County, "Eighty-six percent of people experiencing homelessness were sheltered those two nights in their respective jurisdictions."

Key findings reported by Fairfax County include persistence of racial disparity, with 48 percent of those experiencing homelessness identified as Black, African American, or African. Nearly one-third of adults were experiencing chronic homelessness, with 263 people identified as experiencing it. And 77 households were actively fleeing domestic violence, an increase from 59 the previous year.

"More people were using shelters the night we were conducting the count," said Tom Barnett, Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development Deputy Director, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "It is clear that our region has

Point-In-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness in Fairfax County, 2017-2025



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Point-In Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County, 2017-2025

"It is clear that our region has not yet recovered from the pandemic, which dramatically increased homelessness counts in 2021."

— Tom Barnett,

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

not yet recovered from the pandemic, which dramatically increased homelessness counts in 2021."

Fairfax County recorded a notable decline in unsheltered single adults from 2024 to 2025; regionwide, the number of unsheltered single adults decreased by 10 percent from 2024 to 2025, a drop of 148 individuals. Additionally, Fairfax County's count of veterans experiencing homelessness recorded the most significant reduction between 2021 and 2025, with 22 fewer veterans counted.

"The region has increased the total number of persons who are permanently housed and no longer experiencing homelessness by 37 percent since 2021," said COG's report, Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington.

"The number of individuals who are in permanent housing and no longer experiencing homelessness was more than three times the number of people counted as literally homeless on the night of the annual enumeration."

SEE HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 18

Real-Estate Tax Hike; Meals Tax Is Stable

Suspense, but Fairfax City adopts its FY 26 budget.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

There's good news and bad news in Fairfax City's FY 26 budget, adopted May 6, along with the City's CIP (Capital Improvement Program) for FY 2026-2030. The residential real-estate tax rate didn't rise as much as it could have, and the meals tax remained the same. But City employees are getting smaller pay increases, and money for a popular home-improvement program was cut altogether.

When Acting City Manager Bryan Foster presented his FY 26 budget recommendations in February, he proposed a residential real-estate tax hike of 9.5 cents – increasing this rate from its current \$1.03 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$1.125. Instead, City Council and staff worked to reduce the tax-rate increase to just 2.5 cents, approving the FY 26 rate of \$1.055.

Adding in homeowners' rises in the assessed value of their homes, it means an av-

erage increase of \$959 per household. And the stormwater and wastewater rates each increased by 6 percent, as well, to support Fairfax's utility infrastructure and services.

Foster also advised the City to hike its meals tax from 4 to 6 percent – an idea that proved deeply unpopular with both residents and restaurant owners. They emailed Councilmembers about it and spoke up at meetings.

Indeed, at the April 22 public hearing, the owners of Hamrocks, P.J. Skidoos, Dolce Vita, Patriots Pub & Grill and Mackenzie's Tunes & Tonics told Council how raising the meals tax would hurt their businesses by increasing the prices their customers would pay. And Jennifer Rose, executive director of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, said it would also be detrimental to the City's small businesses and economic development. Ultimately, the new budget keeps the meals tax at 4 percent.

Foster had also recommended giving the City's usual, 3.5-percent merit-pay increase to eligible, general pay-scale employees. But

in its adopted budget, Council cut it to just 2 percent.

It also slashed \$392,000 from its budget by canceling the City's usual allocation to one of its own programs intended to help City residents repair their aging homes. In conjunction with its banking partner, Main-Street Bank, the City of Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corp. (FRHC) provides two-year, no-interest, home-improvement loans to qualifying homeowners. But this budget contains no money for it.

Overall, the total approved budget for all City funds – General, Capital Projects, Old Town Service District, Transportation Tax, Cable, Wastewater, Stormwater Utility, Transit and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – is \$290.2 million, a 10-percent jump from FY 2025.

The General Fund budget is \$198.6 million – a 9.9-percent increase over the current fiscal year. It maintains the City's 17.7-percent unassigned General Fund balance and helps support the City's AAA bond rating. In addition, the City's school-tuition contract

is fully funded at \$71.4 million, marking an increase of 21.4 percent, or \$12.6 million, from the previous year.

The FY 26 budget fully funds 126 of the 130 projects in the CIP to the tune of \$98.1 million in FY 26 and \$614.9 million in FY 26-30. It also allocates \$9.6 million to Parks and Recreation plus \$31.9 million to Transportation. And it adds \$200,000 for an efficiency audit.

However, to keep the real-estate tax rate from rising more than 2.5 cents, several expenditure reductions had to be made. They included \$400,000 for travel and training, \$100,000 for nonprofit grants, and \$1 million for filling non-urgent staff vacancies.

And while it's tough to please everyone, Foster believes the City did the best it could. "This budget invests in the future of our community, and I commend City Council and staff for their dedication in finalizing a plan that reflects those priorities," he said. "While future years will present fiscal challenges due to constrained resources, we remain committed to maintaining financial balance and continuing to deliver the high-quality services and programs our community depends on."

Difficult Budget Adoption Raises Serious Questions

Can Fairfax City Councilmembers work together?

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's pretty straightforward: When it's time to adopt a government's budget, those tasked with doing so are supposed to follow through. But during the May 6 Fairfax City Council meeting – after several weeks of meetings, work sessions, discussions, public hearings, budget scrutiny, and questions to City staff – some on the dais wanted to delay any action by a week.

Normally, the City's budget-adoption meeting is just a half-hour formality of officially approving something whose details have already been worked out by the Council. Instead, the recent meeting took four, grueling hours – even at times devolving into personal attacks between the members – and included an admonishment from the mayor that City staff and residents were counting on them to do the job for which they were elected.

Granted, five of the six Councilmembers are new to their posts, having been elected in November. But two of the three pushing hardest for a delay previously served on the City's School Board, and the third served decades in the fields of business, economics and finance.

Despite being assured that they could adopt the budget that night and still amend specific line items later, they resisted. But,



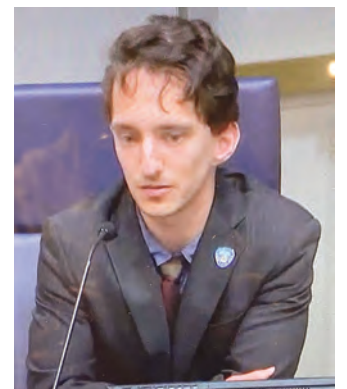
Stacey Hardy-Chandler



Stacy Hall



Rachel McQuillen



Billy Bates

said returning Councilmember Billy Bates, "New information is always coming out, and we have residents and staff holding their breath to see what we're going to do. I don't know that it's necessarily healthy to delay that another week, when they were expecting us to make a decision tonight."

He said he wasn't aware before that evening of even an intention to delay the budget's approval. And Councilmember Stacey Hardy-Chandler stressed that, if there was a delay, "I don't think harm [to City operations] can be avoided."

Before the members were to vote on the FY 26 budget and CIP (Capital Improvement Program), Councilmember Tom Peterson said that, since he and his colleagues did their final budget markup, April 22, Acting City Manager Bryan Foster had made a change to it and Council had some feedback on it. But Hardy-Chandler said the only major change was a reduction from the amount cut from the Police Department.

As part of making the real-estate tax rate no greater than a 2.5-cent increase over last

year, Council had recommended slashing more than \$1 million from the police. But after conferring with the police chief and command staff, Foster reduced that amount to \$652,000 and notified Council about it on May 2.

Peterson also noted that Fairfax County had released its budget on May 6. Then Councilmember Rachel McQuillen said she wanted more time to examine how it could impact the City, so she wanted to delay approving Fairfax's budget.

However, explained Foster, "We're independent of the county, and we have a [school] contract with it based on actual expenses, not what is budgeted. The county appropriates to us a lump sum, and our schools then have the ability to put it wherever they'd like in their operational budget. And historically, the City's school costs won't change because of actions the county has taken."

Agreeing, City Attorney Brian Lubkeman told the Council, "I don't know what delay for delay's sake accomplishes, because we

have the information needed for you to properly evaluate the budget."

"I think staff has provided ample information to multiple questions, over a significant period of time, to move forward," added Hardy-Chandler. "I haven't heard anything that would support a delay of this process. And in fact, there was a lot of work done to get to this point. The public has also been part of this process; we owe it to them to move forward."

Councilmember Stacy Hall said she was worried how a loss of federal grant money could affect both the City and county and if the City would have to make resulting budget cuts in the future. But Mayor Catherine Read said Council could still approve the budget as a whole and then later reallocate certain funds within it, as necessary. Foster noted, too, that the City's Budget Stabilization Fund could deal with unexpected expenses.

McQuillen then made a motion, second-

Budget Mayhem

FROM PAGE 4

ed by Hall, to defer budget adoption until May 13. But Councilmember Anthony Amos didn't see the value in doing so and thereby "potentially scaring residents."

Peterson also favored a delay; but Foster said that, even so, the City won't know the exact amount of the county's school-contract transfer to the City until after that date. "Procedurally, that's just how it works," said Foster. The vote to delay failed, with Read breaking a 3-3 tie.

Again, Foster told Council, "Work on the budget doesn't stop once you adopt it. We're always evaluating it and giving you quarterly reports on how revenues and expenditures are trending."

But, concerned about some of the big-ticket items in the FY 26-30 CIP included in the budget, Hall made a motion to delay the \$9 million expansion of the Sherwood Center by a year. Still under consideration, it's part of a City-county project to revamp both that building and the Willard Health Center.

"It's a large expense and needs to be considered a little bit more in detail," said Hall. CFO JC Martinez said doing so wouldn't affect the FY 26 budget. McQuillen then seconded the motion, which also failed.

"In addition to the \$4.8 million in operating costs, my biggest concern is the roughly \$50 million the City would have to issue bonds for later this year," said Hall. "I don't know that the full, tax ramifications of this have been explored – which could be as much as \$4.5 million or \$5 million worth of debt annually. So we're looking at \$10 million in debt – which would be an 11-cent tax increase just for that one building – and would be in addition to [other capital projects]."

"We're continuing to refine the operating costs – we believe those numbers will come down," replied Director of Community Development and Planning Brooke Hardin. "Regarding the debt-service fees, the City-county agreement provides latitude to both jurisdictions as to when that debt may be released. We'll be meeting about it with the county this month, and the county said it'll work with us and be as flexible as it can be."

Further discussion on the budget then ensued, with Council finally approving it. But a subsequent vote to set the tax rates it had already agreed upon on April 22 failed – leading to an admonishment from Lubkeman.

"You've approved the budget and not the tax rates corresponding with it," he said. "You need to set a [real-estate] tax rate. Ordinarily, in the past, what's happened is everybody acknowledges there's been give and take. Not everybody got what they wanted or felt was appropriate. But the intellectually honest thing to do is to approve the tax rate that corresponds to the budget approved by your colleagues."

"When we met April 22, we worked on the tax-rate increase of 2.5 cents and left the room with an outline of a budget and a tax rate," said Read. "And now, half this Coun-

cil has decided they don't want to make the commitment to that. I find it interesting that half the dais wants to do everybody's job in this City, except the job of Councilperson – to which they were elected."

Hardy-Chandler said she, too, thought everything was settled, but now felt "held hostage" that her colleagues' negotiations and collaborations weren't done in "good faith." That being the case, she added, "I'm concerned about the functionality of this Council."

Still, Peterson wanted more time, and McQuillen said she needed clarification after the county released its budget. Read reiterated that Fairfax is an independent City, with different priorities than the county has. She also said City staff had spent months answering Council's budget questions.

McQuillen said she'd received several emails that morning from constituents on limited incomes. "They're concerned about any tax increase because they're also feeling the inflation in other ways," she said. "So I have to fully understand what's going on so I can explain it to them."

But, said Read, "There are 25,000 people here; so however many people you've been hearing from are not the majority. They elected us to make decisions in the best interests of the entire City and all the people who live here."

In addition, Amos worried about having too low of a tax rate because "next fiscal year's financial outlook is likely to be worse than this year's. So we need to be prepared and focus more on cost recovery and economic development."

Hall said she'd researched the residential projects approved by past Councils and was worried about all the new students they'd yield and the cost to educate them once those units were built and occupied. "The things weighing heavily on me are tuition bills, redevelopment and overdevelopment," she said.

And with many expensive projects in the CIP, she added, "We can't continue to just say yes. I intended to vote for this budget, but there's a lot going on and I don't know. This is hard, and I don't want to bite off more than we can chew."

Amos said that, although Council reached a budget consensus on April 22, "It was clear some people were uncomfortable, including myself." But Hardy-Chandler said things will always keep happening, and they owe it to their constituents "not to come to a complete stop" when they do. And Read called it a failure for Council not to honor its commitment to the City to adopt a budget and a tax rate.

Some 3-1/2 hours into the meeting, McQuillen asked for a 5-minute recess. Nearly a half hour later, Council returned and McQuillen said she'd spoken with Foster and gotten the clarifications she'd wanted. Council then unanimously adopted the budget and its tax rates, and Read congratulated them for doing so. She also thanked City staff, "who put in extraordinary amounts of time answering questions."

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OPINION

Fun in the Sun at the Inaugural Mount Vernon District Summer Palooza

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

We're turning up the heat this summer with a brand-new community celebration, the Mount Vernon District SUMMER PALOOZA! Mark your calendars for this FREE, family-friendly event on Saturday, June 7 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center (2511 Parkers Lane).

Enjoy live music from a favorite local band, Riptide, while you grab a bite to eat at any of our FREE food options: "Taste of Mount Vernon" with samplings

from local restaurants, a picnic grilled up by the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department and a local food truck! A variety of food, beverages and small business items will also be available for purchase. Kids will have a blast in the kids zone with moon bounces, games, a petting zoo from Frying Pan Farm Park and the always-popular touch-a-truck area, featuring fire trucks, police cruisers and drone squad, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services vehicles



Storck

and more. Adults can unwind in the Bunnyman Brewing beer garden and browse a wide range of exhibitors, including dedicated areas focused on the environment, dogs and local small businesses, as well as County programs and services.

Whether you're coming for the music, food, kids zone or just some fun in the sun, the Mount Vernon Governmental Center is the place to be! Parking will be available across the street at Whitman Middle School and Sherwood Regional Li-

brary, we ask that you please do not park in Inova's parking lots to leave parking for patients. We look forward to seeing you, rain or shine!

This exciting new event is made possible thanks to the generous support of our community partners: Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Inova, Reworld Waste, Casey Whitmarsh - State Farm, Pohanka and Fairfax County Police and Fire and Rescue. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/mount-vernon-district-summer-palooza>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We Must Support the Peace Corps

Now more than ever we must support the Peace Corps

As we face many challenges around the world, the hard work, collaborative spirit, and dedication of Peace Corps Volunteers continue to represent the very best of America.

Thousands of us here in northern Virginia know first-hand the profound impact that the Peace Corps has. I served in Togo from 1995-1998 in a community health education project focused on safe motherhood and child survival. I supported Togolese health volunteers Adjoua and Henou to educate pregnant people to attend prenatal care and give birth at the village's health hut, parents to vaccinate their kids, and villagers to filter their water to prevent Guinea worm, sleep under a bednet to prevent mosquito bites that could cause malaria, plan their families using modern contraceptives, and

use condoms to prevent HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

Some have argued that we should focus on challenges here at home and not spend taxpayer dollars in other countries. However, when it comes to service in the Peace Corps, what is often forgotten is that the experiences and skills learned in service come home with the volunteers to the tremendous benefit of our local communities. When we return after Peace Corps service, our commitment to service is just beginning and continues for a lifetime. As Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), we strengthen our country as community leaders, teachers, health care workers, entrepreneurs, public servants, and volunteers. A 2023 survey of RPCVs found that 86% of respondents continue to volunteer in their local communities, well above the national average.

The Peace Corps costs our feder-



Sara Holtz, Naka, pounding fufu in Togo while serving in the Peace Corp.

al government very little, making up less than 1% of our International Affairs Budget, which in turn only makes up about 1% of our entire federal budget. The return on investment is massive.

Please let's stand up and con-

tinue supporting the Peace Corps, critical foreign assistance programs, and national service initiatives. To do otherwise cripples the future of our nation.

Sara Holtz
Oakton

Falun Gong Protection Act

Dear Editor,

On May 5, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the Falun Gong Protection Act (H.R. 1540). I would like to sincerely thank our members of Congress for advancing this long-overdue legislation. I hope our fellow Virginians will help urging Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine co-sponsor the senate version of this Act (S. 817): <https://www.stoporganharvesting.org/contact-your-representatives/>

Falun Gong is a spiritual and meditative practice rooted in

Buddhist tradition. Because of its health benefits, it became the most popular meditation practice in China in the 1990s. However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) viewed Falun Gong as a threat to its ideological control and launched a nationwide campaign against its practitioners in 1999.

As 54 Virginia state legislators put in their recent letter to Secretary of State Marc Rubio regarding this issue (<https://www.falundafa-dc.org/virginia-support-letter/>): "...many of the survivors of this persecution are now residents

and citizens of the United States. They are our friends, neighbors, and constituents. And most importantly, they are our fellow human beings.... One survivor brought two jackets she made while in a forced labor camp. Similar products are exported to the American and European markets, with consumers unaware of their origins."

The Falun Gong Protection Act aims to hold Chinese officials accountable for their involvement in the forced organ harvesting of organs from Falun Gong practitioners, a practice that continues

to this day. According to the independent China Tribunal (www.ChinaTribunal.org), "Forced organ harvesting has been committed throughout China for years on a significant scale... Falun Gong practitioners have been one ... source of organ supply."

This legislation will help save lives, curb the practice of forced organ harvesting, and protect American medical institutions and patients from becoming unwittingly complicit in this horrific crime.

Anne Yang
Fairfax, VA

Burke ♦ Fairfax
Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station

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SENIOR LIVING



Harvey Jacobson

Piano Man

FROM PAGE 2

some, but for Harvey, it's the culmination of years at the piano in places as far as Carnegie Hall, Gloucester, England and John Hopkins University.

Piano was not only Jacobson's livelihood, but music was his life passion as well. When COVID hit in 2020, everything came to a halt when the concerts and venues closed, leaving Jacobson without work. He found himself in a living situation with no access to a piano, separating him from his music. This was devastating for Jacobson. Music wasn't just his career, it was his way of connecting with the world



Pianist Harvey Jacobson has been around the world jazzing it up on the piano.

around him.

Jacobson moved into Brightview in early March, and since then, he has found a new community in both his fellow residents and staff.

As he was enveloped in all this musical experience, his immediate gravitation to the piano came naturally to Harvey. When he arrived, he immediately sat down for a song or two, or three. He rediscovered his love for piano and plays for staff, residents and visitors every day.

Jacobson doesn't just play the piano, he brings joy to everyone around him.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

May Is Older Americans Month

Established in 1963, May is Older Americans Month. This year's theme, "Flip the Script on Aging," is part of Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services mission year-round.

Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services, in conjunction with the county's SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan, the county is transforming programs, resources and services to meet the needs of a far more active, engaged and mobile older adult population. Neighborhood and Community Services programs for older adults offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to remain active – physically, intellectually, creatively and socially – within their community.

Some of Neighborhood and Community Services' resources for older adults:

NCS Senior Centers

Senior Centers serve ages 50 and older. Hundreds of active older adults from around the county are registered members of the county's network of senior centers to pursue hobbies, fitness, special interests (such as art, music and technology), friendships and enjoy a wide variety of activities with their peers. Center programs and activities are as diverse as the needs and interests of the communities they serve.

Meals and transportation options are available. Eligibility and fees apply. Contact the Senior Center near you for details.

Virtual Center for Active Adults

The goal of the Virtual Center for Active Adults is to enrich the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities in Northern Virginia while combatting isolation. Participants can connect with peers, engage in a variety of activities and discover useful resources.

VCAA offers a variety of live, interactive programs that include engaging with other adults. There are also prerecorded programs on demand for participants to watch on their own schedule.

Adult Day Health Care

Everyone should have the opportunity to live a

great life, regardless of their cognitive or physical limitations. That's why the Adult Day Health Care program is focused on engaging participants mentally, physically and socially. The results include an overall better mood, better sleep and increased engagement — for both participants and their caregivers. Learn more about daily programs and activities and the highly skilled and experienced staff.

In its 35+ year history, ADHC has brought thousands of older adults daytime care and support. A sliding fee scale, scholarship program and transportation are available. Learn more about the Adult Day Health Care program.

Volunteering

Neighborhood and Community Services is a wonderful place for senior volunteers. Read more about volunteer opportunities, including the GrandInvolve program that places older adults in Title I schools to engage with young students to support learning.

Recent highlights and news

❖ NCS recently opened Arbor Row Center, a new senior center located in The Mather residential building in Tysons. NCS will provide programming and staffing for the new center, which offers a variety of programs for learning, fitness, technology, discussion and more.

❖ NCS will soon open Burke-Springfield Center for Active Adults (BSCAA) at Huntsman Square in Springfield. NCS held a series of community engagement sessions to obtain feedback on programs adults ages 50 and older would like at BSCAA. This location will replace the Burke-Springfield Center Without Walls.

❖ See Fairfax County Department of Family Services' resources for older adults.

❖ See the Board of Supervisors' 2025 proclamation.

For more information on all NCS programs and services for older adults, please visit Programs and Services for Older Adults. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/older-adults>





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CAPPIES

Fairfax, Woodson High Nominated for Cappies

The local high schools have a long reputation for excellence in theater, and Fairfax and Woodson have just received a total of 16 Cappies nominations. Under Director Chris Whitney, Fairfax High's 11 nods were for its play, "Much

Ado about Nothing." Directed by Chris Rushing, Woodson High's five nods were for its play, "Lear."

The Cappies Gala will be Mon-

day, June 2, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at which time the winners will be revealed. Fairfax and Woodson students

are competing for these awards against students from many other schools in the National Capital Area.

Fairfax's Nominations

Best Play

Isaac Frenza – Lead Actor, Male Role in a Play
Kat Pascual – Lead Actor, Female Role in a Play
Nate Wheeler Smith – Supporting Actor, Male Role in a Play
Kathryn Whitis – Supporting Actor, Female Role in a Play
Mauro Manganello – Comic Actor, Male Role in a Play
Marli Palchik – Featured Actor, Female Role in a Play
Dogberry's Watch – Ensemble in a Play
Gabe Acquavella, Jordi Tyler and the Messina Resort Staff – Stage Crew
Raymond Walker, Izzie Manicone, Amber Zhu – Stage Management
Kat Pascual, Libby Hansen, Olive Webster, Devin Linthicum – Marketing and Publicity.

Woodson's Nominations

Charlotte Willmore – Lead Actor, Female Role in a Play
Aiden Brennan – Supporting Actor, Male Role in a Play
Juliana Gurrola – Comic Actor, Female Role in a Play
Amalia Manow, Katy Nguyen, Cricket Nicholls, Lilly Ryver, Alexander Minde, Eurus Goldberg, Mathieu Williams and Anya Allensworth – Costumes
Anabelle Perez-Caban, Henry Green – Special Effects and/or Technology.

– BONNIE HOBBS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Posing in character in Fairfax High's "Much Ado about Nothing" are (top row, from left) Kat Pascual and Isaac Frenza, and (bottom row, from left) Kathryn Whitis and Nate Smith.



In Woodson High's "Lear," (from left) Zoe Suruma, as Lady Gloucester, is comforted by her friend, Queen Lear (Charlotte Willmore).

2025 Cappies National Capital Area Nominations

Andy Mays Rising Critic

Erin Allen, Bishop Ireton High School
Julian Hassi, McLean High School
Alden Walcott, South Lakes High School
Bonna Koo, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology
Iris Cooper, Westfield High School

Maryland Theater Guide Returning Critic

Mary Campbell, Westfield High School
Emily Reisman, McLean High School
Christine Dang, Lake Braddock High School
Madelyn Regan, Centreville High School
Julie Kessel, Albert Einstein High School

Bill Strauss Graduating Critic

Cecelia Meza, Herndon High School
Ellen Lawton, Herndon High School
Josephin Friedrich, Langley High School
Clare Shacochis, Oakton High School
Iza Piatkowski, Woodgrove High School

Marketing and Publicity

Xander Bush, Zoe Carter, Caty Jewell, Iza Piatkowski, Woodgrove High School, Mamma Mia!
Anusha Krishnan, Arsema Kelkay, and The Westfield Publicity Team, Westfield High School, The Sound of Music
Chance McGill, Kaitlyn Lanigan, Megan Sawyer, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition
Kat Pascual, Libby Hansen, Olive Webster, Devin Linthicum, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing
The PR & Marketing Team, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress

Special Effects and or Technology

Nawal Abib, Cindy Ayala, Fama Gueye, Nariah S. Martin, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition
Peyton Morales and a Certain Special Effects Crew, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or-

Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic
Alex Hall, Drew Hall, Ethan Jones, McLean High School, Amelie
Bella Molino, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women
Anabelle Perez-Caban, Henry Green, Woodson High School, Lear by William Shakespeare

Hair and Make-up

Mary Frances Dempsey, Cassidy Greenwalt, Peyton Olsen, Vivi Parsons, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes
Juliana Esen, Vin Watts, Amelia Underwood, Kiara Valerio-De Dios, Falls Church High School, The Addams Family
Lila Halleran, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women
Isabelle Philippe, Jade Mattei, and the Mattress Hair and Makeup Team, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress
Agustin Anello Quiroga and Chloe Kang, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting

Sound

Madison Eismeier, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women
Kenrick Philpott, Leo Deangelo, Chase Chapman, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition
Tobey Phinney, Kiran Kane, Justice High School, Almost, Maine
Wil Shank, Loudoun Valley High School, Peter and the Starcatcher
Virginia Williams, Rain Medrano, Lynn Milkiewicz, Herndon High School, MACBETH

Props

Aubrey Astore, Margaret Hughes, Liv Rosenfeld, Emerson Thiebert, McLean High School, Amelie
August Carr, Caleb Hayes, Teddy Seylar, August Yates, Wakefield High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Caroline Cochran, Cameron Filson, Eva Klinker, Victoria Reyes, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Leah Rajnik, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Fiona Raymer, Jasmine Hamilton, Kaleigh Rosania, Annandale High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Lighting

Macie Brooks, Sam Cole, Chantilly High School, Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical
Katie Eagan, Zaya Economides, CC Mucker, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting
ITPA Lighting Team, Independence High School, Once Upon a One More Time (High School Version)
William Waugh, Kareena Kasperowski, Natalie Mitchell, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition
Rebecca Weingast, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Costumes

Cassidy Greenwalt, Peyton Olsen, Vivi Parsons, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes
Nathaniel Howard, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women
Audrey Ihde, Amelie Hatfield, and The Costume Team, Oakton High School, Into the Woods
Amalia Manow, Katy Nguyen, Cricket Nicholls, Woodson Costumes Team, Woodson High School, Lear by William Shakespeare
Iona McCluskey, Catherine Carow, Nancy McDougal, and the BITA Costuming Team, Bishop Ireton, Guys and Dolls

Sets

Charlie Fink, Allyson Pikul, Iris Nijbroek, Allison Rigsbee, and the Dramahawks Set Crew, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You
Eliot Hettler, Amelia Haid, Isabel Suk, and The Set Team, Oakton High School, Into the Woods
Kinsey Lin, Lake Braddock Secondary School,

The Trojan Women

Chloe Lupo, Rachael Shore, and The Westfield Set Team, Westfield High School, The Sound of Music

Anna Wisneski, Owen Penrose, Caroline Reams, and the BITA Design Team, Bishop Ireton, Guys and Dolls

Orchestra

The Hadestown Band, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, Hadestown: Teen Edition
Crazy for You Orchestra, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You
South County A Chorus Line Pit Orchestra, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition
Yorktown Pit Orchestra, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes
Oakton High School Pit, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Choreography

Caty Jewell, Maggie Bugaj, Aurora Schriver, Jordan Smith, Woodgrove High School, Mamma Mia!
Katie Johnson, Lexi Stattel, James Madison High School, Mean Girls High School Version
Mary Clare Pelczynski, Sam Wolff, Chantilly High School, Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical
Ava Taylor, Josie Sinniger, Karen Board, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You
Sitina Tochtermann, Jahlil Greene, Hudson Koonce, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress

Creativity

Charlotte Keshap and Alice Aramendia, Direction, H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program, Uncle Vanya
Aiden Harper, Sol Modell, and Duke Crespin, Musicianship, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night's Dream-ish

Emmett Justice, Scout Gould, Composition,

SEE 2025 CAPPIES, PAGE 14

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BRIEFS

Fairfax City's Rock the Block, this Friday

Get ready for outdoor fun and live entertainment – Fairfax City's first Rock the Block of the season is this Friday, May 23, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., in Old Town Square, 10415 North St. Performing will be country-western band, Rowdy Ace. Admission is free, and food, beer and other beverages will be available for purchase.

Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26

Fairfax City's annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held Monday, May 26, at 10:30 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. This post is co-sponsoring the event with VFW Post 8469. Local dignitaries will attend, and the featured speaker will be Army Lt. Gen. (ret.) Richard Formica, a career Field Artillery officer. He retired in 2013 after 36 years of service.

Small Business Retail Fair, May 31

Fairfax City's Small Business Month celebration will culminate Saturday, May 31, with a retail fair in Old Town Square, 10415 North St. Organized by Fairfax City Economic Development, it's set for 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and will enable attendees to see and learn about what the City's local businesses have to offer. On tap are product demonstrations, fashion shows and pilates classes.

Participating are: Lucy Loves, Romp n' Roll, Gaming Giant, Paradise Games and Gifts, Mode on Main by Mara, Kaizen MMA, DIY Scent Studio, Omni Wellness & Performance, Bond's Escape Room, OSA Martial Arts, Smiley Skin, eXurb Fitness and Fairfax Pilates.

Tiny Music Fest Continues June 1

The Tiny Music Fest on Main concert series is held the first Sunday of each month, through September, in Old Town Fairfax City. It's in The Shoppes at Main parking lot, 10409 Main St., from noon-5 p.m., and features free, live entertainment with pizza and beer for purchase.

Performing at the next concert, slated for June 1, is pop/rock artist Cathy DiToro. She'll be followed by: July 6 - Bobby Thompson of Bobby Thompson Trio (blues);

Aug. 3 - Short Hill Mountain Boys (bluegrass); and Sept. 7 - The Beanstalk Library Acoustic (indie rock).

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs, as seating is limited. Any cancellations due to weather will be posted on Facebook and Instagram. Parking is available in the free parking garage on University Drive or in the library's lot across from that garage.

The Tiny Music Fest on Main is a collaboration between The Shoppes at Main, High Side, Mobius Records and Old Dominion Pizza, with support from the Old Town Fairfax Business Association and local sponsors. Donations to help offset event costs may be made at oldtownfairfax.org or onsite during the event.

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

| County | Full Structure | Route | Route Name | Location | Effective Date |
|-----------|----------------|-------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| GRAYSON | 8733 | 58 | HIGHLANDS PKWY | CABIN CREEK | 4/23/2025 |
| LUNENBURG | 11854 | 661 | GALLION TOWN ROAD | TRIB OF REEDY CREEK | 4/11/2025 |
| GRAYSON | 8915 | 741 | HOMESTEAD ROAD | BIG FOX CREEK | 4/10/2025 |
| BEDFORD | 2679 | 604 | RIVERSIDE INN CIRCLE | HUNTING CREEK | 4/8/2025 |

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

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

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

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

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HIS TREE DAY

Enjoying Nature and Learning about History

Combining local history with Earth Day activities, Fairfax City's HisTree Day was April 26 at Historic Blenheim.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Members of the 28th Massachusetts Infantry, Co. B, about to teach these children how to march, carry muskets and do a bayonet drill with their wooden "rifles."



Playing the fife and drum are (from left) Rob Calhelha and Joe Abernathy, both with the 28th Massachusetts Infantry, Co. B.



From left, Eric Heald-Webb and sons Charlie, 9, and Liam, 7, listen to Melanie LaForce talk about Civil War nurses. She's portraying Mary Morris Husband, who saved the lives of 300 Union soldiers.



From left, parents Debanjan and Ginny Dasgupta watch their daughters, Azaria, 6, and Anjali, 4, coat clay with sand before it's put into a mold to make bricks. Directing them is Colonial Williamsburg brickmaker Madeleine Bolton.



Debbie Harris (center) tells JohnRyan MacGregor and Alison Banks about the inequality in the ways slaves ate (with metal cups and plates) vs how the middle class (earthenware) and wealthy plantation owners (fine china and crystal) ate.



GMU's 8th Regiment Green Machine Band performs a Civil War-era waltz.

HIS TREE DAY



Children playing in a replica of an early 1800s maze made from sheaves of harvested grain.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Elias Ergas, 4, (on left) pulled apart two crossed sticks to make a ribbon-bedecked, wooden hoop fly into the air toward his brother, Isaac, 7 (at right), hoping to catch it with his sticks. They're playing a Civil War-era game called graces.



Melissa Beveridge beams while her delighted daughter, Jo Jo, 3, holds a monarch butterfly in the butterfly tent.



Pat McCann, arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts, gave away three types of native trees.



Maryam Dadkhah, with Plant NoVa Natives, told people the benefits of planting native species and gave them information about pollinators



Discussing Fairfax City's Urban Forest Master Plan and photo contest are Garrett Wolf, a consultant on the plan, and Urban Forestry Stewardship Coordinator Sophia Chapin.



Meina Lites, 8, listens to Stephanie Kupka, Fairfax City's Sustainability Programs manager, explain how fertilizers and pesticides wash pollutants into streams and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. Kupka squirted water onto an Enviroscape to demonstrate her point.



Displaying the period pantry (from left) are Abra Kurt and Cora Lundgren, Britepaths' Food Security and Youth Programs manager.



JLVN members and menstrual-equity advocates Jennifer Boysko and Holly Seibold are excited about Britepaths' period pantry. From left are Sarah Staropoli, Miranda Lewis, Sukari Gaylor, Boysko, Seibold and Imani Myers.

Uniting to Help 'Those Needing It the Most'

Britepaths in Fairfax opens a period pantry.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's 2025 but, sadly, the needs of American females overall still come in second to those of males, and the federal government is trying to demonize the word, "equity." But in Virginia, and especially Fairfax County, women are doing their best to change things.

So it was with great fanfare and joy that nonprofit Britepaths celebrated the April 25 ribbon cutting of its "period pantry" inside its Fairfax headquarters. Its official name is the SNAP Gap Pantry because it provides items not covered by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits for low-income people.

The new addition is sponsored by the Junior League of Northern Virginia (JLVN), and Britepaths Executive Director Abra Kurt acknowledged both it and BRAWS (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters) in her opening remarks.

"We're so grateful for our partnership with Junior League," she said. "We have a long-standing commitment to providing for the needs of women and families, and BRAWS has also been a longtime supporter of that aspect of our work."

Period poverty affects an estimated two in five women in Northern Virginia, creating obstacles to their education, work and overall well being. So this pantry will help eliminate a barrier for area residents by providing consistent, dignified access to a range of women's health and hygiene products. And the JLVN has pledged to donate more than 8,000 period products to it annually.

"Britepaths has been around for 41 years," said Kurt. "We started as a homeless shelter in Fairfax in 1984. And when the county



JLVN and Britepaths personnel all posing together.

opened its own shelter, we transitioned to a soup kitchen and traveled between congregations and communities in the region. We later saw the need to provide more support for the people we serve. As the housing crisis started to skyrocket in the late '80s and '90s, we thought there'd be a need for more than just the emergency assistance we were providing.

"So we developed our wraparound support services, which include financial empowerment, workforce development and supports for children – such as our back-to-

school program, where we supply new backpacks and school supplies. And this year, for the first time, we're thrilled that we're also going to be able to provide period supplies as part of our back-to-school kits. Thank you all for making that possible."

JLVN President Erica Bledsoe said her group is a women's leadership organization currently focusing on women helping women. "Two out of five women have issues accessing menstrual products, and that's an essential need and should be free and accessible," she said. "So we were excited when

Britepaths reached out to us about this collaboration."

"This is our sixth period pantry, but we didn't have one in this Central Fairfax location," she continued. "I want to thank Imani Myers, our period pantry manager, for helping establish this, with support from Sarah Staropoli, our community council director. And I want to introduce Miranda Lewis, our incoming president as of June 1."

Next, Del. Holly Seibold (D-12), who



Holly Seibold



Jennifer Boysko



Abra Kurt



Erica Bledsoe

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Britepaths In Fairfax Opens a Period Pantry



Smiling faces after the ribbon cutting for Britepaths' new period pantry.

FROM PAGE 12

founded BRAWS, called Britepaths' new period pantry "amazing and just so wonderful to see." She said an article she read in 2015 about women getting suits from Dress for Success first opened her eyes to the problems females had obtaining menstrual supplies and undergarments – "essential items to help women get back on their feet and children to go to school."

Seibold then contacted several organizations, including Britepaths, to see if they needed these things, and they all said yes. So that same year, she held a collection drive at her house.

"The response was incredible," she said. "So many women were bringing things, we just held a party and called it 'Mardibras,' because it was around Mardi Gras time. The only entrance fee was to bring a pack of [sanitary] pads, tampons or a new bra – it was important for the dignity piece that it was new – and new underwear."

"So many people came that day, left items

on my doorstep if they couldn't make it then, and were saying, 'I've never thought about this. It never occurred to me that these were things people didn't have access to.' In addition, period products were taxed heavily, weren't provided at schools and weren't covered by WIC [supplemental nutrition for women and children] or Medicaid. Shelters weren't getting donations of these items because of the stigma, and most of their grant funding didn't cover menstrual supplies."

This situation seemed "shocking to people," said Seibold. "And because of that, BRAWS began growing in a grassroots way and exploded. I'm really proud of the work we did, because I feel like – 10 years later now – I've seen so much more effort and work in this space. We're able to talk about it, recognize it and ask people for these donations that could have been embarrassing, years ago."

She said she and Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38) were working together and wondered why Britepaths and various shelters were so in need of these items. And, said Seibold,

"That's when I found out that public policy doesn't really reflect the needs of women and girls."

"Jennifer was just elected [to the House of Delegates in 2016], and I contacted her, and we ended up meeting. And she said to me, 'I don't think the word 'menstruation' has ever been uttered in the halls of the General Assembly.' So [we worked on a bill together] and called it the Dignity Act because we were trying not to say, 'menstruation,' and because we thought it would be better received."

And they succeeded. Boysko introduced it in the Senate, and it was approved by the General Assembly and governor in 2020. Virginia's Menstrual Equity Act mandates all public schools provide free menstrual supplies in bathrooms in middle and high schools and is accessible in elementary schools. And since 2023, Virginia no longer taxes menstruation products.

"I ran on this topic and now I'm serving in the General Assembly [since 2023]," said Seibold. "So we've come really far in those

10 years, and I'm proud to be part of it. I'm also super happy about the destigmatization; and here we are now, able to help those who need it the most in the commonwealth." Then, thanking Britepaths and the JLVN for installing the new period pantry, she added, "This is an incredible feat, and I look forward to hearing what you're going to accomplish in the years ahead."

Speaking next was Boysko, now a senator. "When I got to the General Assembly in 2016, you would not talk about periods," she said. "There weren't many women who served. And I always look back at the work we've done on period poverty and menstrual equity as a real indication of what really matters to the people sitting in those seats."

"We have now normalized the conversation," she continued. "I recall that, the second year we carried the bill, the members of the committee got so uncomfortable that somebody claimed they were all late for a meeting – and then everybody ran out of the room. Seriously, they really did."

However, said Boysko, Seibold, now Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read and others unleashed a "grassroots storm" on social media and "shamed them into coming back and having a committee hearing about it."

"When we start talking about issues that matter to everyday women, we're making decisions about how we're spending our money and how we're able to access education and work. And when our nonprofits and civic organizations come together with us, we get meaningful public policy [done] that matters to the people living in our communities."

Boysko said Britepaths' new period pantry serves as an example, and it "makes a big difference to individuals having challenges accessing period products. Thank you all so much for the work you're doing every single day. It's a tough time financially for so many families in our communities, and you're all a lifeline."

♦ ♦ ♦

Menstrual products may be donated to Britepaths' period pantry, at 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, in Fairfax, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

2025 Cappies National Capital Area Nominations

FROM PAGE 8

Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Warner Smith, Dramaturgy, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Abeni Smith, Thomas Gay, and the TJTA Dramaturgy Team, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, Big Fish School Edition

Stage Management

Jasmine Downing, Evan Slider, Natalie Lanter, Maya Wade, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition

Lily Sarfaraz, Mimi Wise, and the GCTC SM Team, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Allie Vargo, Katherine Dailey, McLean High School, Amelie

Hailey Vuong, Riley Russian, Emily Schmitt, Harry Dunick, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Raymond Walker, Izzy Manicone, Amber Zhu, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Stage Crew

Gabe Acquavella, Jordi Tyler, and the Messina Resort Staff, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Dramahawks Run Crew, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

The Riverside Stage Crew, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

The GCTC Run Crew, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

A Certain Run Crew, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Ensemble in a Play

The Chorus, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

The Weird Sisters and the Drumming Divinations, Walt Whitman High School, Macbeth

Citizens of Laramie, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

The Rude Mechanicals, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Dogberry’s Watch, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Ensemble in a Musical

The Final 17, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition

Reno and her Angels, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

The “Poor” Ensemble, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

The Fates, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

The Follies, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Featured Actor in a Female Role in a Play

Ayah Ford, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Michelle Harris, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

Ashley Kennedy, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Ellen Lawton, Herndon High School, MACBETH Marli Palchik, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Featured Actor in a Male Role in a Play

Zerabruck Haile, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Tony Hillary, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Marshall Vogel-Rogers, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Noah McGuire, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Krishnan Patel, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

Featured Actor in a Female Role in a Musical

Gabriel Ayala, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Angelina Kaminsky, Wakefield High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Francesca Klesius, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

Grace Shaffer, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, Big Fish School Edition

Amaris Stokes, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition

Featured Actor in a Male Role in a Musical

Matthew Aslaksen, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

Rigley Mostafavi, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Jack Rodstrom, James Madison High School, Mean Girls High School Version

Ella Tysse, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, Big Fish School Edition

Nico Velasco-Kent, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Dancer in a Female Role

Cassie DellaVedova, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition

Caty Jewell, Woodgrove High School , Mamma Mia!

Nealah Malmstrom, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Ava Taylor, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Hope Titus, McLean High School, Amelie

Dancer in a Male Role

Kamdi Aghazu, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Isiah Alston-Gambrell, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Iskandar Aoun, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting

Nate Kauffman, Quince Orchard High School, Mamma Mia!

Hudson Koonce, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress

Vocalist in a Female Role

Lea Ahrens, South County High School, A Chorus Line: Teen Edition

Lilli McNerney, Westfield High School, The Sound of Music

Angela R. Fuentes Quinteros, Annandale High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Itsuko Scoville, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress

Josie Sinniger, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Vocalist in a Male Role

Nate Borrowman, James Madison High School, Mean Girls High School Version

Prajeet Chitty, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, Big Fish School Edition

Donovan Furey, Bishop Ireton, Guys and Dolls

Andrew Serrano-Bremer, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Zachary Ulman, Langley High School, Beauty and the Beast

Comic Actor in a Female Role in a Play

Emma Carr, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Juliana Gurrola, Woodson High School, Lear by William Shakespeare

Kaitlyn Lanigan, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

Eudora Neal, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Lydia Wester, Clarksburg High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Comic Actor in a Male Role in a Play

Alex Fulgham, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Ben Harper, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Mekhi Lee, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Mauro Manganello, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Jojo Smothers, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

Comic Actor in a Female Role in a Musical

Scarlett Anthony, Westfield High School, The Sound of Music

Savannah Day, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Kira Gilligan, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting

Grace Rodstrom, James Madison High School, Mean Girls High School Version

Sasha Wendell, Falls Church High School, The Addams Family

Comic Actor in a Male Role in a Musical

Noelle Brosnan, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting

Marcello Canniff, Annandale High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Romain Dairay, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Chase Danzenbaker, Independence High School, Once Upon a One More Time (High School Version)

Syd DeWitt, Wakefield High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Supporting Actor in a Female Role in a Play

Holland Hasle, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Sofi Hemmens, Justice High School, Almost, Maine

Ambriah Jenkins, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Laramie Project

Kathryn Whitis, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Sophia Wiegold, Thomas A. Edison High School, Peter Pan and Wendy

Supporting Actor in a Male Role in a Play

Aiden Brennan, Woodson High School, Lear by William Shakespeare

Ben Demase, Loudoun Valley High School, Peter and the Starcatcher

Jack Kreul, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Nataline Phillips, West Springfield High School, Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic

Nate Wheeler Smith, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Supporting Actor in a Female Role in a Musical

Giovana Abdo, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Ella Brown, Robinson Secondary School, Tuck Everlasting

Gwyneth Kemeny, James Madison High School, Mean Girls High School Version

Allison Payne, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Mariam Trigui, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Supporting Actor in a Male Role in a Musical

David Garcia, Chantilly High School, Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical

Jeremiah Gates, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Alex Valencic, McLean High School, Amelie

Drew Wright, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

Aden Wright, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Lead Actor in a Female Role in a Play

Nora Blythe, Herndon High School, MACBETH

Murphy Finnegan, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Kat Pascual, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Charlotte Willmore, Woodson High School, Lear by William Shakespeare

Lead Actor in a Male Role in a Play

Bo Chatterjee, Herndon High School, MACBETH

Isaac Frenza, Fairfax High School, Much Ado About Nothing

Jeffrey Henderson, Riverside High School, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - High School Edition

Nathaniel Howard, Lake Braddock Secondary School, The Trojan Women

Hugo Ratheau, Meridian High School, A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish

Lead Actor in a Female Role in a Musical

Cam Carter, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

Camille Dausch, Chantilly High School, Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical

Elsa Harlor, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Bella Houston, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

Clara Neag, South Lakes High School, Once Upon a Mattress

Lead Actor in a Male Role in a Musical

Aquilles Ailus, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Colt Armstrong, Falls Church High School, The Addams Family

August Carr, Wakefield High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Nathaniel Dosen, Annandale High School, Little Shop of Horrors

Seger Ott-Rudolph, Albert Einstein High School, The Secret Garden

Song

No One is Alone, Oakton High School, Into the Woods

Anything Goes, Yorktown High School, Anything Goes

Wait For Me, Colgan High School, Hadestown: Teen Edition

I Got Rhythm, Hayfield Secondary School, Crazy for You

Run, Freedom, Run!, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Urinetown

Critic Team

Centreville High School

Langley High School

Oakton High School

South Lakes High School

Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology

Play

A Midsummer Night’s Dream-ish, Meridian High School

Puffs: Or: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic, West Springfield High School

MACBETH, Herndon High School

Much Ado About Nothing, Fairfax High School

The Laramie Project, Duke Ellington School of the Arts

The Trojan Women, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Musical

Hadestown: Teen Edition, Colgan High School

Anything Goes, Yorktown High School

Into the Woods, Oakton High School

Once Upon a Mattress, South Lakes High School

Urinetown, Our Lady of Good Counsel

Crazy for You, Hayfield Secondary School.

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Cruelty But Not Guilty

Dog owner describes beating as self-defense due to dog bite.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Warning, this story includes disturbing descriptions of animal cruelty.

Suspense unfolded like a Hollywood thriller as Animal Protection Police Officer A.M. DeMilio's body-worn camera footage played out in a circuit court trial room on April 22. The Commonwealth of Virginia's case involved an October 2023 class 6 felony charge for the torture/maiming of a dog by its owner. The dog had been beaten about the head, choked and left for dead; concealed by rocks, clothing and brush along a wooded trail, according to testimony. If not for the rapid actions of APPO DMilio, the dog would not have survived. Ultimately, several others, officers and civilians, would join the list of dog heroes who kept this dog alive. The dog is now happily in foster care and soon will be ready for adoption.

Commonwealth's Attorney Paul Vitale set the scene in the courtroom. A call had come into Fairfax County's Animal Protection Police from concerned resident Jack Paul. He had encountered a couple in the woods behind his house, camping out with a dog. They told Paul the dog was hungry. Paul went to get dog food and water for the hungry dog, returning within the hour. But he found the couple and camp site gone, and heard the labored breathing of an animal covered by debris. He called it in. Others might not have bothered to call; most might not have returned with food for a hungry dog. Paul, though not knowing for sure what was under that debris, became the dog's first hero; making sure it was not left to suffer.



PHOTO COURTESY FC POLICE DEPT

Dog cruelty victim greets his rescuer and accepts a treat at the animal shelter after his release from the veterinary hospital

Officer DeMilio's body worn camera shows her on foot moving swiftly along the trail, responding to the call; searching. As she nears the site, the video shows a blanketed pile; the sounds of loud heavy breathing obvious, even from a distance. DeMilio

begins urgently throwing off the rocks, brush, leaves, cloth, a stuffed teddy bear, repeating, "Oh Buddy, Oh Buddy, It's going to be alright. It's okay." As she speaks comfortingly, the dog is barely moving; blood is visible on its head, on the stones. Its breathing is labored. The officer tries to lift the dog but realizes his weight and injuries require a stretcher. She tells the dog she will return. The video shows her pumping arms running back to the police van, then running back with the stretcher to the dog. A neighbor appears and assists in carrying the stretchered dog back to the van. DeMilio drives to Pender Veterinary's emergency care. Her actions to quickly get the dog to medical care were lifesaving.

Alerted to the incoming injury, emergency veterinarian Dr. George Mikhael was waiting and met the police van. He described the dog's condition on arrival as exhibiting significant pain, requiring increasing levels of sedation. He also found the dog struggling to breathe; requiring intubation and oxygen. Mikhael described a bone fracture below the eye, swelling of the eye itself, airways filled with blood, and several other injuries; injuries he described as consistent with beating and choking. He described his patient's condition as guarded; meaning high risk of death. Mikhael and another Pender veterinarian, Dr. Rebecca Spear, would become the dog's next heroes. Providing veterinary medical care over the course of many days, they saved the dog's life.

What preceded the dog's beating? The owner testified that the dog had bitten into his arm suddenly, in an unprovoked attack.

SEE CRUELTY, PAGE 19

37th Annual Candlelight Vigil for Fallen Officers

National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum Fund says 2024 numbers increase by 25% compared to 2023.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday evening, May 13, a steady rain poured down during the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum Fund's 37th Annual Candlelight Vigil held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Undeterred, from shortly after 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., the memorial fund's board of directors and special guests from across the United States read aloud sections of the "Roll Call of Heroes" to honor the sacrifice of the 345 fallen officers whose names were added to the Memorial Wall this April. Four fallen Virginian officers unexpectedly died in service to their communities, leaving behind their wives, families, and friends to live without them.

Chief Kevin Davis of the Fairfax County Police Department joined in reading a roll call section. It is the list of officers killed in the line of duty whose names are newly engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial as of April 2025.

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In its release, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reported that the "Roll Call of Heroes 2025" honored 148 federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers

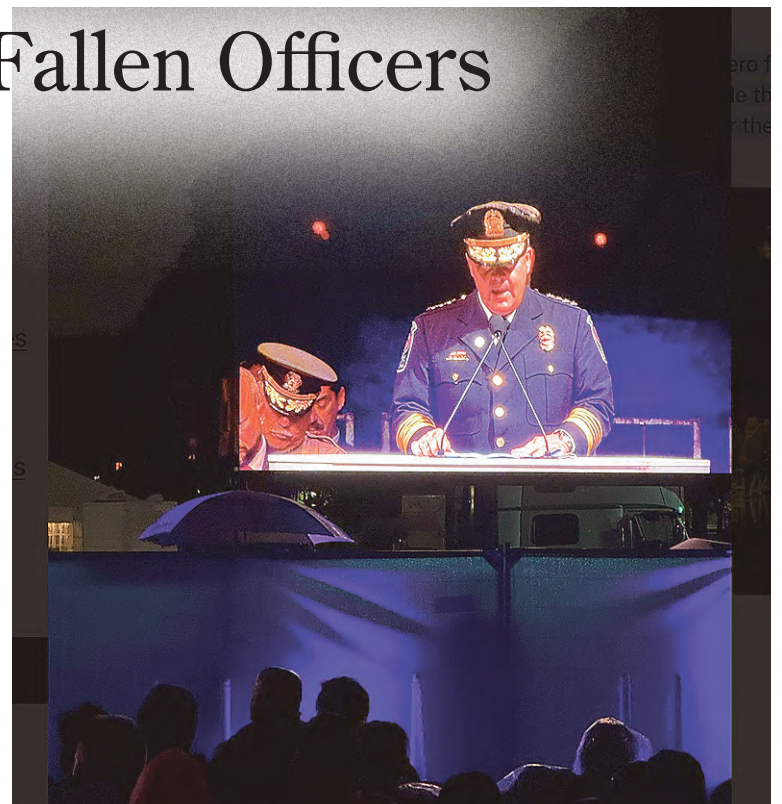
who died in the line of duty in 2024. It also listed the names of 197 officers from previous years, as far back as 1834; these were recently approved by the research department of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

"As we gather again to honor our fallen officers, we're reminded not only of the lives they gave, but of the unwavering devotion that led them to serve," William Alexander, ceo of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, said in an April 2 newsroom release.

Four Virginia officers' names, departments, and end-of-watch dates are newly engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Names of Virginia Officer Fatalities Added to the Memorial Wall, April 2025:

Sergeant Floyd H. Miles Jr., suffered a fatal heart



SCREENSHOT:

Chief Kevin Davis of the Fairfax County Police Department reads a section of the Roll Call during the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum Fund's 37th Annual Candlelight Vigil held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

SEE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, PAGE 19

BURKE / FAIRFAX / FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON / SPRINGFIELD ♦ MAY 22 - JUNE 4, 2025 ♦ 15

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 Washington's original five farms



A Rose & Photography Show takes place May 24-25, 2025 at Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax.

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.

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>

MAY 10-JUNE 15

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

MAY 24-25

Rose & Photography Show. 1-4 p.m. At Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Arlington Rose Foundation cordially invites all rose lovers to view an amazing judged exhibition of roses and rose photographs with over \$1,600 in awards of cash, gift certificates, functional products and decorative items. Opened to public with Silent Auction, photography shoot and your rose questions answered by top growers. Rose bouquets offered to new members.

SUNDAY/MAY 25

Mysteries at the Museum. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Join Conductor Mario and the Mystery Hunter Volunteers at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum for Mysteries at the Museum! This fun filled event will test your knowledge on railroad artifacts. Place your hand in the mystery box and guess what artifact is hidden inside. Need a hint our Mystery Hunter Volunteers are there to provide some clues. Spend time with Conductor Mario as he runs a train that contains special treats! If you ask, you might be able to be a Junior Conductor for a few turns around the track. Don't mind getting your hands dirty stop by the 'Hands on Table' and learn how to 'clean up' an artifact, there may be some for you to work on and take home. Admission: Museum members and children 4 and



The Burke Historical Society meets on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at Woods Community Center in Burke.



A Used Book Sale takes place May 29-31, 2025 at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield.

under, free. Ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4. Military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225

organization. Funds raised support children's and adult programming at Richard Byrd Library. For more info: rbfriends@gmail.com

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/>

MAY 31 TO JUNE 29

Illuminations: A Retrospective by Rosemarie Forsythe. At Reston Art Gallery. Opening reception on June 8. Forsythe's artworks celebrate nature and science, using acrylic, flashe paint, and 23k gold leaf to evoke a sense of magic and mystery.

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Forest Bathing. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy.,

www.connectionnewspapers.com


ENTERTAINMENT




The Clifton 5K Run will take place on Saturday, June 14, 2025 in the Town of Clifton.



Three-time Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown performs on Saturday, June 14 at The Alden in McLean.



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR



Tickets: \$25-\$40
Student & Military
Discounts Available

Show Times
May 10 - June 15, 2025

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

Alexandria. Forest Bathing is a slow, mindful immersion in nature. This practice is deeply grounding and has many health benefits. The total distance traveled is often less than a mile. Cost: \$30. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org/upcomingevents>

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT RCP SITES

In recognition of Historic Preservation Month, the Fairfax County Park Authority is hosting several events at historic properties across the county. Resident curators at these properties invite community members to learn about the ways in which they are working to preserve Fairfax County’s heritage.

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On Saturday, May 31, open house events will be held at the following resident curator properties:
The Stempson House, located at 9501 Furnace Road, Lorton.
The Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi House, located at 10605 Furnace Road, Lorton.

The open house events will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and resident curators will be on site to share the history of the homes and the future of the properties. Limited on-site parking will be available at each site.

In addition to the open houses on May 31, ServiceSource, the nonprofit curator for the Ellmore Farmhouse, continues to offer recurring house tours every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These

tours will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the work that ServiceSource does within the community and to see the adaptive reuse of Ellmore Farmhouse, located at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon

SENIOR MOVIE DAY

Reston Association presents Senior Movie Day. Join them on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Coffee, donuts and OJ are provided, and door prizes are distributed prior to the movie.

Doors: 9:00 a.m., Movie at 10 a.m.
Location: Movie theater at Reston Town Center

May 28: Featuring, Priscilla
June 25: Featuring: Summer Camp Dive-In Movies
June 26, featuring, Kung Fu Panda 4
July 10, featuring, The Wild Robot
Aug. 6 featuring, Moana 2

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
McGuireWoods 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>

JUNE 5-22

August Wilson’s The Piano Lesson. At 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Set in 1930s Pittsburgh, Berniece and her brother, Boy Willie, navigate the complexities of their past and the weight of their future, all centered around an heirloom piano with a story of its own. Show times: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25 (limited availability), \$40

(limited availability), and \$55. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

SUNDAY/JUNE 8

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Clifton 5K Run. 6-9 p.m. In the Town of Clifton: A 5K, 1-mile Fun Run, and a post-race party with live music, awards, snacks, and suds. Online registration will remain open through Race Day. Cost: 5K:\$25 per person; 1-Mile Fun Run:\$20 per person. The pick-up times for t-shirts and runners bags are Friday, June 13, from 5 pm to 7 pm and Saturday (race day) at 4 pm at the Red Barn (7139 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124). Visit the website: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Clifton/CliftonCaboose>

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

3co Fest. 12-2 p.m. At Three Collective in Falls Church. 3co Fest is a free festival featuring a maker’s market, dog activities, food trucks and more. Designed to help creative professionals thrive, 3co’s ‘activators’ including Ex Miss USA Noelia Voight, Frank in the City and Woofbowl will host the many themed aspects of this lifestyle event. This newly finished community is at the heart of the Bailey’s Crossroads revitalization and is the culmination of a shared vision between local government and developers to reimagine underused office space.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Hope Rising: Concert for a Better World. 5 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax

(UUCF), 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Mosaic Harmony and UUCF are coming together for a powerful fundraising concert filled with HOPE, harmony, and a vision for a better world. This special event marks Mosaic Harmony’s 31st Annual Spring Concert and features the inspiring voices of UUCF’s Choir. Tickets: \$30/adult; \$10/ages 9-18; \$70/family of four or more; free/children 8 and under.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Jason Robert Brown Performs. 7 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Three-time, Tony Award-winning composer and living legend of musical theater, Jason Robert Brown, performs an intimate evening filled with musical brilliance. ‘Jason Robert Brown and Friends’ offers a close-up look at the career of the composer, director, orchestrator and lyricist. Hear anecdotes and personal insights from the man who wrote “Parade,” “The Bridges of Madison County,” “The Last Five Years,” “Honeymoon in Vegas,” “13” and other favorites. He will be joined by his longtime trio and special guests. Visit the website, aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 15

Washington Balalaika Presents “Fairytale!” 3 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons Corner. Audiences will be tantalized by stories from around the world, brought to life by the powerful voice of soprano Olga Orlovskaya and the spell-binding playing of balalaika virtuoso Andrei Saveliev. The concert includes familiar pieces such as Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade, Tchaikovsky’s “Dance of the Buffoons,” music from Borodin’s opera, “Prince Igor,” and two pieces from Bizet’s opera, “Carmen.” To purchase tickets, go to www.balalaika.org

JUNE 16 TO AUG. 15

2025 Summer Art Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 2025 Summer Art Camps at Workhouse Arts Center for ages 6-16. Spots are filling

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 18



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Legals

**City of Fairfax
Urgent Election Notice**

The registration deadline to vote in the June 17, 2025 Democratic Party Primary is Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at <https://elections.virginia.gov>. Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10455 Armstrong Street, Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 703-385-7890.

Announcements

Announcements

**Hearings for the Town of Clifton, Virginia
Proposed FY2026 Town Budget
June 3, 2025**

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold Public Hearings on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 7:30PM at the Town Hall at 12641 Chapel Rd. to consider the proposed FY2026 Town Budget.

The FY2026 proposed Town Budget will be posted on the Town's website at cliftonva.gov and a hardcopy will be posted at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearings to express their views with respect to the proposed FY2026 Town Budget. Written comments may be submitted via email to clerk@cliftonva.gov and via regular U.S. mail to P.O. Box 309, Clifton, VA, 20124 no later June 3, 2025. Written comments will be entered into the record but will not be read aloud.

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News

Homelessness

FROM PAGE 3

In addition, in 2025: 10,804 individuals were rapidly rehoused; 17,959 persons were served in permanent supportive housing, and 5,456 persons were served in other permanent housing. This brings the regional total of persons previously experiencing homelessness in 2025 to 34,219. The significant number of people placed in permanent housing has constrained the incidence of homelessness in the region and helped prevent it from growing unchecked. Conclusion: This is the sixth year conducting the annual enumeration since the COVID-19 public health emergency began. The results during the period of 2020 to 2025 provide further evidence that strategies the region's CoCs are implementing when scaled up and fully funded are effective in preventing and ending homelessness."

Point-in-Time counts are conducted in all U.S. states and territories. They are required for each Continuum of Care (CoC) regional grouping. 2025 Point-in-Time Homeless Count results are summarized in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' publication Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness. The year 2025 marks the 25th consecutive year that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee conducted a regional Point-in-Time (PIT) enumeration of the area's residents experiencing homelessness.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia.

Entertainment

FROM PAGE 17

fast—secure your child's summer adventure today! Get ready for 9 unforgettable weeks of creativity and fun! Workhouse Arts Center's 2025 Art Camp kicks off June 16, offering dynamic, hands-on experiences for young artists, performers, and musicians. Whether your child joins us for one week or all nine, they'll explore new passions and build lasting friendships.

Choose Your Track:
Visual Arts – From clay to canvas, campers dive into a world of color and creativity.
Theater – Lights, camera, action! Budding performers learn acting,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19
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Cruelty

FROM PAGE 15

The owner testified that neither he nor his partner were able to get the dog to release, until the owner says he beat the dog with a stone about the head. He further testified he believed the dog was dead and they broke camp and he sought medical treatment for the bite at a nearby hospital.

The hospital treated the man's injuries and reported the dog bite, as required. A second Animal Police Officer responding to the hospital found the owner uncooperative and unwilling to disclose the location of the dog. Only later would the two officers connect the injured dog left for dead with the reported dog bite.

At the trial, the owner's female companion did not appear. Others who encountered the dog over the course of the case, from the police officer through veterinary and animal shelter staff, did not experience any aggressive behavior from the dog.

In his ruling, Judge Timothy J. McEvoy inferred that the dog might have reacted in protection of the owner's female partner, with whom the dog had a strong bond, finding the owner's account not credible.

The cruelty case would play out over a year and a half of hearings, continuances, and grand jury certification for trial, to reach the circuit court room on April 22 and 23. The owner testified he beat and choked the dog in self defense after its unprovoked attack. Scars on his arm verify the bite which required five or six stitches. The owner justified his covering the dog by believing it was dead, and tying it to a tree "In case he got



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION
APPO A.M. DeMilio acted swiftly to locate the severely injured dog and get it to life saving care

up, he wouldn't bite someone as he bit me." He testified he didn't seek help for the dog because he thought it was dead.

The Commonwealth pointed to many inconsistencies in the owners testimony, and two sets of cruelty: striking and choking that was unnecessarily severe; and covering the dog and leaving it seriously injured to die in pain.

In his ruling, Judge McEvoy accepted the Commonwealth's argument that torture had occurred and that the owner was not credible in several statements in his account of the events. However, he accepted the defense arguments that the beating occurred during the dog's attack, acknowledging the owner's self-defense claim. The judge explained he found abandonment of the severely injured dog "reprehensible" but that the law "does not criminalize abandonment." He explained that failure to provide



PHOTO COURTESY FC POLICE DEPT
The dog is in foster care and will soon be available for adoption.

veterinary service does not rise to the level of felony cruelty under the law. The owner was found not guilty of felony cruelty.

For the same cruelty incident, a woman also was arrested Oct. 12, 2023 and charged with misdemeanor cruelty to animals, as an accessory to the same alleged felony crime. Her case, heard by the court on June 24, 2024 resulted in a ruling of "guilty in absentia." She was assessed a \$2,000 fine, plus court costs, and banned from owning companion animals in future.

The dog's ownership was surrendered to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in 2024. He is currently placed with a foster home and is expected to soon be available for permanent adoption. Find him listed soon with other available dogs at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/adopt-dog>.

He had a different name at the time of the incident. In his new life, his name is Noodles.

Candlelight Vigil

FROM PAGE 15

attack while struggling with a subject inside an ambulance in 2024. Deputy Sheriff Hunter D. Reedy was shot and killed while assisting officers from the Marion Police Department with a traffic stop in 2024. Correctional Officer Joel Legaspi suffered a fatal subarachnoid hemorrhage after working mandatory overtime hours at the Indian Creek Medical Center in 2018. Warden Earl R. Barksdale died as a result of contracting COVID-19 while serving at the Baskerville Correctional Center in 2020.

The memorial includes a panel/line location for their names. The nonprofit National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund maintains the memorial.

There is a 25 percent increase in the num-

ber of law enforcement professionals nationwide who died in the line of duty in 2024, compared to 2023, according to preliminary data gathered by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Preliminary data revealed that 148 federal, state, county, municipal, military, tribal, and U.S. territories officers died in the line of duty in 2024, compared to the 118 officers who died in the line of duty in 2023.

With this year's names added, the memorial includes 24,412 officers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, federal law enforcement, and university and military police organizations.

A Breakdown of Leading Officer 2024 Fatalities [Source: 2024 End of Year Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report]

❖ Firearms-related deaths were the lead-

ing cause of death: 52 officers killed in 2024, a 13 percent increase compared to the 46 officers killed by gunfire in 2023. An examination of the firearms-related fatalities reveals that the leading circumstance is traffic enforcement, which accounted for nine fatalities, followed closely by eight fatalities each for attempting arrest and serving felony or misdemeanor warrants, civil papers, or evictions. As for firearms-related fatalities, 27 involved a handgun.

❖ Traffic-related fatalities: 46 officer deaths in 2024, an increase of 48 percent compared to 31 deaths in 2023.

❖ The other three most significant causes of officer fatalities in 2024 are that 35 officers' fatalities were physically related, four officers drowned, and four were beaten to death.

Label Me Incredulous



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I never thought I'd say this - or live long enough to say it, but I'm practically out of those return-address labels that we all were inundated with a decade or so ago (much less so nowadays). Like many people, I suppose, I kept the return-address labels - that were offered up as an inducement/shame/guilt/awareness even, of certain charitable pursuits and have used them regularly ever since. The labels were a quid pro quo/presumptive "thank you" of sorts (as were light bulbs, notepads, appointment books as well as miscellaneous pins/medallions/keepsakes and too many others to list - or remember; fireman, disabled, police officers, et cetera, I just remembered) to us to encourage us to mail a check to their organization. As a result of their unsolicited outreach, I had sheets of return-address labels that I placed in my desk drawer. Now, unbelievably so, that drawer is nearly empty of labels.

When I first started receiving these return-address labels, I was, give or take, in a diagnostic process which ultimately led to me being "prognosed" with a "13 month to two years" life expectancy: non-small cell lung cancer stage IV. Which made Kenny a very dull boy and one without too many years to live. At age 54 and a half, no less. But amazingly life has gone on. I have balanced (or tried to) the present with the maybe-having-a future. Rather than shut it down/woe is me, I decided to live like I was living (not 'live like I was dying'), that is, living with a future: a future with bills to pay and return addresses to provide. The onslaught of these return-address labels was, as my late mother used to say: "Too much for anybody's nerves." I exaggerate when I characterize their in-home penetration as overwhelming, but the frequency with which these labels/solicitations arrived in our mailbox - and requests for a contribution, was almost comical. They became, to me anyway, a kind of white-whale-type noise. After a while, I ignored the message and took the labels, only occasionally making a contribution.

Now I am down to my last sheet, actually, my last two return-address labels. Based on my diagnosis and "terminal" prognosis, I had no statistical reason to think I'd outlive my accumulation of these return-address labels. Nor did I ever think I'd live to see the completion of the ICC, but I have. Now I wonder if I'll ever see the completion of the Metro's new Purple Line. Having said/written that, I now have to say something that I've never had to say before: I need some return-address labels.

Here again, as I sit and stare at my computer waiting for results of today's every four-week lab work, I am still struggling/juggling my thoughts about life and death, the past, present and the future and where I fit. But this is nothing new. I've been through it going on 16 and half years. And though I'm very experienced at dealing with this sort of emotion, believe it or not, it doesn't get any easier. Familiar, sure. And it's never more familiar than when I use my return-address labels. When I affix a label, it takes me back to late February 2009 when I first received that "terminal" diagnosis. It's where I am now. Still, I can't help wondering if it's where I'll be later.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

directing, and playwriting. Music & Dance – Let the rhythm move you with vocals, instruments, and high-energy dance. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/camps>

SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Craft Fun. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Join craft experts at Fairfax

Station Railroad Museum for Whirling Wonders. Create a DIY Pinwheel Craft. This fun and easy project is perfect for some summer fun. Just like the wheels on the train, the pinwheels you can create will spin gracefully in the breeze. Or make a 'flower' pinwheel stake for a garden pot, even a pinwheel wreath. Not all will spin, but the beauty of what your family will create is sure to fill all with joyful memories. All supplies are included, one craft per person while supplies last. Admission: Museum Members

and children 4 and under, free. Ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older \$5, \$6 for special events. Seniors, \$4. Military, active and retired, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXS-RR, 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Workhouse Fireworks Festival. 4-10 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center is thrilled to announce the return of Northern Virginia's largest and most antic-

ipated summer celebration—the Workhouse Fireworks Festival. This free, family-friendly festival draws thousands annually for its high-energy live music, carnival games, interactive art zones, food trucks, and a dazzling fireworks finale that lights up the Northern Virginia sky. Headlining this year is local favorite The Outer Loop, bringing danceable hits across the decades, along with DJs, a new art-themed mini golf course, and even a dunk tank featuring the CEO!

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