

# THE CONNECTION

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

## McLean Community Center Turns 50

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## Cappies: The Play's the Thing

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One of the youngest of the McLean Community Center's youth dance classes performs as the Center celebrates its 50th anniversary on Saturday, May 17, during McLean Day 2025.

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 13 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

MAY 21 - JUNE 3, 2025

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# Endorsements for Walkinshaw for Congress

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ames 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

**T**he 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.

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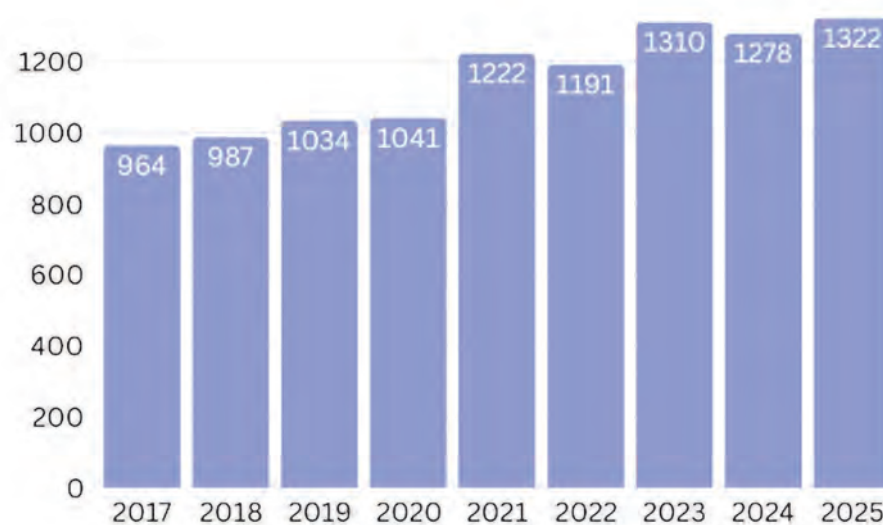
**Survey volunteers and outreach workers, like the woman in the blue vest, interview people experiencing homelessness during the Point-in-Time Count.**

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

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# Chantilly, Centreville High Nominated for Cappies

The local high schools have a long reputation for excellence in theater, and Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield have just received a total of 12 Cappies nominations. Westfield High's six nods were for its musical, "The Sound of Music." Chantilly High's four were for its musical, "Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical," and

Centreville High's two were for its Cappies critics.

The Cappies Gala will be Monday, June 2, at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., at which time the winners will be revealed. Centreville and Chantilly students are competing for these awards against students from many other schools in the National Capital Area.

## Westfield's nominations

Scarlett Anthony – Comic Actor, Female Role in a Musical  
Lilli McNeerney – Vocalist in a Female Role  
Chloe Lupo, Rachael Shore, and The Westfield Set Team – Sets  
Anusha Krishnan, Arsema Kelkey, and The Westfield Publicity Team – Marketing and Publicity  
Mary Campbell – Maryland Theater Guide Returning Critic

Iris Cooper – Andy Mays Rising Critic

## Chantilly's nominations

Camille Dausch – Lead Actor, Female Role in a Musical  
David Garcia – Supporting Actor, Male Role in a Musical  
Mary Clare Pelczynski, Sam Wolff – Choreography

Macie Brooks, Sam Cole – Lighting

## Centreville's nominations

### Critic Team

Madelyn Regan – Maryland Theater Guide Returning Critic  
— BONNIE HOBBS

# 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 Kelkey, 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 Tochterman, 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 15

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIE LINDNER

This display honoring female patriots is in the Centreville Regional Library until the end of May.

# DAR Chapter Honors Notable Revolutionary Women

**Patriotic display now in Centreville Regional Library.**

BY JENNIE LINDNER  
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence, the Lane's Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has placed a special display in the Centreville Regional Library. Focusing on five women who served the patriotic cause during the American Revolution,

it'll be up until the end of this month. Below are some details of these women:

- ❖ Deborah Sampson, (Massachusetts, 1860-1827). She was self-educated, working as a teacher in the summers of 1779/1780 and a weaver during the winters. She wanted to support the Revolutionary War, so she disguised herself as a man and joined the patriot forces. As the only woman to earn a full military pension for her participation in the American Revolutionary Army, she's remembered for her heroism on and off the battlefields.
- ❖ Sarah Martin Tyonajanegan "Two Kettles Together," (Oneida tribe, New York, circa 1740-1824). She fought alongside her Oneida chief at the Battle of Oriskany,

Explore the potential impact of school boundary changes; three scenarios provided

## FCPS School Boundary Scenario Explorer

Fairfax County Public Schools plans to update the school boundary change scenarios this summer. The division offers an interactive "FCPS Boundary Review Scenario Explore" tool at <https://www.fcpsboundaryreview.org/>. Enter a home address to view the proposed "initial" boundary change scenarios.

— MERCIA HOBSON

Aug. 6, 1777. She and other Oneida women went behind British lines, warning the Mohawk Valley settlements about the British. She's remembered as a heroine of the Oneida Indian.

- ❖ Mary Ludwig Hays "Molly Pitcher," (New Jersey or Pennsylvania, Oct. 13,

1754-Jan. 22, 1832). She's acknowledged for her noble efforts during the Revolutionary War. During the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, she was nicknamed "Molly Pitcher" because she brought water to the

SEE LIBRARY DISPLAY, PAGE 7

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# McLean Community Center Turns 50

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON / THE CONNECTION

## Early celebration at McLean Day 2025.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he McLean Community Center celebrated its 50th anniversary at Lewinsville Park on Saturday, May 17, during McLean Day 2025. State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38), Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan, Jr. (D-6), and Dranesville Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (D) presented resolutions honoring the community center, which has served Dranesville Small District 1A residents and others since October 1975.

Standing on the outdoor community stage in front of the seated crowd that overflowed to the grassy lawns and beyond, the elected officials described how the community center has been enriching the lives of all McLean residents through various educational and cultural activities.

"These facilities include the Alden Theatre, art galleries, studios, and spaces for community meetings and events, as well as the award-winning Old Firehouse Center, a dynamic space for our teens and our families," Boysko said.

Sullivan explained that the community center hosts popular events, including the annual McLean Day festival, the MPAartfest, and various antique and craft shows.

"The McLean Community Center has fulfilled its mission through the outstanding leadership of its all-volunteer governing board, support from the Friends of the McLean Community Center, and the hard work of countless volunteers involved in events and programs; therefore, be it resolved by the House of Delegates, with the Senate concurring, that the General Assembly hereby commends the McLean Community Center on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary," Sullivan read out loud to the crowd. Boysko and Sullivan held up Virginia House Resolution 691, which commends the McLean Community Center.

Bierman stated that his resolution was very similar to the one presented by Boysko and Sullivan and filled with numerous "whereas" clauses. He emphasized that the key point was the Board of Supervisors' approval to honor the 50th anniversary of the McLean Community Center with a resolution.

Residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville built and funded the McLean Community Center through a real estate tax surcharge. It opened in October of 1975. The district's residents elect an eleven-member Governing Board, which the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appoints to oversee MCC's budget and operations. The Governing Board of Elections was held on-site on Friday, May 16, from 4 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. during McLean Day 2025.

The annual McLean festival offered carnival rides, kids' rides, general exhibitions, a food court, a beer and wine garden, mar-



State Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan, Jr. (D-6), and State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38) read VA House Resolution 691, which commends the McLean Community Center on its 50th anniversary.



Spiderman and a princess join the posed photo with members of the McLean Governing Board and elected officials.



Some of the youngest of the McLean Community Center's youth dance class perform.



From left, State Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan, Jr. (D-6), State Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38), Betsy May-Salaza, executive director of the McLean Community Center, and Dranesville District Fairfax County Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (D) pose for photo.

ketplace exhibitors, a petting zoo, and more. This year, the community festival celebrated its 110th birthday. Sabrina Anwah, director of marketing and communications of McLean Center, estimated that the attendance would easily be 10,000, given the beautiful weather.

Wheat's Landscaping, Fairfax Connector, Fairfax County Park Authority, Rotary Club of McLean, MARS, McLean Properties, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Northwest Federal Credit Union, and Lafayette Federal Credit Union were the McLean Day 2025 sponsors.

**Members of the McLean Governing Board and (front row from second left) Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38), Betsy May-Salaza, executive director of the McLean Community Center, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (D), Del. Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan Jr. (D-6) pose for photo.**



It is a long line to the carnival ticket booth.



# Town of Vienna Holds Tax Rate Steady

At its regular meeting Monday, May 19, the Vienna Town Council adopted the Town budget, real estate tax rate, and water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2026. The adopted \$55.5-million balanced budget reflects a 3.2 percent increase over the current year's budget to manage inflationary pressures. It also:

- ❖ Maintains the property tax rate at 19.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value.
- ❖ Addresses operating cost increases, mainly through tax revenue increases related to the assessed value of new construction.
- ❖ Funds compensation increases for eligible employees.
- ❖ Eliminates one part-time position.

❖ Budgets \$200,000 for future Annex property needs.

Although the property tax rate remains unchanged, annual property tax bills will rise by an average of \$155 due to increased property assessments. Water and sewer rates will also increase by 7.25 percent.

The budget vote concludes a months-long process involving several Council work sessions and public hearings. This is the 13th consecutive year there was either no change or a reduction in Vienna's property tax rate.

The FY26 Town budget takes effect July 1, 2025. The adopted budget will be posted online at [www.viennava.gov/budget](http://www.viennava.gov/budget)

# Centreville Regional Library Patriotic Display

FROM PAGE 5

troops in the 4th Pennsylvania Artillery and took her husband William's place at the cannon when he was seriously wounded. A cannon shot even went through her petticoats. Gen. George Washington recognized her with the honorary rank of a non-commissioned officer.

❖ Abigail Adams, (Massachusetts, Nov. 22, 1744-Oct. 28, 1818). She was home-schooled by her mother, as women of that time did not have access to formal education. She married John Adams, a Revolutionary founding father, advised him on po-

litical issues and asked that he "Remember the Ladies" in passing new laws in the new American nation.

❖ Phyllis Wheatley, (Massachusetts, born in West Africa in 1763 and died in America in 1784). She was the first African American and enslaved woman to publish a book of poetry, and it reflected the ideals of the American Revolution. She began publishing her writings in 1767 in local newspapers and challenged the view of society on slavery and the intellectual abilities of African Americans. Abolitionists referenced her writings throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.



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COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE



SCREENSHOT SOURCE [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAIRFAXCOUNTYFIRERESCUE](https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyfirerescue)  
**HazMat crash contaminated stream and soil in Great Falls**

According to a Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCa) newsletter, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman told them on April 29 that VDOT agreed to restrict Leigh Mill Road truck size to forty feet. On April 3, a diesel and gasoline tanker truck driver lost control on Leigh Mill Road at the one-lane bridge near Kelso Road, crashing the truck. It caused a hazardous material incident as diesel and gasoline poured out of the ruptured area on the truck. Randy Chapman, site manager for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, said the trucking firm received a Notice of Violation.

VDOT to Limit Truck Size on Leigh Mill Road, Great Falls



SCREENSHOT SOURCE GFCa

A Virginia Department of Environmental Quality contractor excavated and stored non-significantly polluted dirt for sampling and disposal beyond the floodplain.

Contaminated dirt was placed into roll-off containers for off-site treatment. The soil around the bridge abutment and roadside was examined. VDOT deemed the 40-foot truck limit suitable and will go into effect after fabricating and placing the signage. “We expect the sign fabrication to take 90 days and placement this summer,” VDOT emailed Supervisor James Bierman, according to the newsletter by GFCa.

— MERCIA HOBSON

McLean Project for the Arts Elects New Board Members

McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) announced the appointment of four new members to their Board of Directors who bring their expertise to MPA Board of Directors.

The new members are:

- ❖ Mary Davis (McLean, VA): Artist and community leader
- ❖ Ruston Desai (McLean, VA): Art enthusiast and visiting faculty, Cornell University’s Johnson College of Business

- ❖ Carla Seebald (Washington, DC): Community leader and long-time MPA volunteer and contributor
- ❖ Cindy Smith: (Great Falls, VA):

Community leader and longtime MPA volunteer and contributor

❖ Pamela Danner will again chair the 41-person board. Jane Imperatore, Helen Frederick, and Alicia Bond will continue in their executive leadership positions as vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, respectfully.

For a full list of MPA board members, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tour de Hunter Mill 2025, Fifth Anniversary Bike Ride

Two cyclists pause with Fairfax County Board Supervisor Walter Alcorn for this photo op after cruising the new access trail to the Herndon Metro Station in Reston with him. Despite the dreary and wet weather on Sunday, May 4, the Tour de Hunter Mill celebrated its fifth anniversary. Alcorn joined the 60-plus cyclists on the tour that showcased many areas in Hunter Mill, including the W&OD Trail and the new bridge on the trail over Wiehle Avenue.

— MERCIA HOBSON



FACEBOOK.COM TOWN OF VIENNA

Vienna Farmers Market Opens

The Vienna Farmers Market opened for the 2025 season on May 3 with Mayor Linda Colbert, council members and the members of the Optimist Club cutting the ribbon.

— MERCIA HOBSON



## COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY CAROL BRANSON

Neighbors gather in a backyard for their monthly seasonal potluck — sharing fresh, homemade dishes under open skies, where good food and fresh air nourish more than just appetites.

# Fresh Air, Fresh Food

The simple health ritual bringing neighbors together.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

In a Vienna neighborhood just off Tapawingo Road, a love of seasonal food has quietly evolved into a beloved local ritual. The scents of root vegetables slathered with olive oil and sprinkled with rosemary or apple cider simmering in a crockpot often waft through homes any given Sunday evening. But these aren't just cozy family dinners. They're part of a small, heartwarming tradition that's brought a group of neighbors closer than ever: a monthly seasonal potluck born out of a shared love for fresh, local food.

It began modestly two years ago when longtime resident Carol Branson invited a few nearby neighbors to walk with her to the Vienna Farmers Market on Church Street one Saturday morning. "It was more about the company than the shopping," Carol admits with a laugh. "But we came back with so many heirloom tomatoes, we figured we had to do something about it."

From that spontaneous walk sprouted a tradition. Now, a rotating group of seven to ten neighbors primarily from Tapawingo Road and the surrounding blocks meets at the market once or twice a month from late spring through fall. Their goal is simple: buy what's in season, then gather at someone's home a few days later for a shared meal made entirely from what they purchased.

There's no formal group name, no matching aprons, and no pressure. Just genuine companionship and a growing list of crowd-pleasing dishes like butternut squash lasagna, lemony kale and farro salad, and berry tarts with rosemary crusts. In summer, you're likely to find platters of blistered cherry tomatoes tossed

with basil and olive oil, grilled zucchini boats filled with quinoa, or peach cobbler with a cornmeal biscuit crust. Late spring has brought rhubarb compotes, asparagus flatbreads, sugar snap pea salads, sautéed ramps, shaved fennel with citrus, and creamy carrot soup with ginger and dill.

Each host brings their own twist. Some meals are outside under string lights and citronella candles, others unfold around a big kitchen island, with everyone pitching in to chop and stir.

"It's the opposite of a dinner party," says James Liu, who brings his homemade sourdough to most gatherings. "It's not about impressing anyone, it's about showing up with what you made and feeling welcome no matter how it turns out."

There's something nourishing, physically and emotionally, about eating what's in season. It not only supports local farmers, but delivers fresher nutrients and reminds people to reconnect with the rhythms of nature.

Carol, who has lived in Vienna for nearly 15 years, says the tradition has changed the way she views her neighbors. "Before, I knew people to say hello," she says. "Now I know who makes the best lentil stew, who finds zucchini, and who just had surgery and might need a meal dropped off."

One recent fall evening, neighbors gathered in a softly lit backyard to sample roasted delicata squash, mushroom galettes, and a surprisingly crowd-pleasing kohlrabi slaw. Candles flickered in mason jars, and the group lingered long after the plates were cleared, swapping recipes and neighborhood news. Someone offered up a leftover wedge of apple tart; someone else promised to text the salad dressing recipe.

What keeps the tradition going? "The food is good," says neighbor Denise Martin, "but it's the conversations that feed us."

In an area often defined by commutes and quiet cul-de-sacs, this monthly potluck offers something rare: a reason to linger, connect, and savor both the season and each other.

"It's amazing how different you feel when you eat what's fresh, share it with others, and do it outside. It feeds more than just your body."

—James Liu, neighbor

**Reston**  
ASSOCIATION  
Together we make Reston great

## PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

### Proposed Amendments to Reston Association Design Guidelines

Reston Association seeks community input on revisions and additions to Design Guidelines.

**(Hybrid) Board Work Session**  
**Thursday, June 12, 6:30-10:30 p.m.**  
**12001 Sunrise Valley Drive**  
**Reston, VA 20191**



Scan QR code for more information on Design Guidelines.

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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 10

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.



# Local Musician Captures the Calm of Nature

Piano instrumentals with nature overlays on new album series.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps your habit includes the peaceful serenity of a walk through nature on one of our park trails. Local composer, recording artist, and producer, J.J. Myre, from the Town of Vienna, has begun a series of albums that will bring that nature walk and peaceful calm to you.

His first album, "Here But Elsewhere," features his instrumental piano compositions overlaid with the calls of birds and other sounds of nature.

He was inspired by his walks in Oakton's Nottoway Park. The nature sounds were recorded there. His first album, with twelve songs that take one through a day, includes titles: "7 A.M.," "Eden," "Exhale," and "Nodding." Those listening will be tempted to check outside the window for the presence of common song birds, including the Tufted Titmouse, Song Sparrow, Blue Jays, and Northern Cardinals. Writing every day, Myre's next release, planned for June 5th, will include compositions with nature recordings from Virginia Beach, with summer sounds and gull calls, as Myre continues his walks through more Vir-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/  
THE CONNECTION

**Young composer J.J. Myre speaking from his recording studio, Safyr Records, in Reston.**

ginia towns and parks, capturing their local elements.

Myre began playing the piano at the age of three, and music grew in his life to become a passion. For a while he pursued a PhD in music at University of Louisiana before leaving to concentrate on making music. He found some financial success in the jazz genre creating over 1,400 songs. He draws royalties from that work, along with a pop music piece sold to Apple TV which became background mu-



PHOTO COURTESY J.J. MYRE

**Piano instrumentals overlaid with bird calls suggest the beauty of nature, like these Spanish Bluebells.**

sic in episode one of their video streaming series, "K-Pop Idols".

He is committed now to solo piano instrumentals, saying, "I appreciate the simplicity of solo instrumentals. Being without the many instruments and vocals, allows visitors to ascribe their own meanings."

Nicole Kovar, a well known northern Virginia music educator,

who is the artist founder and executive director of Piano & More, said of Myre's album, "These songs are simple but so soothing. They have a soft piano with just a touch of echo and birdsong woven in. It's the kind of song that makes you pause and breathe. Feels like stillness in music form. Perfect for journaling, yoga, or just zoning out after a long day."

Find "Here But Elsewhere" on your favorite streaming platform; see <https://ffm.to/x1xmj0p>.

See Arlington Connection's profile of Nicole Kovar at "Play It Forward Reaches Out to Change Lives, May 7-20, pg. 12.

<https://www.arlingtonconnection.com/news/2025/may/07/play-it-forward-reaches-out-to-change-lives/>

## LETTER 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



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

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

**Sara Holtz**  
Oakton



## 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 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.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Harvey Jacobson



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

Music wasn't just his career, it was his way of connecting with the world 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 nat-



urally to Harvey. When he arrived, he immediately sat down for a song or two, or three. He rediscov-

ered 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.

## 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.fairfax-county.gov/neighborhood-community-services/older-adults>



# Local School Teacher Charged with Sex Crimes

He taught P.E. at a Catholic school in Chantilly.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A former teacher at St. Veronica Catholic School in Chantilly has been arrested and charged with a dozen sex-related crimes. He is Nicholas Martin Zimmerman, 35, of Chantilly. St. Veronica has students in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Zimmerman taught at the school from August 2015 until he resigned in late February of this year. He was taken into custody by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office on April 7, but news of his arrest wasn't made public until last Wednesday, May. 14.

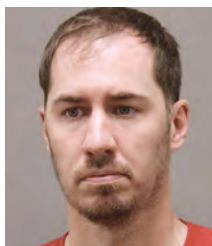
He's charged with two counts of electronic solicitation, nine counts of possession of child pornography and one count of felony indecent liberties – all felonies. Zimmerman is currently being held without

bond in the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center and has a June 16 court date.

The Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit believes there may be additional victims connected to this case and is seeking the community's help in finding them. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Allison Rawlings at 703-777-1021 or [allison.rawlings@loudoun.gov](mailto:allison.rawlings@loudoun.gov). Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call Loudoun County Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919 or submit a tip through the LCSO app.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Chad Quinn said Monday that – although Zimmerman's place of residence has a Chantilly ZIP Code (20151) – he's legally a Loudoun resident because he lives in the portion of Chantilly that's geographically in Loudoun. And since that's where law enforcement believes his alleged crimes took place, that's where he'll be prosecuted.

Understandably stunned by the criminal allegations against a teacher at one of the schools under its umbrella, on May 1, the Catho-



Zimmerman

lic Diocese of Arlington issued a statement. Referring to him as "Nick" Zimmerman, the diocese said he taught P.E. at St. Veronica since 2015. His activities there included an after-school sports club, and he also coached CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) sports.

"The same day as his resignation, St. Veronica received an allegation against Mr. Zimmerman, and [it] was immediately reported to Child Protective Services and law enforcement," said the statement. "St. Veronica and the diocese cooperated fully with law enforcement in their investigation."

"We are not aware of any misconduct that took place on school or parish property," it continued. "At this time, all known charges brought against Mr. Zimmerman involve activity that [reportedly] took place electronically and over the internet."

As a condition of his teaching and volunteering at St. Veronica, Zimmerman underwent a criminal background check and completed VIRTUS safe-environment training.

The statement explained that "The Catholic Diocese of Arlington has a zero-tolerance policy for abuse and is fully committed to training our clergy, staff and volunteers to identify and report suspected instances of abuse."

"All clergy, staff and volunteers undergo mandatory, abuse-prevention and awareness training. Safe-environment training is also provided to students in the diocese's schools, religious-education and youth programs. Anyone who works with minors must also undergo background checks every five years."

In addition, said the statement, "The Diocesan Office of Child Protection and Victim Assistance works with parish and school staff to ensure training and prevention policies are followed throughout our communities. No one with a credible allegation against them is serving with minors in the diocese."

"We encourage anyone who may know of any abuse or misconduct on the part of any cleric, employee or volunteer of the diocese to immediately notify civil authorities, as well as to reach out to the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (703) 841-2530."

## SENIOR LIVING

### AARP Virginia: How to Make Yourself a Harder Target

Criminals are always looking for ways to get your personal information to use in criminal activities.

The good news is that there are many steps you can take to help protect your data and minimize its value to criminals. Here are three suggestions from AARP Virginia:

- ❖ Create stronger passwords: Better protect yourself by using strong and unique passwords or passphrases or consider using a password manager to store and generate strong passwords securely.

- ❖ Use multi-factor authentication: A second layer of defense to your accounts makes it harder for cybercriminals to gain ac-

cess. Check account settings for two-factor authentication, two-step verification, or multi-factor authentication, and follow the set-up instructions.

- ❖ Keep your operating system updated: Sometimes those updates are to patch a known vulnerability; set yours, and your antivirus protection, to update automatically.

Be a fraud fighter. If you can spot

a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork)

To learn more about AARP Virginia, like them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia](https://www.facebook.com/aarpvirginia)

## Five FCPS High School Seniors Awarded Corporate-Sponsored National Merit Scholarships

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Five academically talented Fairfax County Public High School students are awarded 2025 "Corporate-sponsored Scholarships" from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Two awardees are from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, two are from Langley High School, and one is from McLean High School.

The five students are among over 830 National Merit finalists chosen

to receive scholarships financed by corporations, company foundations, and other business organizations. National Merit Scholarship Corporation anticipates awarding approximately 6,870 National Merit Scholarships in 2026, categorized into three types: National Merit \$2,500, college-sponsored, and corporate-sponsored.

The Fairfax County Public School student winners of the National Merit Scholarships in the 2025 corporate-sponsored and individual donor awards, with their probable career fields in parenthe-

ses, and the names of their high schools, are as follows:

- ❖ Samarth Bhargav (computer science) received the General Dynamics Corporation Scholarship, and

- ❖ Claire Chen (academia) received the GEICO Scholarship. Both attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

- ❖ Jayden Lee (law) received the George Watts Hill Scholarship, and

- ❖ Riley Katherine Seewer (law) received the Boeing Scholarship. They both attend Langley High

School in McLean.

- ❖ Aileen Wu (finance) received the NVIDIA Corporation Scholarship. Wu attends McLean High School, McLean.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation was established in 1955, when there was concern that the United States was lagging in the Space Race.

In response, the National Merit Scholarship Program was created to identify and honor scholastically talented American youth and encourage them to develop their abilities fully.

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# 2025 Cappies National Capital Area Nominations

FROM PAGE 4

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

Ajyah 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

Anna Murray, Walt Whitman High School, Macbeth

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



# 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# ENTERTAINMENT



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

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. 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

Senior 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 Home-

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## coming 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](http://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,

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19



## 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.

Structure	File Number	Length	Structure Name	Crewing	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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:corina.herrera@vdot.virginia.gov).*

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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.

**CALENDAR**

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

18 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ MAY 21 - JUNE 3, 2025

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

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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

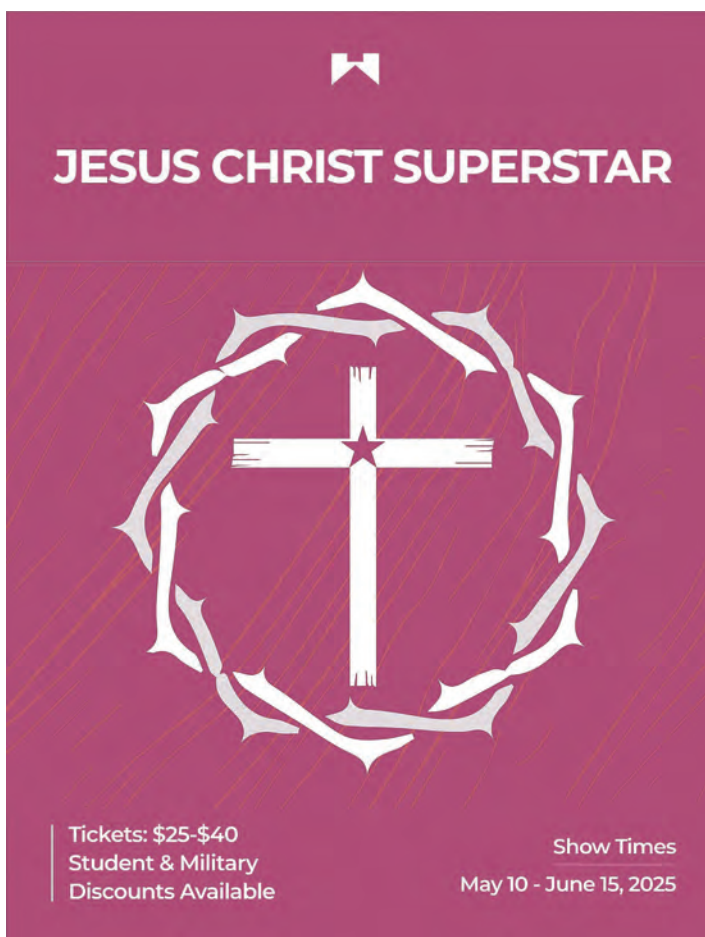
**Jason Robert Brown Performs.** 7 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Three-time, Tony Award-winning composer and living legend of musical theater, Jason Robert Brown, performs an intimate evening filled with musical brilliance. "Jason Robert Brown and Friends" offers 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](http://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 Savelliev. 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](http://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 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



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

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, 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXS-RR](http://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 anticipated 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!

## 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.

## Join Sen. Boysko and Del. Sullivan for Great Falls Town Hall, Wednesday, May 28th

Sen. Jennifer Boysko and Del. Rip Sullivan will hold a Great Falls Legislative Town Hall happening at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28 at the Grange. We will discuss the work that was done this past General Assembly session and the pressing issues that the community has on their mind.

Let us know if you are able to attend by filing out this google survey.







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