

# CONNECTION

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Dancing in Old Town Square are members of the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe at the 5th annual Asian Festival on Main in the City of Fairfax on May 18.

Voting for Lt. Governor  
PAGE 3

Your Help Needed  
To Sustain Fairfax  
PAGE 12

Dumplings,  
Dancers and  
a Parade  
PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS



# Local Boy Scout Receives Lifesaving Medal

**Robbie Lapham rescued people after canoeing mishaps.**

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Unless they work in science, medicine, the military or public safety, most average people don't get the chance to save people's lives. But a local Boy Scout did it twice and was recently honored for his efforts.

He's Robbie Lapham, 15, an Oakton High freshman, and he received a Lifesaving Medal in a ceremony at American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax City, where his Scout troop, 1887, meets. At the outset, Post Commander Eric Parkhurst addressed Lapham's fellow Scouts and family members.

"There are two words I want you to think about – 'adapt' and 'overcome,'" said Parkhurst. "No matter what we do, nothing ever goes right; things always change. You guys see it within the Scouts. So you adapt; and by adapting, you overcome. Always be flexible. That applies to your life, to school and to Scouts."



Robbie Lapham celebrates with dad Tim Lapham.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION  
Robbie Lapham holds his medal while posing with Scoutmaster Colin Dorrity.

Prior to the ceremony, Lapham spoke to The Connection about his rescues. The first one happened in October 2023 during a Scout Camporee on the Antietam River in Antietam, Md. Lapham and other Scouts were canoeing on the water, as were a father and son, at the last part of the 6-mile-long

rapids called Ironworks.

"I was in the second-to-last boat and was the most-experienced canoer, besides my dad, so I was keeping an eye on things," said Lapham. "I saw their canoe hit a rock and flop over, so I instantly got out of my boat and swam to them on the other side of

the river."

Although the water there was only 4 feet deep, he said, "The dad's head was trapped because the canoe had pinned his chest underwater. His son was OK. So I picked the canoe off of the dad. It was halfway full of

SEE LOCAL BOY SCOUT, PAGE 7

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# Democratic Candidates Vie in Primary

PHOTOS FROM INTERNET CAMPAIGN SITES

## Do you know the Primary Election candidates?

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**D**emocrats will hold a Primary Election on June 17 to select their candidates for Lt. Governor and Attorney General. Early voting is open now through June 14. Virginians go to the polls this November to select new top state officials: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. The slate for the parties' gubernatorial candidates is set: Democrat - Abigail Spanberger; Republican - Winsome Earle-Sears; Independent - Andrew White. Republicans have single candidates for Lt Governor - John Reid, and for Attorney General - Jason Miyares.

## Vote by June 17; in person early voting until June 14; request mailed ballot by June 6.

Many voters may be attempting to differentiate between the candidates who ascribe to the same Democrat party philosophies. In making a choice for your vote, one might consider each candidate's past experience to identify elements important to you. Did he/she hold a past government office, align with a union, participate with a particular volunteer group or association? Is law experience, a historical development ground for politicians, important to you or are you looking for a different background? Is there a particular issue of importance to you on which the candidate has taken a position?

A brief summary of the six Democratic Lt. Governor and two Attorney General candidates running in the Democratic primary is provided here. To find more in-depth information, see campaign web sites.

## More details

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html>

## Local News?

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### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR LT. GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor serves as the president of the Senate of Virginia, running the Senate sessions when the body meets; and votes only to break ties. The lieutenant governor is first in the line of succession to the governorship if the governor dies, resigns or leaves office. The elected position was created by the Virginia Constitution of 1851. Between 1776 and that time, a Speaker of the Senate had been chosen by its elected members. The position is part-time with a salary set by the Virginia Constitution at \$36,321. There have been 42 lieutenant governors in history, including during the Confederacy. Some have gone on to serve as governor or to other political offices.

The candidates are:

### Alex Bastani

Worked as an economist for the Department of Labor; served as local union president; experience as an attorney, and character actor. Education: Law degree, George Mason University, 1994; Bachelor, George Washington University. Lives in Arlington.

<https://progressivevirginiansforalex-bastani.com/>



Alex Bastani

### Dr. Babur Lateef

Physician and owner of Advanced Ophthalmology Inc; currently elected as member at large for Prince William County School Board from 2018 to 2028. Education: Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine; Bachelor, Youngstown State University. Lives in Prince William County.

<https://lateefforva.com/>



Dr. Babur Lateef

### Victor Salgado

Worked as Senior Litigation Counsel for the Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section, and as adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center. Education: Law degree from Wisconsin Law School; Bachelor, George Washington University. Lives in Arlington County.

<https://www.victorforvirginia.com/>



Victor Salgado

### Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

First elected to the Senate in 2019; and currently elected as Senator for District 15 with a term through 2028. The first Muslim and first Asian American in the Virginia Senate. Thirty year career as a professor, teaching at Reynolds Community College, and the University of Richmond. Education: PhD in American literature from Emory University; Bachelor, Georgia Southern University. Lives in Chesterfield County.

<https://ghazalaforvirginia.com/>



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

### Sen. Aaron Rouse

First elected to Senate in a special election from 2023 to 2024; currently elected to Senate District 22, 2024-2028. Served as at large member of Virginia Beach City Council, 2019-2022. Former NFL/UFL professional athlete. Founder of non-profit organization, Rouse's House. Education: Bachelor, Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lives in Virginia Beach.

<https://rouseforvirginia.com/>



Sen. Aaron Rouse

### LeVar Stoney

Former mayor of Richmond, 2016 - January 2025; first African-American Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth, 2014-2016. Education: Bachelor, James Madison University. Lives in Richmond.

<https://www.levarstoney.com/>



LeVar Stoney

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General of Virginia is the Commonwealth's legal representative and chief law enforcement officer. The primary duties include managing a legal staff, and providing legal advice and representation to the governor, members of the General Assembly, and other state agencies and officials; enforcing state laws, and conducting investigations into various criminal activities. The position is full-time for four years and without term limits. The current salary is \$150,000. The candidates, by law, must be at least 30 years old, a US citizen, and have been a member of the Virginia bar for at least five years prior to election.

The two Democrat candidates are:

### Shannon Taylor

Currently serves as Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico County, elected in 2011. Serves as president, Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney Association. Education: Law degree, University of Virginia Law School, 1995, Bachelor University of Virginia. Lives in Henrico County.

<https://shannontaylorva.com/>



Shannon Taylor



Jay Jones

### Jay Jones

Currently a practicing trial attorney; served as state delegate for District 89, 2018-2021. Formerly an Assistant Attorney General in DC for the Office of Consumer Protection.

Education: Law degree, University of Virginia, 2015; Bachelor, in history and government, William and Mary University. Lives in Norfolk.

<https://jayjones.com/The>



## MEMORIAL DAY

# ‘Regular, American Citizens Serving Their Country’

## Fairfax City honors the fallen on Memorial Day.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Each year on Memorial Day, people gather in Fairfax City to honor and remember America’s fallen. And the overall message of the ceremony held May 26 was that those who’d sacrificed their lives were ordinary, everyday men and women who’d answered their country’s call to duty.

Held at American Legion Post 177, the event was hosted jointly by both it and VFW Post 8469 and emceed by VFW Commander Mac McCarl. Dignitaries attending included Del. David Bulova (D-11); Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read; City Councilmembers Anthony Amos, Billy Bates and Tom Peterson; plus Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid and her husband, Virginia State Police Capt. Greg Kincaid.

At the outset, though, McCarl acknowledged the recent death of U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-10th). “He was an ardent supporter of veterans,” said McCarl. “He and his staff have been the go-to people for pushing important veterans’ issues, including health-care and suicide prevention. He’s not with us today, but his presence reflects in the wellbeing of every single person in this place and out. I thank him personally for his service to all of us.”

Post 177 Commander Eric Parkhurst then explained how this American Legion post began. “Eighty years ago, a small group of WWI veterans got together as WWII raged,” he said. “They were trying to figure out how they could help WWII veterans coming home. So they decided to start and charter an American Legion in Fairfax.”

Part of that group was Fairfax native and WWI veteran Amos Chilcott, who donated more than 9 acres of his apple orchard for the building site. Since then, much of this City has changed. “Lots of the buildings and properties have developed into something else,” said Parkhurst. “One of the constants is the American Legion.”

“So, welcome to our apple orchard – it’s where you sit now,” he continued. “As is customary, the flag out front was lowered to half mast at sunrise this morning, in remembrance of those we lost in wars. At noon, it’ll be raised to full mast, in honor of those still with us.” Parkhurst invited attendees to join him there and then meet him at Fairfax Cemetery where a wreath would be laid on Chilcott’s grave. (See sidebar).

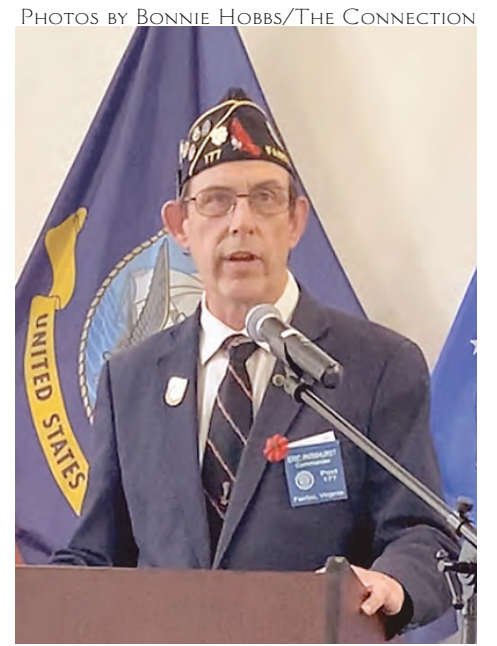
After the singing of the national anthem and the entrance of the joint VFW/American Legion Color Guard, Post 8469 Chaplain Dan Allmacher gave the opening prayer. “Almighty God, in Your hands are the living and the dead,” he said. “We give You thanks for all those who fought the forces of evil and laid down their lives to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. May they rest in peace and



Richard Formica



Mac McCarl



Eric Parkhurst



From left, Greg Kincaid reads names while Anthony Amos and Billy Bates wait their turns.



Veterans in line to read names while, seated (from left) Eric Parkhurst, Richard Formica and Dan Allmacher listen to Air Force vet Karen Cosgrove ring the bell after each one.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

may light perpetually shine upon them.”

Next came a moment of silence to remember those who died for their country, those missing in action and those held as prisoners of war. Then McCarl introduced guest speaker (Ret.) Army Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, also a Post 8469 member.

He was a career field-artillery officer. “He brings unique perspectives to this podium, having commanded forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” said McCarl. “He knows the feeling, firsthand, of the loss of soldiers in combat.”

Formica, too, began by recognizing Connolly’s passing. “He’d been a regular feature here at these events, and for Veterans Day ceremonies,” said Formica. “And he was a staunch advocate for veterans, those currently serving and federal workers in Northern Virginia.” Formica then called for a moment of silence in Connolly’s honor, adding, “We remember his life, and we mourn with his family, friends and [colleagues].”

Expressing his honor to speak at this Memorial Day ceremony, Formica said he and his wife Diane retired to Fairfax County in 2013, following 36 years in the Army. His career included 14 moves during assignments in Germany and across the U.S.

“We’ve attended nearly every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony here in Fairfax, these past 12 years,” said Formica. “We especially appreciate the reading of the names and the ringing of the bell each Memorial Day to remember Fairfax sons and daughters who gave their lives for their country. RJ Hess, my daughter’s high-school classmate, and Captain Laura Walker, the daughter of one of my close Army colleagues, are among the names read here this morning.”

Calling Memorial Day a somber day, Formica said it’s not a happy one but, rather, a serious time to pause, reflect and remember. Over the course of his career, he said, he’s participated in or attended Memorial Day events in Verdun and Normandy, France; Neu Ulm, Wurzburg and Bamberg, Germany; Baghdad; Kabul; and at Arlington Na-

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 5

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# MEMORIAL DAY



Debbie Young reading names.



Dan Allmacher saying the closing prayer.



The Unmuted (from left) Beth Kimlick, Kate Weber, Martie Gilliam and Lori Greenlief singing the national anthem.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Fairfax City Honors the Fallen

FROM PAGE 4

tional Cemetery.

He and his family did likewise in many local communities where they lived and served across America. Common to them all, he said, was “heart-pounding patriotism – this emotion-filled and solemn remembrance of those who died for our country and an hon-

oring of those they left behind.

“As Commanding General of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, I spoke at one such event at a Huntsville, Ala., cemetery, few years ago. As I was preparing to speak, a member of the Patriot Guards approached me. He wore denim and black leather, hadn’t been to a barber in a few years and hadn’t done PT [physical train-

ing] for longer than that. He stood ramrod straight and saluted me.

“Then he held up this little, black box containing a Bronze Star medal and said, ‘Sir, I found this in a pawn shop. Bronze stars don’t belong [there]. Will you hold onto this and keep it safe?’ I returned his salute, thanked him and took the medal. I’ve kept it close ever since.”

Formica said U.S. history includes wars – leading to cemeteries filled with fallen service members. “Since the birth of our nation, tragically, over 1.2 million men and women in uniform have died defending our country,” he said. “Of that number, over 7,000 service members and civilians gave their

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 6

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# MEMORIAL DAY



Veterans and others saluting the American flag.

## ‘Serving Their Country’

FROM PAGE 5

lives in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

“Each left loved ones behind – a wife, husband, son, daughter, brother, sister, mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, and friends,” he continued. “As we read those names and ring that bell, we’re reminded that freedom is not free. We’re aware that the service members

resting in cemeteries across America and around the world, and memorialized in cities and towns like this one, died defending the lives and the values that create the backbone of our nation.”

Sadly, said Formica, he and Diane have attended far too many military funerals and memorial services. And in Iraq and Afghanistan, he went to many more for fallen com-

DEMOCRAT  
**DR. BABUR LATEEF**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



# MEET DR. LATEEF

- ✓ Medical doctor
- ✓ Small business owner
- ✓ Proud father & husband

## Democratic Primary: June 17

Read more about Babur at [LateefForVA.com](http://LateefForVA.com)

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



From left, Jim Price, Al Doebling and Earl Seay raise the flag at noon.

rades. “Each one is intensely personal for me,” he said. “They’re not just names on a wall or statue – I remember each of them individually.”

When he commanded the III (U.S.) Corps Artillery in Iraq, he lost 20 soldiers in combat, plus another 44 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and one civilian in Afghanistan. Formica explained how three of them died in two, separate incidents in Iraq. He said they all reflected the selflessness with which they gave their lives.

\* SPC Jose Amancio Perez III: Despite sustaining an ultimately fatal shot to the neck – just above his body armor and below his helmet – while driving his first sergeant through enemy fire, Perez sped up the vehicle, escaped the ambush and saved his sergeant’s life. He was awarded posthumously with a Bronze Star.

\* SFC Clinton Wisdom and Sgt. Don Clary: They were driving their armored SUV, providing security escort to a visiting VIP in the vehicle behind them. When another vehicle approached rapidly at an intersection, they

positioned their vehicle so they’d absorb the crash and save the VIP’s life. Both received a Bronze Star with V for valor posthumously.

“These men were regular, American citizens serving their country,” said Formica. “When they unexpectedly found themselves in a position to sacrifice it all for their country, comrades and others, they did so. And it’s these men – and so many others like them – whose stories [are] only told in small, local ceremonies like this one. It’s for them that America pauses to remember on Memorial Day.”

So, as everyone was enjoying their holiday weekend, Formica thanked Fairfax’s attendees for taking time to remember those who gave their lives, acknowledge their families’ loss, and pray for those still serving in harm’s way. He then asked God to bless them all, plus the veterans and the country.

Then the names of Fairfax County’s fallen were read and a bell rung for each. And in his closing prayer, Chaplain Allmacher honored all those who made the ultimate sacrifice, adding, “Let us never forget.”

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From left are Eric Parkhurst, Robbie Lapham and Colin Dorrity.

## Local Boy Scout Receives Lifesaving Medal

FROM PAGE 5

water, making it weigh about 300 or 400 pounds. The only way I was able to lift it was through pure adrenaline.”

Then Lapham held onto the man by his lifejacket and walked him to Lapham’s father – his troop’s assistant Scoutmaster and a doctor – to assess him and make sure he was OK, which he was. “I was just glad I was there to help,” said Lapham. “And I knew I’d definitely do it again, if I had to.”

Turns out, he got his chance the following summer, in June 2024, at the same place, but in the center of the river. Lapham was there attending an American Canoe Association training course being taught by his dad.

“I was done canoeing and was on land, helping adults get their boats out of the water,” said Lapham. “My dad and I noticed an adult female flip her boat with an older man in it. Both were trapped by the canoe. I ran over and got the lady out. She was in shock and not moving, so I had to physically pick her up and carry her to shore. Then I ran back over and pushed the boat – which was full of water and weighed about 900 pounds – off of him.”

During Lapham’s medal ceremony, his troop’s Scoutmaster, Colin Dorrity, present-

ed further details of the event. After that boat had capsized, he said, the two people inside it “became pinned against some rocks in the rapids. The female was [trapped] behind the canoe in such a position that she was in danger of drowning. At great peril to his own safety – and without any fear – Robbie swam over and rescued both canoers and brought them to shore.”

As for Lapham, he said he was happy to be able to save people’s lives. He’s been a Scout since age 7 and hopes to someday become a mechanical engineer. “Being around my dad [Tim], a doctor, and my mom [Kori], a nurse, they’ve always taught me about first aid,” he said. “I just had an instinct to jump into the action, and that instinct helped me save those people.”

He’s currently a Life Scout, which is the second-highest rank, next to Eagle Scout. “Scouting’s taught me everything I know about being a good citizen and basic life skills,” said Lapham. “I don’t think I’d be where I am today without these things.”

Regarding his award, he said, “I feel good about it, but it’s just something made of metal and a ribbon. But the true reward was for those people to be able to go home to their families again and tell them they love them.”



From left, Eric Parkhurst and Robbie Lapham listening during the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

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# ALEX BASTANI

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# Arrest Is Made in Last Summer's Abduction

Ten months after a man allegedly abducted a woman in Fairfax City, police there have arrested the person they believe is responsible. He is Oscar Briones Amaya, 45, of Alexandria.

On July 3, 2024, around 4:28 p.m., City police responded to the Fairfax Museum at 10209 Main St. after receiving a report of an abduction in progress. Witnesses reported seeing an unknown male carrying an unconscious adult woman into the nearby wooded area and said he fled the scene when confronted.

Officers searched the area but were unable to find him. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of minor injuries. According to police, "Investigation revealed the victim and the suspect weren't known to each other and that the suspect had [allegedly] assaulted her."

Forensic evidence was collected from the scene and submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science for analysis. Detectives were then able to identify Briones Amaya as the suspect and obtained warrants for his arrest. But it wasn't until recently that they were able to take him into custody.

He was arrested May 15 and charged with abduction with intent to defile, and aggravated sexual battery of an incapacitated person. Briones Amaya is being held without bond in the Fairfax County Detention Center, pending his Aug. 6 court date.



Briones Amaya

— BONNIE HOBBS

# Man Charged with Assaulting Women, Police

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police have charged a local man with several sex and assault offenses in Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes. He is Gigssa Bekele Bengessa, 33, of Fairfax, and police from the Fair Oaks District Station say the incidents all occurred last Wednesday, May 28.

That day, at 5:04 p.m., officers responded to the 11700 block of Fair Oaks Mall for a report of a sex offense. According to police, two females told them a man had approached and touched them inappropriately. "Officers saturated the area to locate the suspect," said police, but to no avail.

While still actively searching for him, an additional call came in at 5:17 p.m., reporting a man masturbating in a vehicle in the 13000 block of Fair Lakes Shopping Center. Police responded again, but the suspect fled before they arrived.

Meanwhile, as a result of their investigation – aided by detectives from the Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau – officers were able to obtain surveillance footage of the suspect. In addition, they received information about his vehicle through

license-plate-reading technology.

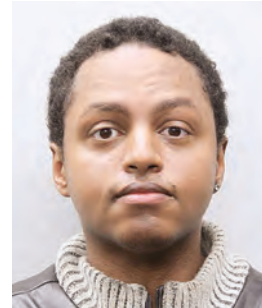
Then came another call from a third shopping area. At 7:41 p.m., officers responded to the 12200 block of Fairfax Towne Center for a report of a sexual offense. The victim reported that a man had assaulted her in the parking lot there.

Having a license-plate number led police to identify Bekele Bengessa as their alleged suspect and to obtain his home address. That same night, at 8:12 p.m., they drove there to arrest him. However, say police, he reportedly assaulted an officer and was taken into custody after a short struggle.

Bekele Bengessa was then transported to the Adult Detention Center and charged with two counts each of sexual battery and assault on a law-enforcement officer, plus one count each of indecent exposure and obstruction of justice. He's currently being held without bond, pending

his Aug. 11 court date.

Anyone with information about these incidents, or who may have witnessed them, is asked to call the Fair Oaks Police Station at 703-591-0966. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



Bekele Bengessa

# Man Charged with Several Indecent Exposures

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

In April, detectives from the Sully District Police Station sought the public's help in identifying a man believed to be responsible for multiple indecent exposures in Chantilly. Their original press release contained a photo and description of the person they were seeking.

And now, police say they've received an anonymous tip that led them to identify a 57-year-old Fairfax man as the suspect allegedly responsible for those crimes, plus similar ones in Oakton – and even others dating as far back as 2015.

Through their investigation, say police, detectives have reportedly linked the suspect to four incidents that occurred between 2015 and 2025 in the 9500 block of Courthouse Road in Oakton and in the 4600 block of Stonecroft Boulevard in Chantilly. The offenses

included multiple counts of indecent liberties and an obscene sexual display.

The incidents in Chantilly happened on March 30 of this year, between 5 and 6 p.m., and involved a man exposing himself to several people. The same thing occurred in the same location – the 4600 block of Stonecroft Blvd. – on April 29, 2023, at 6 p.m., and on April 24, 2024, at 5:20 p.m.

Police arrested the suspect in mid-May and charged him with obscene sexual display and five counts of indecent liberties. He's being held without bond in the Adult Detention Center.

Meanwhile, detectives continue to investigate his potential involvement in additional cases. If anyone has information about these cases or believes they were a victim of indecent exposure, call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 3. Tips may also be submitted anonymously via Crime Solvers by phoning 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

## BULLETIN BOARD

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Have some extra time to drive a neighbor to a doctor's appointment? You pick the days, times, and places that are convenient for you. There is no minimum driving requirement. Not only do you help older adults in need, you also get to meet wonderful folks, often with very interesting backgrounds and stories to tell. The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), is an all-volunteer, non-sectarian, non-profit organization. Its mission is providing

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](https://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event. Or via email [calendar@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:calendar@connectionnewspapers.com)

free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies. Visit the website at <https://scmafc.org/volunteer>, or email [contact@scmafc.org](mailto:contact@scmafc.org).

### VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Would you like to help a neighbor feel less lonely? Will you help someone get much-needed groceries? Form new connections and make

a meaningful difference. Older adults in the Annandale, Falls Church, and Alexandria regions are waiting for volunteer social visitors and grocery shoppers. If you can give the gift of your time, consider providing invaluable support to someone in your community. Learn more about Volunteer Solutions at [bit.ly/FXVSVOL](https://bit.ly/FXVSVOL) or email [VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov) or call 703-324-5406.

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### SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide

reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-mindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Caregivers' Support Group takes place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. This group is for caregivers of family members with dementia. Meetings are gently facilitated. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Jack Tarr at [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) or 703-821-6838.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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



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# FESTIVAL

## Dumplings, Pad Thai, Dancers, Boba Tea and a Parade

Fairfax City's 5th annual Asian Festival on Main was May 18.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Dancing in Old Town Square are members of the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe.



Performing with silk ribbons are (from left) Audrey Liu and Alisa Wu of the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe.



The Choy Wun Lion Dance Troupe entertains in Old Town Square.



More than 25,000 people filled downtown Fairfax City during the Asian Festival on Main.



The "God of Wealth" on parade with the Choy Wun Lion Dance Troupe.



With drinks from Rice Culture are (from left) Christina Lam (pandan refresher), Joe Hosler (ube iced coffee), and Teresa Lin (pandan iced coffee).



Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read wearing a modified, Korean dress called a hanbok.



From left, Brittany Stevenson and Laura Meyer hold bao buns filled with chicken, pork and vegetables.



Nadine Ly, of Nadz Nic Nacs, offers Asian brands of plushies.



Ed Tan sells colorful, crocheted flowers made by his wife, Jing.



Frank Marilao and son Ernesto eating Thai chicken skewers and fried rice.



Cooking Thai Pad Kapow (stir-fried basil and chicken, served over rice and a fried egg) is "Mr. Kapow," owner of Kapow Buddy.



Alli Hartley-Kong and husband Kovit Kong share some Filipino chicharons.



Linh Nguyen cosplays Emu Otori from the video game, "Project Sekai."



Aileen Fujikawa sells Hawaiian flower hair accessories.



## ENVIRONMENT

# Taking on the Climate Change Challenge



Burke Lake Golf Course shop added a 60 kW solar energy in February.

## Sustain Fairfax outlines simple changes for significant benefits.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is working to address both the cause and effects of climate change. They hope to set an example by government action, and that all residents will discover ways to join in the efforts. Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said “Simple lifestyle changes like conserving energy at home, composting food waste, driving electric vehicles or using public transportation can make a big difference in helping us create a greener, healthier future. Not only do these actions help the environment, but they also save money, improve our health and support

the local economy.”

To generate energy saving ideas that county residents might adopt, the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) has issued the Sustain Fairfax Challenge. The online application highlights key actions individuals or community groups can take “to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.” Newly launched, the public awareness campaign summarizes a large library of energy and money saving actions, from quick, inexpensive actions, to those that require substantial time or financial commitments.

What has the county done to lead the way? The Board of Supervisors adopted the county’s opera-



Connector bus service added 12 BEBs like this one for zero emissions.

Find the web based app to join the effort at [sustainchallenge.fairfaxcounty.gov/](https://sustainchallenge.fairfaxcounty.gov/)

tional energy strategy in 2021 to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Buildings and transportation are major factors in any energy saving or carbon reduction plan, both for individuals and government. While residents might consider actions for a single home of an average 2,200 square feet and one or two vehicles, the county has about 500 buildings with 11 million square feet, and a fleet of 6,347 vehicles, the largest municipal fleet in Virginia. So government building and fleet efficiency improvements can do much to help meet county-wide environmental goals.

More efficient lighting and improving heating and cooling systems in county buildings and plans for installation of solar energy systems on system ready buildings are part of the plan. They claim

a 16 percent facility energy use decrease in fiscal year 2024 compared to the 2018 baseline, aiming toward a 25 percent energy use decrease by 2030.

The county is transitioning its fleet, which includes motorcycles, fire and garbage trucks, and Connector and school buses, to hybrid or all electric vehicles. So far the transition includes 69 battery elec-

tric and 335 hybrid electric vehicles in the county operations fleet, 12 battery electric Connector buses (BEBs), and 73 electric school buses. The majority of the electric school bus fleet came from grants: eight from Dominion Energy; 20 from the state; 42 from the EPA; two were purchased by FCPS for their driver training center.

SEE TAKING ON THE, PAGE 15



Newington Collection Facility added a 150 kW solar energy system in June 2024, the first solar system within the the Dept of Public Works and Environmental Services.



Homeowners can record energy and water saving practices, such as solar panels and converting grass yard to native planting, in the Sustain Fairfax Challenge.



## ENVIRONMENT

# Beyond Park Maintenance: Restoration & Preservation



A reforestation area along the Cross County Trail is one of several ecologic projects within the boundaries of Laurel Hill Park in Lorton.

**Park Authority working to conserve natural environment.**

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority has a mission that goes well beyond daily park maintenance. Certainly maintaining playgrounds and sports courts, mowing ball fields and removing trash are important basic functions of park management. However, the Park Authority's mission goes beyond this usual care, to include managing park natural environments and restoring park meadows and forests. These efforts conserve our natural park resources for future generations. Much of this work may not be immediately recognized; in some cases, not noticed at all, and take years to come to full fruition.

For example, users of Laurel Hill Park may have noticed recently that many large trees are felled along the trails there. While it's easy to recognize the downed trees were not the result of wind storms, it might not be clear why the trees were downed. These trees are a non-native species called Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). It's a species that is infamous for its rapid spread. Spreading by seed, rhizomes, and cuttings, it quickly edges out slower growing native trees. It also has a role as a host plant for the equally infamous Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*). The insect is actually not

a fly at all, but scientifically classified as a True Bug. It doesn't bite or sting, but is feared for its potential destruction of crops, such as soybeans; of hardwoods, such as Walnuts; of stone pit fruit trees, such as peaches; and grape vines. One can understand why discovering the insect in Northern Virginia has caused alarm given our wine industry alone. In parks, large masses of the insects that tend to collect after hatching could be a disturbing nuisance to park goers.



FCPA manager John Burke, oversees several projects to improve the environment within area parks.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME

Trees of Heaven downed to protect park users after the non-native invasive trees were killed with herbicides.

John Burke, manager of the Natural Resources Branch of FCPA, says his group is using \$100,000  
SEE PARK AUTHORITY, PAGE 15



Controlled burns used periodically to improve growth of native plants and accumulated dry wood to eliminate any risk of an eastern wildfire.





Red foxes, frequent visitors to many NOVA neighborhoods, sometimes stake out bird feeders in the hope of finding a small mammal or bird meal

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Virginia Gray Fox Project field technician Clara Riggan places a trail camera along a trail in Springfield

## Gray Fox Project Surveys Population

Local sites gather sighting data to support VA-wide study.

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ot a native to the East Coast, but certainly a well established part of our suburban wildlife, Red Foxes now are commonly sighted within Fairfax County neighborhoods. It is believed that they, and Coyotes, another canid species not historically native here, are out-competing the native Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). Virginia Tech, in collaboration with Virginia's Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has initiated the Virginia Gray Fox Project to study the status of the gray fox in the Commonwealth.

Virginia Tech researchers, and homeowner volunteers, are positioning trail cameras in likely habitats to determine if the Gray Fox is actually in decline or just is more likely to avoid being seen. The three year study will be the first published in Virginia of their population status. The study began in 2024 concentrating on public and private land habitats in the western counties, in the Appalachian Mountains region. This year, data collection moves to the Piedmont region; and in 2026 to the Coastal Plains. Northern Virginia is in the Piedmont.

"Gray foxes don't tend to do as well in ur-



Red Fox, lightly wet after rain, with long thin legs, dog-like face and white tipped bushy tail, though this one is muddy.

ban areas ... as studies suggest grays may require forest cover," DWR's furbearer project lead Leah Card says. "In addition, coyotes may impact this canid either through direct predation or through competition over the same prey resources. Gray foxes may avoid areas used by coyotes for these reasons." Gray foxes mostly eat small mammals, birds and eggs; also eating frogs, insects, berries

and fruits. Their superpower is the ability to climb trees. Only one other canid species in the world, the Raccoon dog found in Asia, can also climb trees. Also known as "tree foxes," Gray foxes use semi-retractable claws to grip and climb.

Gray foxes are generally smaller and more stocky, with shorter legs, compared to the more slender and longer-legged red



Trail cams being used in the study are marked with project identification.

foxes. Along with the named difference in hair color, another key difference is their tail: red foxes have a bushy tail with a white tip, while gray foxes have a tail with a black stripe along the top. They are described as being more secretive and nocturnal; with a more cat-like face than red foxes.

The Gray Fox Project is led by Dr. Marcella

SEE LOCAL SITES GATHER, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## ENVIRONMENT

# Taking on the Climate Change Challenge

FROM PAGE 12

Currently, public registrations of all-electric (EV) or hybrid light vehicles in the county number about 29,000; only about 3.6 percent of the total registrations. The county is currently working with transportation stakeholders to promote more public and commercial electric vehicle use. According to OEE spokesperson John Wilcox, a draft EV Readiness Strategy will be available for public comment in late July, with a virtual public meeting planned to share information about the plan and answer questions. A final plan is expected in September toward a goal of reaching 15% of all light-duty vehicle registrations to be electric by 2030.

To enlist public participation in reaching other environmental goals, the Sustain Fairfax Challenge is about much more than home energy, light systems and transportation options for saving energy and dollars. Could your household be more water wise?

Sustain Fairfax suggestions include quick and easy actions like turning off faucets during tasks, filling the dish or clothes washer before running and running fewer loads, to more expensive options like upgrading washers more than ten years old with more efficient models to save gallons of water and lower water bills.

Could you eat greener with less waste? Using reusable water bottles, bringing your own mug to the coffee cafe, ditching plastic utensils and straws, and composting food waste are suggested ways to live greener.

The challenge app provides an opportunity to check off those practices already followed in your household, bookmark options for new actions, set goals, and earn points and badges for energy efficient practices.

The Sustain Fairfax Challenge, created under contract by BrightAction Communities, at this point seems a largely undiscovered gem. Going live a few months ago,

to date, about 150 households have created accounts toward the goal of 1,000 households by March 2026. Reported household actions amount to a five percent reduction of CO2 toward the target of a 1,000 ton decrease.

Find the web based app to join the effort at [sustainchallenge.fairfaxcounty.gov/](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sustainchallenge)

As we watch our climate conditions become, as OEE describes them, “increasingly hotter, wetter, and weirder,” with increasing severity and frequency of storms,

extreme heat, and flooding, this seems like the time for residents to give more thought to personal preparation to mitigate climate impacts. The county has adopted Resilient Fairfax, a plan to deal with the effects of climate change and reminds us how to prepare for climate impacts, such as insulating by your home, readying for violent wind storms and possible power outages, and flooding.

(<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resilient-fairfax>).

As you prepare, perhaps talk to your neighbors about their preparation as well. That would earn you a badge in the Sustain Fairfax Challenge.

Find more climate and environment resources at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents>.

Explore the county's other climate plans, policies, and initiatives at

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/policies-and-initiatives>.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Electric school buses now in the fleet number 73, while dozens of new traditional diesel buses sit stored in Lorton.

## Local Sites Gather Sighting Data To Support VA-wide Study

FROM PAGE 14

Kelly and Ph.D. student Victoria Monette of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation. For the study period, cameras are set along wildlife trails, streams, roads, or any existing pathway where wildlife, including foxes, are likely to travel. Even if gray foxes are not observed by the camera, the data is useful by suggesting areas the foxes are not using.

State cameras stay in place for six to eight weeks before being moved to another site. Your neighbor may be participating after DWR's invitation to landowners to set out cameras; acceptance in the study sites cameras at least three miles apart. If you chance on a camera on public lands, you should of course leave the camera to its mission, a better understanding of Virginia wildlife.



PHOTO FROM STATE OF NC

<https://www.ncwildlife.gov/species/gray-fox->

Gray Fox are smaller with more cat-like faces than Red Fox, have gray coats, and a black strip on their tails, and the ability to climb trees.

## Park Authority Working to Conserve Natural Environment

FROM PAGE 13

in annual funding from state grants to the county's Urban Forest Management Division to treat Tree of Heaven in several parks. While Laurel Hill has the greatest concentration of Tree of Heaven, other parks treated include Blake Lane, Sully Historic, Frying Pan, and River Bend. Treatment with herbicide began in 2021 and has continued for three years. Initially, treated trees were left standing in place as they died, as is typical, to provide habitat for native wildlife. Since many of the dead trees were located near trails and were starting to fall in wind storms, another contract was let to down those

dead trees as a matter of safety, to prevent their falling on someone, or something. The trees, now decomposing on the ground, will be left for a season to dry. Burke shares, "If left in large piles, as in some areas of Laurel Hill, they can serve as lattice work to let other invasive plants grow. Those may be burned." He explains it's also good practice to eliminate accumulations of dry wood.

Seeing Tree of Heaven down represents a victory for the environment that may not be immediately recognized by many park users. Natural Resources Branch ecologists manage several additional projects within Laurel Hill Park

that are easier to immediately appreciate. Two projects can be spotted along the park's Apple Orchard Trail. One, behind the Stempson House is a five-year reforestation project. Small flags mark new tree seedling plantings. Nearby, a second field is considered a "managed area" rather than a formal project. A "forestry mulcher," used there to grind down woody material, creates a visually open field where tangles of briars once stood. Mowing in a one-to-three year cycle suppresses the non-natives seedlings and plants and gives the native plants an opportunity to reestablish themselves, Burke said. This is the same philosophy

behind mowing behind the nearby Barrett House, by county Park Maintenance, where Callery pear incursion is rampant. After mowing, native grasses are more visible as well as the birds visiting them to enjoy the seeds.

Two more restoration areas in Laurel Hill Park, along the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail, include a meadow restoration and a reforestation area. In past years, controlled burns were used there an important tool in the ecology toolbox. Rejuvenation of the meadow has seen the return of native plants, and habitation by red fox and wild turkeys. Over 3,000 tree seedlings of six different native

species, oaks and hickories, added to the reforestation area, will extend the park's woodland habitat. Park users notice small pink flags marking the plantings within the deer fencing, and tree cages which protect new trees from deer predation outside the fencing.

Projects such as these take five to twenty years to come to full maturity, however, the environment is improved for wildlife and park users in the intervening years as well.

For more on the FCPA Natural Resources Management Plan, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/Assets/Documents/naturalcultural/NRMP-01-29-14.pdf>



# ENTERTAINMENT



The Summer on the Green concerts begin Friday, June 6, 2025 in the Town of Vienna.

## JUNETEENTH EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY

The Fairfax County Park Authority invites the community to honor Juneteenth through a series of engaging events at multiple park locations, highlighting African American history, resilience and cultural contributions.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated remembrance of the end of slavery in the United States. Observed each year on June 19, it commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their freedom—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

In Fairfax County, the Park Authority recognizes Juneteenth by sharing stories of the African American men, women and children who shaped the region's history through their labor, leadership, creativity and community.

### Featured Events

Juneteenth Celebration at Sully Historic Site

Sully Historic Site, Thursday, June 19  
Celebrate African American history through guided interpretive tours of original outbuildings and the first floor of the main house. Experience storytelling, music, children's activities, quilt exhibits, touchable artifacts, interpretive displays, and a free health clinic. Food trucks will be available and picnic tables provided. Free admission.

Juneteenth Smudge Stick Floral Workshop

Green Spring Gardens, Thursday, June 19

Join BLK FLWR MRKT, a Black woman-owned business, in creating a floral smudge stick—a botanical bundle used in cultural and spiritual practices. Learn about the historical significance of these plants for Black Americans and engage in reflective activities, such as writing affirmations and sensory play. \$60 per person. Registration required  
Exploring Our Historic Meeting House and Grounds

Frying Pan Farm Park, Saturday, June 21

Explore the rich history of Frying Pan's Meeting House, one of the oldest religious structures in Fairfax County. Staff and volunteers will offer informal tours of the building and grounds, highlighting the history of African Americans in the area. Free admission.

## 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.

## GARDEN TOURS

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 31 TO JUNE 29

**Illuminations: A Retrospective by Rosemarie Forsythe.** At Reston



Pianist Francesca Hurst will appear Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.

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.

## KIDS ON THE GREEN RETURNS

This summer, families are invited to the Freeman Store and Museum patio in Vienna every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in June, July and August for the 8th annual "Kids on the Green" series. This popular family event features free entertainment designed for children of all ages, such as performances by magicians, musicians and storytellers. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on and enjoy the show. Visit [www.viennava.gov/kidsonthegreen](http://www.viennava.gov/kidsonthegreen).

## SENIOR MOVIE DAY

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

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

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

## 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.

## JUNE 5 TO AUG. 3

**LEGO Summer of Play.** At LEGO Springfield Mall. This summer, families can get ready for a celebration of play like no other at LEGO Discovery Center with an all-new event. From June 5 – August 3, the LEGO Summer of Play event will have new activities to help kids discover their unique Play Mode – whether they love to create, discover, build, dance or simply play their own way.

Event Activities:

❖ Imagine and design a more playful

city in our Creative Workshop with a Master Model Builder

- ❖ Spot the summer surprises hidden in MINIWORLD
- ❖ Join a FESTIVAL dance party with an awesome LEGO character
- ❖ Build a LEGO bee and display it on our LEGO flower cart
- ❖ Capture your Play Mode pose in a photo with a LEGO character and share the moment

## THURSDAY/JUNE 5

**"Portrait of a Lady on Fire" Film.**

1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Set on an isolated island in Brittany in the late 1700s, "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" tells the story of Marianne, a painter hired to produce the wedding portrait of a young woman called Héloïse, who is to be married off to a Milanese nobleman. Héloïse is determined not to pose for the portrait and resents the idea of her marriage, so Marianne must produce it in secret. From this situation blossoms romance between Héloïse and Marianne, and a sisterhood between the two and the household's young maid. Cannes Film Festival winner for Best Screenplay.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 6

**Vienna Ushers in the Summer**

**Season with Concert Series.** The sounds of summer return to the Vienna Town Green beginning Friday, June 6, with the first, free outdoor concert as part of this year's "Summer on the Green" series. These lively performances will be held on most Fridays from early June through late August, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and typically last about 90 minutes. Each concert offers a unique experience, showcasing a variety of musical genres including rock, blues, country and jazz performances from local and regional musical acts. Visit [www.viennava.gov/summeronthegreen](http://www.viennava.gov/summeronthegreen).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 6

**Old Firehouse Center - 5th & 6th Grader Luau Party.** 7-9:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Old Firehouse 5th-6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Free catered food and beverages will be distributed to participants. Parties feature a DJ, open dance floor and a variety of activities. Preregistration is recommended.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 7

**Celebrate National Trails Day.** With 334 miles of trails to explore, there's no better time to hit the trail than National Trails Day. Whether you're walking, running, biking or horseback riding, Fairfax County offers something for

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# ENTERTAINMENT

everyone – from forested natural and hard surface trails to scenic boardwalks and interpretive trails. Fairfax County's trails are for everyone. With accessible options, bike trails and nature-rich routes winding through parks, stream valleys and forests, residents and visitors alike are invited to reconnect with the outdoors and discover the everyday beauty that's right in their own backyard. As part of the national celebration, the Park Authority will host a National Trails Day event at Hidden Pond Nature Center, located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield on June 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy guided hikes, hands-on nature activities and opportunities to learn about trail safety and etiquette. It's a fun way to meet fellow trail lovers and kick off your summer adventures. All ages are welcome.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 7 Paws on PenFed Plaza.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy a paws-ively fun outdoor experience for pets sponsored by PenFed Credit Union on PenFed Plaza. With over 15 pet-friendly vendors including Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, Woofbowl Dog Food Truck, Homeward Trails, Bark and Boarding, Pet Wants Falls Church, VCA Southpaws, Veterinary Emergency Group, and more. Make new friends inside the dog park complete with splash pads to keep your pups cool and spin the wheel for giveaways worth wagging your tail over. PenFed Credit Union will have an ATM (Automatic Treat Machine), puppy pool, giveaways and more! Plus, get a photo taken of your dog and turn them into a meme. PenFed members get a VIP gift when they show their PenFed card or bank statement.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 8

**Francesca Hurst, Piano.** 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Pianist Francesca Hurst divides her playing between classical and contemporary music. She makes sense of music regardless of style and period and is passionate about connecting with audiences. Hurst is on the piano faculty at The Catholic University of America and the University of Virginia.

## 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.

## STARTING JUNE 9 New Traveling Exhibit WWII:

**Voices of Service.** At Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Open Wednesdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Voices of Service: This traveling banner exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History explores major events of the war through the photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans. From the attack on Pearl Harbor through the GI Bill, it provides an overview of important events on the battlefield and the home front.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 10 American Red Cross Blood

**Drive.** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MCC is helping the American Red Cross with diverse blood donations! It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need. Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: "McLeanCC" to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 11 "Portrait of a Lady on Fire"

**Film.** 6:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Set on an isolated island in Brittany in the late 1700s, "Portrait of a Lady on Fire" tells the story of Marianne, a painter hired to produce the wedding portrait of a young woman called Héloïse, who is to be married off to a Milanese nobleman. Héloïse is determined not to pose for the portrait and resents the idea of her marriage, so Marianne must produce it in secret. From this situation blossoms romance between Héloïse and Marianne, and a sisterhood between the two and the household's young maid. Cannes Film Festival winner for Best Screenplay.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 12 New York Philharmonic

**Staged Concert of "Company" by Stephen Sondheim.** 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This concert staging of Sondheim's award-winning musical "Company" includes the all-star cast of Neil Patrick Harris, Stephen Colbert, Jon

Cryer, Christina Hendricks, Patti LuPone, Martha Plimpton, Anika Noni Rose and other notables. Not Rated, runtime 145 min. Not recommended for patrons under age 13. These movies are programmed for adult audiences unless otherwise noted.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 14

**Juneteenth Celebration.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Old Town Square, Fairfax. Featuring music, speakers, historic information, children's activities, food vendors and more!

## SATURDAY/JUNE 14

**A Midsummer Night's Dream: 40th Anniversary Gala.** 6 p.m. At Great Meadow in The Plains, VA. Guests are invited to an evening featuring cocktails, dinner, live music and dancing, entertainment, and live auction. The gala will be hosted by renowned actor Christopher Hanke, known for his appearances on the HBO mini-series, I Know This Much is True. Entertainment will be provided by the talents of Freedom Imani and Bryan Fox and Friends, who have shared the stage with music legends like Patti LaBelle and paid tribute to Frankie Beverly. Go to [www.greatmeadow.org](http://www.greatmeadow.org) for tickets.

## 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

**Falls Church Plant Sale.** 8 a.m. to noon. At Falls Church Community Center Gym, 223 Little Falls Church, Falls Church. Exquisite plants--all sizes, kinds, and for all garden conditions; pots, tools, gifts, decor, and custom bouquets. Visit the website: [www.fallschurchgardenclub.org](http://www.fallschurchgardenclub.org)

## SATURDAY/JUNE 14

**Jason Robert Brown & Friends.** 7 p.m. At 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. JRB &

SEE ENTERTAINMENT,  
PAGE 19

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## Legals

## Legals

# TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

## REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due

**Monday, June 23, 2025**

We continue to receive a high number of tax complaints that either no paper tax bill was received, or that mailed payments did not make it to city hall. **When paying, please consider using our 24-hour drop box located at 10455 Armstrong Street (at the front of City Hall, near the flag poles) in lieu of the USPS. (Checks only, no Cash)**

## LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10% late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, **payment in full must be received or postmarked by close-of-business on Monday, June 23, 2025**

Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City of Fairfax Treasurer's Office (City Hall, Suite 234) 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

## IMPORTANT

**Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Monday, June 23, 2025**

For Additional Information, please check the City website at [www.FairfaxVA.gov](http://www.FairfaxVA.gov) or call (703) 385-7900

3co Fest. 12-2 p.m. At Three Collec-

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### NEWS DEPARTMENT

[fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mary Kimm**  
Editor and Publisher  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter  
703-778-9415  
[bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mercia Hobson**  
Staff Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike Salmon**  
Contributing Writer  
[miksalmon6922@gmail.com](mailto:miksalmon6922@gmail.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Contributing Writer

---

### ADVERTISING

For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

---

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

*In Memoriam*  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong  
**Production Manager**  
Geovani Flores

---

### CIRCULATION

**Circulation Manager**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)



# ENTERTAINMENT



**Jason Robert Brown & Friends will play on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.**

FROM PAGE 17

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

**Fairytales! Spring Concert.** 3 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. The Washington Balalaika Orchestra's spring concert, "Fairytales!," will feature Andrei Saveliev, WBS Orchestra's Concertmaster and balalaika virtuoso. Andrei has been the principal player of the WBS Prima Balalaika section for over 25 years. His mastery of the balalaika, coupled with his emotional style of playing, has made him a perennial audience favorite. Another of the audience favorites, soprano Olga Orlovskaya, will also be a featured soloist. Among the selections she will sing are the "Habanera" and "Dance Boheme" from "Carmen." To purchase tickets, go to [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org)

## SUNDAY/JUNE 15

**50th Annual Father's Day Antique Car Show.** 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, Chantilly. Start your Father's Day with horsepower, history and hometown fun at the 50th Annual Father's Day Antique Car Show. Presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the George Washington Chapter Inc., this golden anniversary event promises an unforgettable day for car lovers, families and anyone who enjoys a classic celebration. Get ready to see hundreds of vintage vehicles, from turn-of-the-century rides to mid-century cruisers, all in one place. This year's show features judged competitions and trophy awards, plus a variety of attractions and entertainment:

Car Corral  
Live music  
Food vendors  
Specialty car displays  
First-floor tours of the historic house

Auto, antique and craft flea market  
New this year: Model A Hot Rod class  
ATM available on site

## SUNDAY/JUNE 15

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

## TUESDAY/JUNE 17

**MCC Celebrates Juneteenth!** "Written in the Waters": An Evening with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Tara Roberts. 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented in Partnership with the Fairfax County Public Library. National Geographic explorer and storyteller Tara Roberts follows a team on a quest to document and identify sunken slave shipwrecks. Part adventure



**The Pack Drumline will appear on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.**

story, part scientific log and part personal memoir, "Written in the Waters" catalogues Tara's journey with divers, historians and archeologists who are searching the Middle Passage for the wrecks of ships that carried enslaved Africans.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 19

**The Pack Drumline.** 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This electrifying performance will have you on the edge of your seat or blanket! The Pack Drumline's renowned blend of southern show style drumming with intense upbeat choreography creates a production that is both powerful and awe-inspiring. Together, dynamic percussionists and dancers create explosive rhythms, intricate patterns and stunning visuals.

## JUNE 19 AND 20

**Indigo Girls Perform.** At Capital One Hall. Grammy-winning duo Indigo Girls will be performing two evenings in Tysons with the Fairfax Symphony at the Capital One Hall on Thursday and Friday, June 19 and 20. For these special symphony shows, the iconic folk duo brought in musical arrangers Sean O'Loughlin (Chris Isaak, Feist, The Decemberists, Josh Ritter) and Stephen Barber (Rosanne Cash, Alejandro Escovedo, John Legend) to write orchestral charts for a selection of songs spanning their career, from the 1980s on.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 21

**Juneteenth at Frying Pan Park.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying Pan Park, Herndon. Uncover stories of free and enslaved African Americans. Learn how Black congregations fought for greater freedoms. Explore how they built a thriving community. Join tours through the church, grounds, and former Lee House site. (All ages) Free but registration recommended.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 21

**COPA Tysons Soccer Fest.** 1 to 7 p.m. at Ken Lawrence Park, 8008 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons. The Tysons Community Alliance (TCA) is pleased to announce the 2025 COPA Tysons Soccer Fest, a free, all ages soccer festival featuring an exciting array of fun soccer activities such as bubble soccer, inflatables, soccer skills stations, photo opportunity with Washington Spirit mascot PK, vendors, a DJ, face painting, food trucks and more. All area



**Bennie and the Jets: Tribute to Elton John will appear on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at the McLean Community Center.**

soccer fans are invited to attend this family-friendly festival. This year, COPA Tysons Soccer Fest has added its inaugural co-ed small-sided, 4-v-4 adult tournament open to male and female players 18 years and older, featuring two divisions – the Open Division (18+ adults) and a Senior Division (35+ adults). Registration is \$200 (plus fees), which includes four guaranteed small-sided games, a COPA Tysons t-shirt, and an award for the winning team.

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/FFXS-RR), 703-425-9225.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 26

**Bennie and the Jets: Tribute to Elton John.** 7 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Do you remember when rock was young? Even if you don't, you will want to rock with this Elton John tribute. Greg Ransom is every bit as flamboyant, outrageous and entertaining as the Pinball Wizard himself.

## Accidentally Not on Purpose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Other than not getting a handicapped sticker for my car - which I briefly considered back in the early daze of my cancer life, or affixing a "new driver, please be patient"-type bumper sticker on the rear of my car to provide me some leniency and/or latitude behind the wheel, I've never "weaponized" my affliction as a means of avoiding us meeting by accident. Nevertheless, it's becoming increasingly clear of late that even a short drive (seasons notwithstanding, although winter does provide unique challenges) to my local Giant (less than 1.5 miles) shouldn't encourage this driver to put on the blinders. I have to respect the fact that there are plenty of other drivers who regard these local-type errands as a bit of a race.

"Drive defensively" is a phrase which has been drilled into our driving heads for as long as I can remember in an attempt to prevent drivers meeting by accident. Although plenty of accidents can't be prevented/avoided, at least we drivers can be alert and not increase the likelihood that we'll meet unexpectedly, shall we say. Which means paying attention when behind the wheel and not taking our local errands/routines for granted because there are many other drivers who will. This also means not to fuss with the radio or the windows, keep your windshield clear and your wiper fluid full, buckle up, and most importantly keep your eyes focused on what's ahead, not behind you or to the side.

However, a major design upgrade to automobiles of late that I have finally embraced are the radio's controls being relocated from the dash to the wheel. No more looking down and to the right, generally describing, to adjust your radio preferences. I was guilty of that misdirected focus much too often. Finally, I have started pressing the radio's buttons on my wheel. Now I can increase/decrease volume and search up or down the radio dial all while keeping my eyes on the road; especially when you consider the number of satellite stations on your car's radio. A search, if done manually, could take more than a few seconds, time when you're not paying strict attention (or any kind of attention for that matter). Eliminating that manual temptation has enabled me to keep my attention where it belongs: on the road and away from the radio. As such, I feel so much more in control, even without my handicapped tag or new driver bumper sticker.

Still, most of us living in the suburbs need a car for commuting or "erranding." Walking to and from or using public transportation eliminates these car-related distractions (Duh!). Unfortunately, much of suburban life requires - or works better/more efficiently with an automobile at your disposal. Therefore, it makes logical sense to behave/drive responsibly since the regularity/frequency of driving in your car increases exponentially the chances (I didn't say likelihood) that you might get into an accident. Logically thinking, why not make a commitment to the activity which exposes you to your greatest risk of death or disability: driving your car.

If any of these accidents could be predicted/planned for, you would, as my friend Beverly refers to it, be called an "on purpose." Since it's rare that these driving actions occur on purpose, why not act your age and drive like you have a future. Sure, we have a present, but as I know all too well, your future is hardly guaranteed. As in the game of Monopoly, and the overall game of life, it's usually riskier to take a "chance" than it is to grab an "opportunity."

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



# Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber Awards \$32,000 in Scholarships

Sixteen scholarships were awarded to local high school students by Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce to recognize the outstanding achievement of graduating seniors planning to continue their education in a business-related field.

The Chamber's 2025 Distinguished Business Scholars are Alman Iqbal, Annandale High School; Mia Inzerillo, Bishop Ireton High School; Colette von Schamberg, Bishop Ireton High School; Kyle Janer, Edison High School; Lady Ankrah, Hayfield Secondary School; Carter Smith, Lake Braddock High School; Ella Ridgway, Lake Braddock High School; Mae Lazear, Lewis High School; Hong Song Nguyen, Lewis High School; Mary Hammond, Mount Vernon High School; Brandon Dake, South County High School; Andres Villafuerte, South County High School; Tiffany Ling, South County High School; Bernice Wong, West Potomac High School; Matthew Fisher, West Springfield High School; Kalina Rapoza, West Springfield High School.

The scholarships were presented May 28, at a special reception hosted by the Army Historical Foundation at the National Museum of the United States Army.

"Education is the foundation of a healthy business ecosystem," said Roberta Tinch, Chamber Chairman and CEO of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. "It equips you with the skills to innovate, the knowledge to lead, and the confidence to collabo-



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Left to right, Don Cammarata, Reworld; George Ksenics, Andrews FCU; Mae Lazear, Lewis High School; Ella Ridgway, Lake Braddock HS; Brandon Dake, South County HS; Kyle Janer, Edison HS; Andres Villafuerte, South County HS; Lady Ankrah, Hayfield Secondary School; Carter Smith, Lake Braddock HS; Mia Inzerillo, Bishop Ireton High School; Roberta Tinch, Inova Health Systems; Bernice Wong, West Potomac High School; Eric Christensen, Springfield Town Center; Colette von Schamberg, Bishop Ireton High School; Alman Iqbal, Annandale High School; Mary Hammond, Mount Vernon High School; Michael Murphy, Mount Vernon Columbus Club; Tiffany Ling, South County HS; Kathleen Lugarich, Army Historical Foundation; Hong Song Nyugen, Lewis HS; Holly Dougherty, Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber.

rate. Whether you're pursuing medicine, technology, finance, or the arts, your education is your launchpad—not just for personal success, but for contributing to a thriving, resilient economy."

Speaking to the scholarship recipients Tinch continued, "Each of you, whom we are recognizing today through this scholarship process—have shown us what it means to persevere, to adapt, and to lead with purpose. These are the qualities that fuel not only academic success,

but also the kind of leadership that strengthens our local businesses, our nonprofits, and our government institutions.

"And so here's my call to action to each one of you: Use your education to build something bigger than yourself. Start a business. Mentor someone younger. Speak up for what matters. Because when you do, you're not just advancing your own future, you're investing in the growth and prosperity of the entire community," said Tinch.

"The Chamber selects at least one scholarship recipient from each of the high schools in our service area," said Holly Dougherty, president of the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "We were all inspired by these students and their goals. They have the potential to really contribute and become a positive influence in the community."

Scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of local businesses and by funds raised at the annual Chamber Golf Classic.

Businesses that provided complete scholarships are Reworld, Ourisman Automotive dealerships, AHead, Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus and Cisco.

This continues the Chamber's annual tradition of providing scholarships to students planning to study business. The Chamber has awarded scholarships for more than 25 years and this year's scholarships totaling \$32,000 brings the Chamber's cumulative scholarship giving to more than \$364,000.

## Controversial DHS Sanctuary Jurisdictions List

Was Fairfax County erroneously named among 'Lawless Sanctuary Jurisdictions'? Answer: Page Not Found

"Page Not Found"

That was the current status of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's listing of "sanctuary jurisdictions" nationwide by city and county on Sunday, June 1. Homeland Security published its press release on Thursday, May 29, titled "DHS Exposes Sanctuary Jurisdictions Denying Federal Immigration Law." Backlash and criticism drenched the media across the country as elected officials from localities criticized Homeland Security and the list for its inaccuracies.

In Virginia, U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine issued statements on

the same day of the release, slamming the erroneous list. It included not only Fairfax County and 19 other counties in the Commonwealth, but, as the senators said, included Martinsville County, which does not exist, "and 13 'cities'—including Duffield, a town with roughly 70 residents and no dedicated police department—as being 'sanctuary jurisdictions defying federal law.'"

"There are no sanctuary cities in Virginia, and various jurisdictions, including Martinsville and Tazewell County, have released statements to share their confusion regarding being included on the list," the Senators said.

Warner added, "This list is further proof that the Trump administration's obsession with government efficiency is nothing but cheap talk. The White House should get its basic facts straight before attempting to come after Virginia's localities and its hard-working public servants."

Kaine said that the list was "riddled with egregious errors." He cited that Martinsville, not a county, and Duffield, not a city. "Coupled with the Department of Health and Human Services' report this week that cites nonexistent studies, I'm concerned that the Administration is turning to artificial intelligence to replace the work of dedicated civil servants that are being fired," Kaine said.

Locally, Jeff McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, said in a statement, "The Trump Administration chose to include Fairfax County on a list of 'sanctuary' jurisdictions without considering the rule of law, the Constitution, and our county's policies. Immigration enforcement falls squarely within the authority of the federal government, and Fairfax County fully complies with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and court orders."

Disputing Homeland Security's claim that Fairfax County defies federal law, McKay said that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is automatically notified any time an individual is booked into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and has a criminal detainer.

McKay clarified that the policy of the county Sheriff's Office is not under the purview of the Board of Supervisors. It is consistent with the Virginia State Code. If ICE determines that the individual poses a threat to public safety, they are able to take custody of that person upon completion of their sentence." McKay said, "The Sheriff's Office does not and should not hold anyone beyond their court-ordered release date."

According to Homeland Security, when it initially published its list, each jurisdiction listed would "receive formal notification of

its non-compliance with federal statutes." DHS demanded "these jurisdictions immediately review and revise their policies to align with federal immigration laws and renew their obligation to protect American citizens, not dangerous illegal aliens. ... These sanctuary city politicians are endangering Americans and our law enforcement in order to protect violent criminal illegal aliens," DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said in a press release.

The release of the sanctuary jurisdictions followed the signing of an Executive Order by President Donald J. Trump on April 28, 2025 which mandated that within 30 days of the order, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, publish a list of States and local jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws (sanctuary jurisdictions).

The Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security would update the list as necessary and notify jurisdictions regarding "defiance of federal immigration law enforcement and any potential violations of federal criminal law."

Consequences for sanctuary jurisdictions would be to "identify appropriate federal funds to sanctuary jurisdictions, including grants and contracts, for suspension or termination, as appropriate."