

THE CONNECTION

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Homeowners can record energy and water saving practices, such as solar panels or converting lawn to native plantings, in the Sustain Fairfax Challenge

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Is Fairfax County a 'Sanctuary County'?

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Your Help Needed to Sustain Fairfax

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 4-17, 2025


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ENVIRONMENT



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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

Gray Fox Project Surveys Population

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

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Not 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 urban 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 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. Marcela 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.

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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

Democrats 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?

If you find local news coverage helpful, consider donating to help the Connection continue to publish. See GoFundMe <https://gofund.me/333a276b>

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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>

Taking on the Climate Change Challenge

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 operational 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 electric 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.

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



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

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/

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 uten-

sils 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/

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>.

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4102 N. Glebe Road, Arlington VA 22207
www.TheColumbarium.org
Email: Cemetery@WalkerChapel.org

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



SCREENSHOT SOURCE X

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA): “I’m concerned that the Administration is turning to artificial intelligence to replace the work of dedicated civil servants that are being fired.”



SCREENSHOT FACEBOOK

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA): “The White House should get its basic facts straight before attempting to come after Virginia’s localities and its hardworking public servants.”



SCREENSHOT FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV

Chairman Jeff McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: “Fairfax County fully complies with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations and court orders.”

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

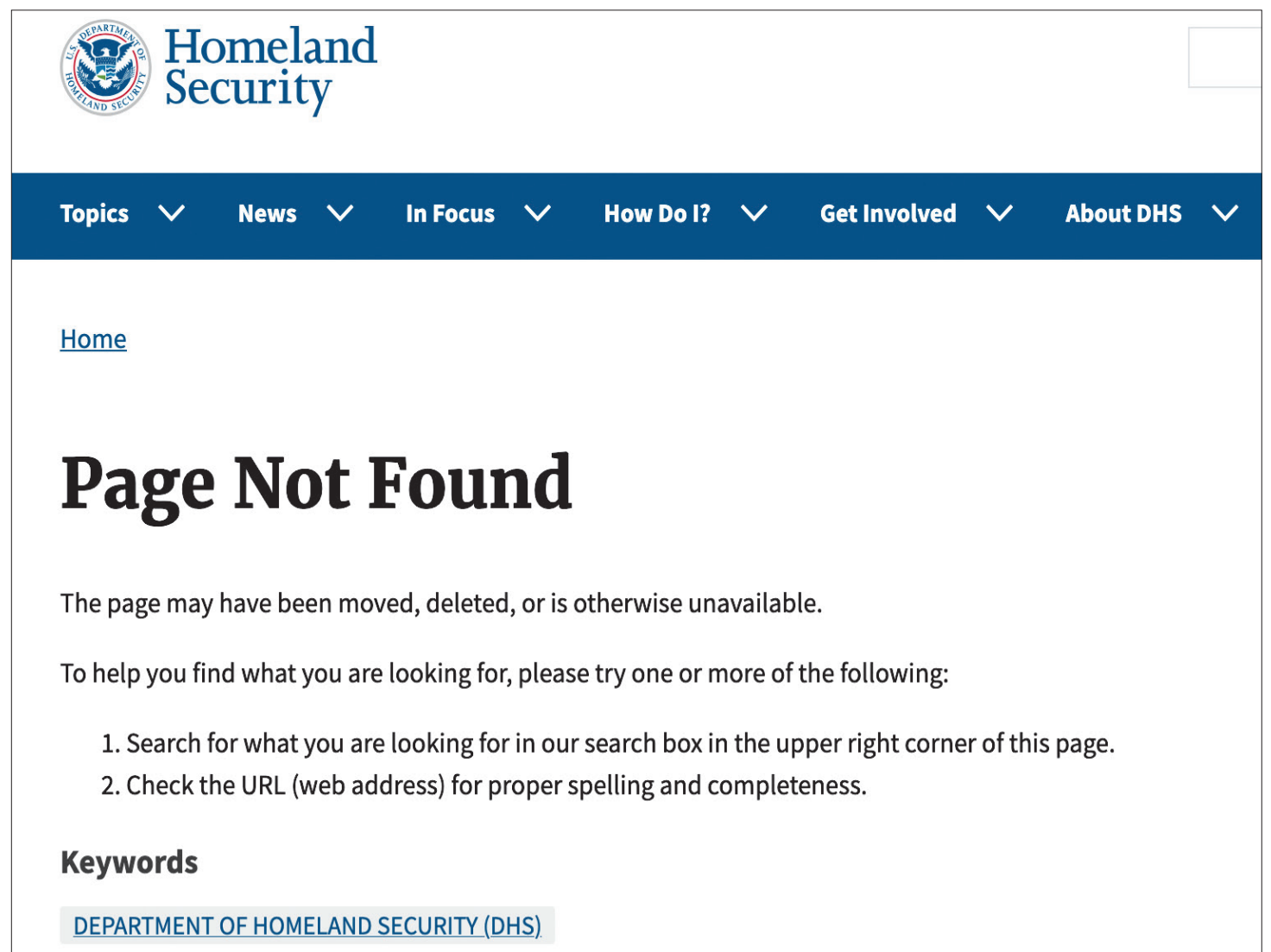
consistent with the Virginia State Code. If ICE determines that the individual poses a threat to public safety, they are able to take custody of that person upon completion of their sentence.” McKay said, “The Sheriff’s Office does not and should not hold anyone beyond their court-ordered release date.”

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.”



SCREENSHOT

“Page Not Found” became the current status of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s website page listing so-called sanctuary jurisdictions nationwide by city and county on Sunday, June 1, after the controversial DHS Sanctuary Jurisdictions List was published on Thursday, May 29.

Chantilly Couple's Altercation Ends in Murder

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

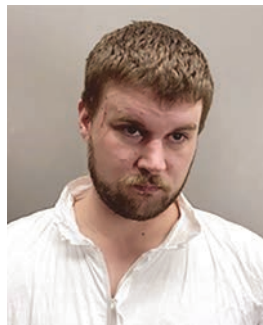
An altercation inside a Chantilly home has left one person dead, another in jail and a child without his mother. The tragedy occurred during the evening of May 24 and was classified by Fairfax County police as a domestic-related homicide.

According to police, at 7:48 p.m., officers from the Fair Oaks District Station rushed to a home in the 16000 block of Bromall Court, after receiving a call from a husband that "he had assaulted and killed his wife. Offi-

cers located Kim White, 32, suffering from trauma to the upper body. She was declared deceased at the scene."

The husband, Alexander Towne, also 32, remained there until police arrived. Officers then arrested him and took him to the Adult Detention Center where he was charged with second-degree murder. He's being held without bond and has a July 11 court date.

That night, police spokesman Capt. Jesse



Towne

Katzman held a press conference outside the residence. He said there was "no active threat" to the community and confirmed that Towne had reported the crime and that police found his wife's body inside their home.

When asked if the couple had a history of domestic violence, Katzman said, "Preliminarily, it doesn't appear that we've been out to this residence before. He also noted that "there was a juvenile child inside the home at the

time, and he has been placed with a family member."

Afterward, police conducted interviews and processed evidence recovered from the scene to help them determine the circumstances leading up to the murder. Said Katzman, "Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau and Crime Scenes Section continue to investigate this tragic incident."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to 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).

ROUNDUPS

Car Seat Inspections on June 12

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

Everyone is eligible. Another car-seat inspection is scheduled for July 17 at the same place and time.

Future Women Leaders in Law Enforcement

The Fairfax County Police Dept. is offering a free program enabling high-school girls to experience exciting aspects of police work, such as patrol, helicopter operations and

crime-scene investigations – all while connecting with inspiring women leaders within the Police Department.

The course runs July 28-Aug. 1 and is open to all Northern Virginia high-school girls entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade for the 2025-2026 school year. Space is limited, and the deadline to apply is June 25.

For more information – including the time and location – call 703-246-3332 or email CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov. Apply at <https://bit.ly/fcpdfwllle2025>.

Register for Teen Police Academy

The Teen Police Academy is a free opportunity for high-school students to go behind

the scenes of the Fairfax County Police Department and learn about careers in law enforcement and public safety. Through hands-on activities and real-world insights, students will learn about core police functions, gain leadership skills and build a better understanding of law enforcement's role in the community.

The course runs July 14-18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 12099 Government Center Pkwy. in Fairfax. It's open to all Fairfax County high-school students (public, private or homeschooled) entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade for the 2025-2026 school year. Spots are limited – apply by June 25.

For more information, call 703-246-3332 or email CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov. Download the application at <https://bit.ly/fcpdteen2025>.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

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

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Would you like to help a neighbor feel less lonely? Will you help someone get much-needed groceries? Form new connections and make a meaningful difference. Older adults in the Annandale, Falls Church, and Alexandria regions are waiting for volunteer social visitors and grocery shoppers. If you can give the gift of your time, consider providing invaluable support to someone in your community. Learn more about Volunteer Solutions at bit.ly/FXVSVOL or email VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov or call 703-324-5406.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy

Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-minds/fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

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

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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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

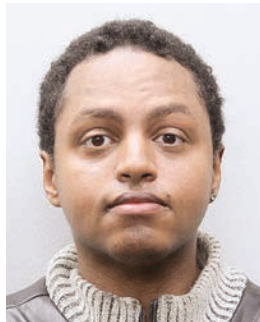
Paid for by Lateef for VA



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.



Bekele Bengessa

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).

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 of-

fenses 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

FROM PAGE 6

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

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

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OBITUARY

Former Supervisor Cathy Hudgins

Advocate for affordable housing, transit and human services, Hudgins was first African American woman elected to Board of Supervisors.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Catherine M. Hudgins, who represented the Hunter Mill district on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1999 to 2019, died on Saturday, May 24. Hudgins worked to transform Fairfax County into a progressive, inclusive jurisdiction that prioritized all residents, including those traditionally marginalized in community planning and infrastructure development.

Hudgins' legacy continues in the vibrant, diverse communities she helped build and the transportation infrastructure that now connects thousands of residents. Hudgins was the first African American woman elected to the Board of Supervisors.

"I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Catherine Hudgins this weekend. Most knew Cathy through her 20 years of public service as Hunter Mill District Supervisor, and she left an enduring legacy in Hunter Mill and across all of Fairfax County," said Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) on Facebook.

"Cathy co-created the One Fairfax policy and the creation of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team. ... Cathy truly

helped make the world a better place, and for that, we are all grateful. Thank you, Cathy, for all you did and for your life of service," Alcorn said.

Born in 1944 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Hudgins earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas and relocated to Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Willie J. Hudgins Jr. She and her husband moved to Reston in 1969.

"This hurts deep. We just honored her a couple [of] weeks ago," said Amanda Misiko Andere on Instagram. "Supervisor Cathy Hudgins was simply the best. My friend and mentor. A true fighter for those at the sharpest intersection of marginalization."

Hudgins worked to bring the Metro Silver Line service to Tysons and beyond. Hudgins saw the Silver Line as more than just a transit project. She viewed the Silver Line as an extension of Metro service to previously underserved areas, catalyzing economic growth and improving the quality of life for many families in the community. The project ultimately connected Tysons to Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Dulles International Airport and beyond, fundamentally reshaping regional transportation and economic infrastructure.

"It is with an already heavy heart that I learned of the passing of former Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins," said Jeff McKay (D), chairman of the Board of Supervisors,

in an emailed update. "Cathy was a friend and, as seatmates on the dais, I appreciated the insights she provided from our years serving together. A regional leader, Cathy and I also spent many years together representing Fairfax County on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Board, bringing an equity lens to regional transportation efforts."

Hudgins served on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board for 11 years, including a term as chairman from 2011 to 2012. During that time, Hudgins was instrumental in spearheading WMATA's governance, including adopting the agency's first bylaws and a modernized code of ethics.

In addition to transportation, Hudgins was a passionate advocate for human services and affordable housing. Her work focused on building inclusive and equitable neighborhoods and providing services to often-overlooked communities. She chaired the board's Human Services and Housing Committee. Hudgins was a key figure in the South Gate Community Center, championing it from conception to completion. Her efforts transformed the center into a vibrant



PHOTO FACEBOOK

Catherine Agnes Martin Hudgins (Cathy Hudgins) of Reston (1944-2025)

community hub, renamed in 2021 in her honor.

Throughout her career, Hudgins received numerous awards, including the Community Builders Award, an NAACP honor, and the Wayne F. Anderson Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Hudgins is survived by her sister, Dolores Muse; two sons, Michael and Tony; daughter-in-law, Sarah Wolf; and two granddaughters. She was predeceased by her husband.

www.lylesfuneralservice.net/obituary/catherine-hudgins

Funeral: June 6, 2025, Saint Thomas à Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Visitation: 10-11 a.m.; Service 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Reception: 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Honoring the Life of Janie Strauss

Former School Board chair and representative was dedicated to family and students; Strauss's life produced lasting good.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Jane Kamps (Janie) Strauss, a McLean resident since 1984, died at home on April 11, 2025 at the age of 78 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Strauss was a long time member of the Fairfax County School Board.

During the April 22 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting, the board recognized Strauss. Chairman Jeff McKay said that the loss of Janie Strauss "hits home really hard." McKay noted that Strauss served in multiple capacities on the school board, including chair, vice chair, and budget chair. "During her tenure, two elementary schools, Colvin Run and Coates, were opened, and 15 schools in the Dranesville district were renovated. FCPS also advanced initiatives such as full-day kindergarten, additional advanced academic programs, and later start times for high school students, all of which Janie was a key element in supporting," McKay said.

Born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in December 1946, her legacy, the power of her life, endures through the lives she touched —

committed to her family as mother of four Fairfax County Public School students, now adults, and to all students who benefited through her significant contributions.

Strauss's legacy endures through educational initiatives, the arts and culture, community impact, and personal influence. Strauss served 26 years on the Fairfax County School Board, including two years as an at-large member from 1991 to 1993 and 24 years as an elected representative of the Dranesville District from 1996 until she retired from the school board in 2019.

Strauss also served as chair of The Cappies, an ongoing nonprofit program that combines high school theater and journalism through Critics' and Awards. Strauss's husband, William (Bill), co-founded the program in 1999 in response to the Columbine tragedy as an effort to bring more positive attention to teenagers engaged in creative pursuits. The program began in Fairfax County and has chapters across the United States.

"The Cappies is just such a creative program that Janie came up with, because it wasn't just about helping the kids who are on stage," said Supervisor Jimmy Bierman,

Dranesville District. "It was also about helping the kids who write the newspaper articles about the kids who are on stage. It was about helping the kids who were backstage. She had this way of trying to figure out how to expand the pie of people that she was helping."

Supervisor Dalia Palchik on Strauss's community impact: "We would not be who we are today without Janie's legacy on the school board," Palchik said, emphasizing the profound and lasting impact Strauss had on Fairfax County's educational system. Strauss "was really focused on the whole child and the academics of the kids. ... I think my fondest memory is that all of her emails she signed, 'Cheers, Janie.' And that simple closing just really describes who she was, a positive outlook. I was fortunate to serve with her for 14 years and be able to learn a lot from her. She will be sorely missed."

Strauss earned a B.A. in history from George Washington University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She married Bill the year they both graduated from Harvard in 1973, and worked as a preschool and elementary school teacher.



FACEBOOK

Jane Kamps (Janie) Strauss (1946-2025)

The current Fairfax County School Board also honored its former chair and Dranesville District representative. Chair Karl Frisch called for a moment of silence during the meeting on April 24 and extended the board's deepest sympathies and condolences to her family and friends.

In 2015, The Connection asked Strauss as she sought re-election on the school board, "What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?" Strauss responded in part, "With the challenges facing the next generation — from global instability and an integrat-

SEE JANIE STRAUSS, PAGE 19
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A roundup of events in four communities

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Residents in Fairfax County observed Memorial Day weekend and the Monday observance with various ceremonies, wreath presentations, musical performances, and other events. “Memorial Day is a day of reflection and remembrance of those who died while serving in the U.S. military,” states the Congressional Research Service, a non-partisan research agency within the Library of Congress that provides analysis to members of Congress and their staff. Communities in Fairfax County recognized the importance of the day, and each observed the day differently.

Town of Herndon

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



**CHESTNUT GROVE CEMETERY, HERN-
DON:** Guest speaker Chief Master Sergeant Brett W. Hamilton opened his Memorial Day remarks: “Brothers and Sisters from the Professions of Arms, distinguished guests, Gold Star families, and fellow Americans,” he said. The Memorial Day Observance 2025, which was organized by the American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184 and the Town of Herndon and held at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

“From the muddy trenches of World War I to the remote jungles of Vietnam, from the sands of the Persian Gulf to the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, and in countless conflicts in between, American service members have laid down their lives. ... Today, we honor the fallen. We remember their names, their faces, and their stories. We remember the dreams they left unfulfilled, the families they left behind, and the futures they never got to experience. Their sacrifice is immeasurable, their debt to us incalculable. As members of the military community, we bear a special responsibility. We are the torchbearers of their legacy.” Hamilton is the Career Field Manager and Chief for Accession Policy Headquarters, Air Force.

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

Families enjoy the Merry-Go-Round at the Viva! Vienna! 2025.

Town of Vienna

Viva! Vienna!

Memorial Day weekend is time for Viva! Vienna! a charity festival that featured a carnival with 24 rides suitable for ages two and up, live entertainment, food vendors, and the Brewfest Beer Garden.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Vienna, the event drew at least 60,000 attendees over the three-day Memorial Day weekend, reported Gunnar Spafford, of Rotary. “It might be a little bit more, just because none of the pools are opening. The weather is too cold, but it is perfect for a carnival.

“All proceeds go to charity; we raised \$249,000 last year,” Gunnar said. \$40,000 is always set aside for the following year’s seed money, \$1,000 for a rainy day fund, and the rest distributed to charities.”

— MERCIA HOBSON



SCREENSHOT FACEBOOK

Crowds packed the exhibit runway at Viva! Vienna! 2025.



SCREENSHOT FACEBOOK

The Viva! Vienna! Town Festival Memorial Day Tribute was held on the Vienna Town Green on Monday, May 26.



‘Lest We Forget,’ the red poppy honors the war dead and their sacrifice. Michael Cutler, 2nd Vice Commander, and Robert Thompson, bugler and First Vice Commander of the American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184, support the American Legion Auxiliary’s annual Poppy Fundraiser as they wear their poppies on Memorial Day.



Over 70 motorcyclists from across the region gathered early Saturday morning of Memorial Day Weekend to join Jimmy Cirrito, owner of Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern in Herndon, for their famous “Rolling to Remember.” The ride rolled through the Town of Herndon, with Mayor Keven LeBlanc waving them off (pictured here). The pack rode to Great Falls and down the George Washington Parkway, ending at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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COMMUNITY



Keven LeBlanc, Mayor of the Town of Herndon, the first openly gay mayor of the town, poses with a friend.



Virginia is for ALL lovers.

Reston Pride

— MERCIA HOBSON

Reston Pride 2025 welcomed all to Lake Anne Plaza in Reston on June 1, urging the community to come together and “RISE UP!” this year, and recognize “the harmful acts the current administration has taken against our communities across the country,” according to a Reston Pride post. Speaker Keven LeBlanc, mayor of the Town of Herndon, said, “We remember the patrons of Stonewall who said, ‘no more.’ We remember the families we’ve created — by blood, by bond, and by brave choice. And we remember that every right we have was fought for—inch by inch, life by life, love by love. And so we say: Rise up.”



Local artist, Brianna, rose to the challenge and designed a mural for Reston Pride 2025.

Recognizing Girl Scout Leader Serving 25 Years

Kuzmack teaches needs assessment followed by project ideas.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month, a month of awards and recognition honoring volunteers, from those who are the boots on the ground to volunteer managers who inspire and mentor others on their community service journey. Beth Gamba of McLean had witnessed the volunteer work of McLean resident Linda Kuzmack as a Girl Scout leader for over twenty years. The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

“[Kuzmack] creates opportunities for McLean-area Girl Scouts to develop a service process much deeper than tallying service hours. Kuzmack shows them how to consider the community’s needs before students brainstorm ideas for volunteering,” Gamba said.

Gamba said Kuzmack’s leadership stands out because it became a multi-generational, welcoming Girl Scout alumnae. Kuzmack conducted her first volunteer project with McLean student volunteers in 2000. Kuzmack and another troop leader, Linda Walsh, have adult daughters who are now Girl Scout Troop Leaders for their daughters’ troops. According to Gamba, three generations of Girl Scout volunteers serve simultaneously.

During service unit meetings, Kuzmack guided the young scouts in brainstorming to identify a need, create the implementation workflow, and execute the service project. The scouts learned how to establish a responsibility-empowering loop. Over late winter and early spring of 2025, Kuzmack was at it again, guiding Girl Scouts from 10 ♦ THE CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 4-17, 2025



Girl Scout leader Linda Kuzmack listens to a young girl scout from a McLean troop share her ideas about a March 31 service unit project, during the project preparation stage.

multiple troops, two from Kent Gardens ES, Troops 50131 and 55033, and one troop from Falls Church, 50219. They worked to create a March 31 science day of service at Stanton Elementary School in D.C. The Girl Scouts planned a science day they would manage at the D.C. school. Walsh has supported Kuzmack’s connection with Stanton for decades, including the twice-yearly Day of Science at the D.C. school, which helped

the young scouts discover how to “be the change.”

Kuzmack started a service initiative at the school 25 years ago. Over the years, Girl Scout troops under her wing have brought their need-based ideas and implemented them at the school through their original service unit plans.

Current and former scouts, their families, and the principal of Stanton shared their

thoughts about Kuzmack’s two decades of volunteering. Her efforts led to Girl Scout service projects at Stanton, which benefited those students and the scouts by expanding their public speaking, mentorship, and leadership skills. Such encouragement and how Kuzmack presented the units led scouts to continue volunteering throughout high school, college, and beyond.

Linda Walsh, McLean: “I’ve worked with Linda since our kids were 6 years old. ... Our daughters and granddaughters have continued to serve. ... Kuzmack has fostered a passion for community service, inspiring volunteers to return year after year, even after their high school graduation.”

Chuck Marks, McLean: “My family got involved with the McLean Girl Scout service unit 15 years ago. We valued Linda’s continuity year after year, which permitted my children to see the benefit of repeated commitment to [the] community. We’ve been impressed by the quality of the projects Linda helped children plan.”

Sophia Hobson, 5th grade, Kent Gardens E.S., Troop 50131 McLean: “The present occasion is my first time volunteering on this project. I was nervous, but I also felt confident afterward.”

Abby Nguyen, 4th grade, Kent Gardens E.S., Troop 50131 McLean: “I’m volunteering here for the second time.”

Clara Marks of McLean, a college student, began volunteering with Linda Kuzmack in 2016 when she was 10, during Science Day at the school in D.C.: ... I gained a lot of public speaking, mentorship, and leadership skills.”

Allen Richardson, principal of Stanton Elementary School in D.C.: “Ms. Kuzmack is a beloved partner to our school ... Kuzmack’s consistency year over year generates authenticity, reinforcing service as an important everyday way of seeing the world around us.”

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MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2025

Reston

PHOTOS BY TIM KURO



Air Force veteran Ann Kuo salutes during the playing of the national anthem during The Reston Chorale's "A Star-Spangled Salute," with the Brass Band of Northern Virginia.

The Reston Chorale's "A Star-Spangled Salute" honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice and featured patriotic music with the Brass Band of Northern Virginia on Sunday, May 25, at the Reston Town Center Pavilion. Reston Town Center and the Reston Town Center Association presented the concert.



From left, Keynote speaker Robert (Bob) Wallace, Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville), Ronell Chatmon, of the office of the late U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and Andy Wilson, president of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial and retired Army Ranger officer at the Memorial Day Ceremony 2025 held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls

On Monday, May 26, at 11 a.m., crowds gathered at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to observe Memorial Day. Unlike most other observances that day, organizers also honored local residents who died during the 9/11 attacks. Keynote speaker Robert (Bob) Wallace provided his interpretation of why, on Memorial Day, it is also relevant to honor and remember civilians who died in a terrorist attack against the United States.

Wallace served in Vietnam with a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol unit and later spent 33 years with the Central Intelligence Agency. He shared the origins of

Memorial Day through a personal account. His great-grandfather survived the Civil War, and the engraving on his grave marker, "Company D, 34th Regiment, Iowa," was enough to give him a sense of family connection to the war that originated today's commemorations.

Decoration Day, a national holiday in the United States, honored the lives of those who died in the Civil War. The event began in Waterloo, New York, in 1866 and spread across 37 states, Wallace said.

Since World War I, it has expanded to include all those who lost their lives in the country's wars. Since 1968, Congress has established Memorial Day as a national hol-

iday, and millions of Americans gather at monuments, memorials, and cemeteries to honor the lives lost in the country's wars.

Becoming a soldier is an intense personal experience, often a first step towards independent adulthood, Wallace said. The call to duty begins with the Oath of Office or Oath of Enlistment. It brings awareness of responsibility and the danger of being called into combat.

The Great Falls Freedom Memorial commemorates 25 former citizens of Great Falls, including six men and women who died in wars against international terrorists. Wallace said that the memorial also honors the sacri-

fices made by families, friends, and soldiers who fought for their country's freedom.

"Many wars began with army attacking army, but others, like 9/11 and the October 7, 2023, massacre in Israel, were triggered by unprovoked attacks on civilians. Those who died, although having no intent of war, are as much casualties of war as the soldiers subsequently called to duty," Wallace said. "As we hear the names read and the Freedom Bell ring in memory of these Great Falls citizens who perished in service to our country, let us recall each family's sacrifice and pray that, with God's help, a right and peaceful world may yet be known."



A partial view of the crowd at the Monday, May 26, Memorial Day ceremony held at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial to honor the residents of Great Falls and all others who have given "the last full measure of devotion" to their country.

Defining Year for NOVA Park's W&OD Trail

Interview with park authority's executive director

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

2025 is shaping up to be a watershed year for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's W&OD Trail, also known as the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park and Dominion Energy. It is at a point where the course of events can irrevocably alter the park's future.

"Fantastic news," Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks), said on Friday, May 23, before the start of the Memorial Day weekend.

"We proposed a draft MOU to Dominion Energy on Arbor Day, April 25, and what we got this week was a message from Dominion, a very positive message that Dominion is interested in developing an MOU for the future," Gilbert said. "We are currently scheduling the follow-ups and advancing that matter." Dominion is also amenable to working with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to develop a replanting and restoration plan, according to Gilbert.

Dominion suspended and previous understanding, and cleared a four-mile path in the Vienna-Dunn Loring area. While clear-cutting can be a necessary tool in certain situations, it can be a contentious practice, particularly in areas such as parks. Clear cutting can destroy natural habitats, reduce biodiversity, and negatively impact water quality and carbon sequestration.

People often refer to the W&OD Trail as the skinniest park in Virginia. It is a 100-foot-wide park that runs 45 miles through the urban heartland of Northern Virginia and into the countryside. The park connects Shirlington, five miles southwest of the District of Columbia, and Purcellville, situated in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Down the park's center is a 45-mile paved trail for running, cycling, or skating built on the former roadbed of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad. The trail has become a walking and cycling commuting route, taking vehicles off the crowded roads. There is a parallel gravel bridle path dedicated to horseback riding that runs alongside the paved trail for approximately 32 miles of the park's 45 miles.

Vegetation and trees grow on each side of the trail's pavement, providing a green ribbon and a wildlife corridor through a highly developed part of Northern Virginia, and shading much of the trail. It is within the green ribbon that Dominion Energy (then VEPCO) developed its electric transmission lines after purchasing the property in 1968. In 1977, Dominion sold the property to NOVA Parks for \$3.6 million to develop the Trail, while retaining the right to an easement to maintain its electric transmission lines.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, is in the Town of Vienna for an Arbor Day 2025 ceremonial tree planting.

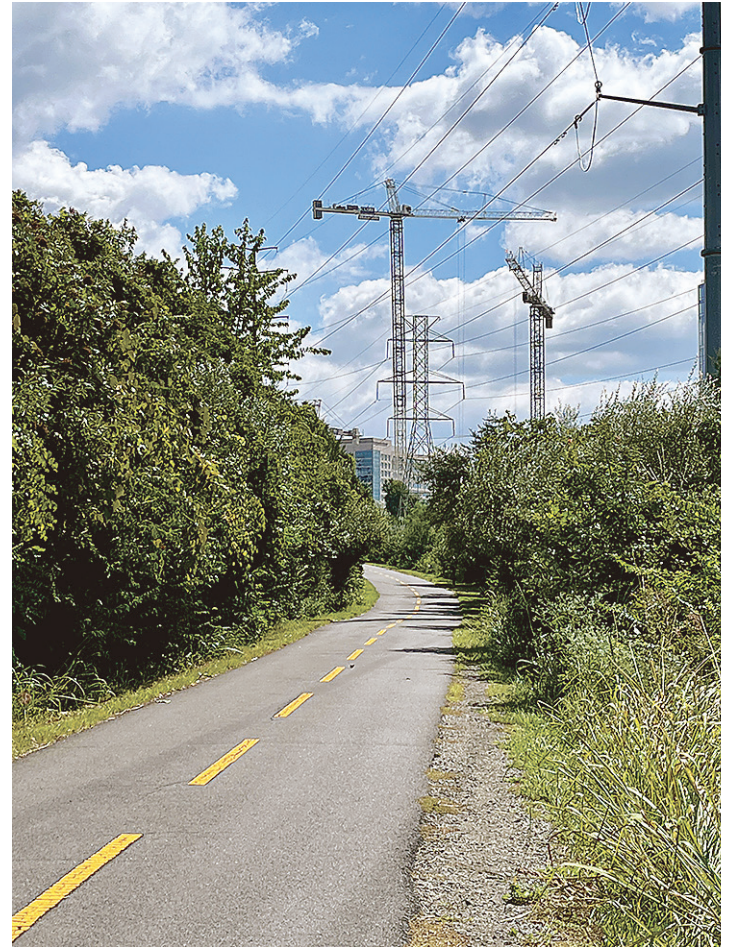


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

The W&OD trail makes its way through urban Northern Virginia.



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

A Dominion Energy transmission tower along the W&OD Trail in the Town of Herndon.

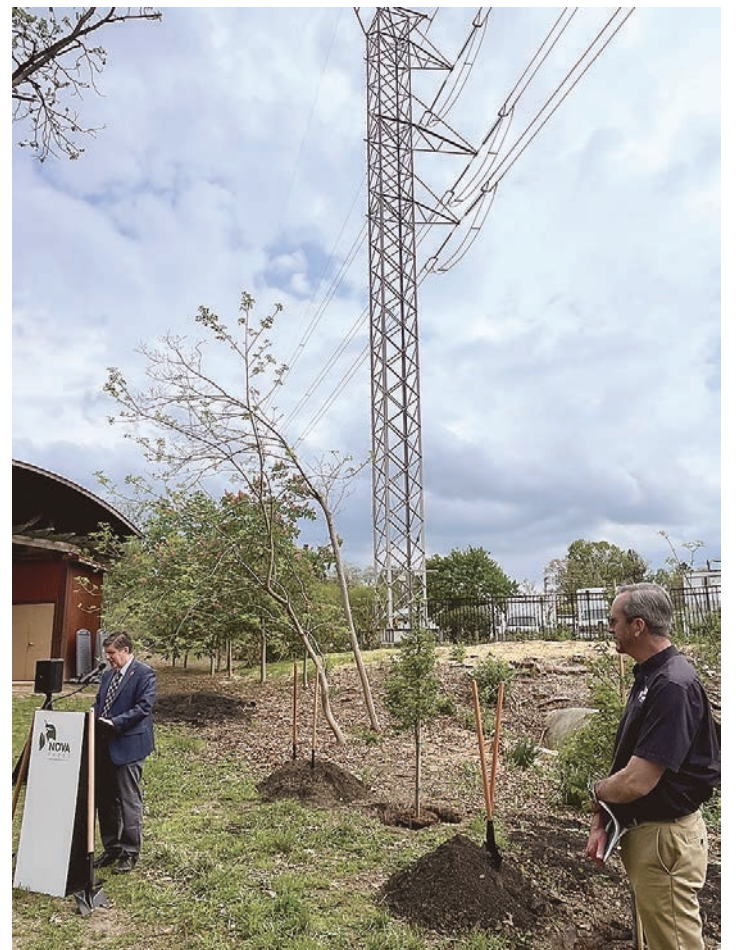


PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

With the clear cutting of the W&OD Trail in the background, Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, listens as Supervisor Walter Alcorn gives remarks in the Town of Vienna for Arbor Day 2025.

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SOURCE DOMINION ENERGY

Joseph Woomer, Dominion Energy

Dominion

FROM PAGE 12

Gilbert acknowledged there have not been any follow-up meetings since the clear cutting. NOVA Parks is assembling a team of arborists and landscape architects to develop the replanting plan and is seeking Dominion’s comments on the draft Memorandum of Understanding.

“The new MOU we are developing is primarily a response to cutting practices that the community considers unacceptable,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert recalled that on March 18, the Arlington County Board, Fairfax Board of Supervisors, and Loudoun Board of Supervisors all voted unanimously on the same day to request that Dominion cease cutting, adopt a selective cutting plan, and reengage with NOVA Parks on a Memorandum of Understanding. Since that time, the City of Falls Church, the Town of Vienna, and the Town of Herndon have all passed similar resolutions.

“So it really is the Northern Virginia community at large that has said to Dominion, the W&OD Trail is more than a power line right away. It is one of the most used and valued parks in all of Virginia, and we want to see it maintained as a park,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert clarified that a memorandum of understanding is an agreement, but it may not be fully legally binding. NOVA Parks had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dominion from 2005 until late 2024, which covered vegetative management on the community trail. “That MOU originated in response to a similar, very aggressive cutting by Dominion that occurred in 2004-2005. So it did happen about 20 years ago,” Gilbert said.

On March 26, of this year in letter addressed to Gilbert regarding Dominion Energy Work Along the W&OD Trail, Joseph Woomer, senior vice president, Electric Transmission, Dominion Energy Virginia wrote, “The forestry work we are currently performing on the four-mile section of the Trail in Fairfax and Vienna is vitally important for the safe and reliable operation of the transmission lines along the trail.”

Woomer said that it had been 20 years since Dominion last performed “significant forestry maintenance in the area, and tree growth now poses a risk of coming into contact with the transmission lines alongside the Trail.” He added that trees could potentially touch or fall on the lines, thereby “jeopardizing reliability of customers’ electric service and the integrity of the regional

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Grid-Enhancing Technologies

The electric grid is experiencing a rapid transformation both in terms of the unprecedented growth it must meet and the challenges that come with a changing generation portfolio to more renewable resources. **Grid-enhancing Technologies (GETs)** play a part in delivering on Dominion Energy’s commitment to meeting our customers’ energy needs and enable more clean energy.

GETs are a wide classification that can almost encompass any advancement deployed on the grid. The current application of the term means a group of technologies that offer a variety of benefits that provide operational flexibility and potentially improve grid performance which can come in the form of both software or hardware solutions. The most beneficial use of these technologies depends on the specific needs of the grid. What is clear is that the grid is becoming more complex, more digital and continuously integrating GETs where there is opportunity has layered benefits.

Dominion Energy has significantly invested in GETs and believes they have an important role in advancing the grid of the future but are limited in their ability to serve load growth in isolation. Software solutions are a valuable tech-forward supplement to the grid but are not a substitute for firm transmission capacity needed

to serve substantial growth in customer demand. GETs are an optimizing tool that can help this network run more efficiently. And when it comes to adding renewables to the system, GETs play an influential role in their deliverability.

Dominion Energy Electric Transmission continues to explore, pilot, and integrate GETs innovations in a deliberate and systematic approach to enhancing reliability and enabling the clean energy transition. Dominion Energy is an industry leader in deploying GETs with many technologies already in service with plans to increase use-case pilots across our system.

Beyond GETs, we are deploying innovations in all that we do - employing novel construction methods to execute more projects, faster to realize needed capacity and operational benefits.

Examples of the spectrum of current GETs application in use across the Dominion Energy Virginia footprint:



Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported (ACSS)



Field Series Capacitor Bank

STATCOM

Advanced Conductors have been used on our system since the 1970s where we began pioneering new conductor technologies beyond the standards used at the time. In 2019 we took yet another step standardizing our use of a high temperature conductor, including trapezoidal advanced low sag designs, on all our 230 kV reconductor and new build projects - adding or replacing 800 miles as of the end of 2023. This type of advanced conductor has provided us a **50% increase in capacity** over our legacy lines. We have found we can achieve high power transfer ratings while taking advantage of the maturity in supply chain, standard practices for installation, standard ancillary equipment needs and less lead times for repairs - all of which allows us to execute more projects, more swiftly, with added capacity benefits.

Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) devices strengthen and support the transmission grid in much the same way as conventional generation resources. As conventional generation resources have retired, FACTS devices have helped fill the need for system services such as voltage support. Dominion Energy currently has several types of FACTS Devices connected to our transmission system, including eight stationary and three mobile Static Synchronous Compensators (STATCOMs) and three Static VAR Compensators (SVCs). STATCOMs and SVCs automatically regulate grid voltage, manage power quality and help operators with system restoration.

Fixed Series Capacitor Banks (FSC) have multiple use cases from reducing line losses to enhancing electrical angular coordination to prevent generator instability during faults. Dominion Energy has deployed FSCs to ensure stable operation of the world’s largest pump storage facility at maximum output. FSCs are an advanced technology that unlocks transmission capacity by canceling line impedance which allows more seamless integration of future renewable generation.

SOURCE DOMINION ENERGY

Grid-Enhancing Technologies provided by a spokesperson of Dominion Energy.

Dominion Energy is one of the first utilities to be awarded a Grid Resilience and Innovations Partnership (GRIP) grant made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for our Analytics and Control for Driving Capital (ACDC) project.

This funding opportunity allows customers to reap the benefits of GETs through pilot programs that will improve visibility and understanding of grid operations and power flows. Lessons learned from these projects will be used to implement technologies in the future that will help us better understand and adapt to increasingly dynamic grid operations.

Technologies Piloted Through the ACDC Project:

Dynamic Line Rating (DLR)

Environmental and weather conditions affect the thermal capacity of electric lines. DLR determines the maximum thermal capacity that can be fed and maximizes efficiency.

- The project would install, calibrate, and operationalize the advanced line rating systems primarily within the Northern Virginia region of the Dominion Energy Virginia transmission network, about 27 lines. This will be among the **first largest deployment of DLR in the US.**
- Improves short-term system flexibility for switching for industrial customers
- Achieves operational expertise needed for territory-wide expansion to enable more renewable energy interconnections

Grid Forming Inverter (GFI)

This pilot tests a new technology that would stabilize the grid at large-scale Distributed Energy Resources interconnections and potentially allow renewable generation to have blackstart capabilities.

- First open-source grid forming software ever developed for utility-use
- First installed 2 to 4MW renewable microgrid for isolated rural community
- Insights for GFI Dominion Energy Virginia-wide rollout and PJM/NERC rulemaking process

Grid Edge Visibility (GEV)

The increasing number of residential Distributed Energy Resources has created congestion risk due to the inability to locate where and how much distributed load is being fed. GEV increases the visibility and operability of the distribution grid in order to better plan for Distributed Energy Resources intermittency and mitigate adverse grid impacts.

- Improves grid operations and grid planning with access to more Distributed Energy Resources data from GEV devices
- Supports significant projected increase in Distributed Energy Resources penetration behind 88 devices
- Provides 24k customers with direct visibility and restoration potential from investment

Dynamic Performance Monitoring (DPM)

DPM is a data collection and analysis process that will help us improve the operation of an evolving energy grid. High-tech sensors added onto the grid at substation and other strategic locations will track and collect frequency data. This data will be sent to an analysis platform, and our grid operators will be able to better understand how different components added to the grid are impacting its function. That understanding will lead to better grid operation decisions and maximize the availability of renewable resources.

- Achieves coverage of key transmission and generation assets with 1kHz telemetry

GETs have a role to play in the grid of the future. GETs are not a substitute for new transmission facilities needed to serve new firmload. **Dominion Energy has deployed and is testing advancements in GETs as part of its comprehensive approach to ensure reliability and enable the clean energy transition.**

For details about Dominion Energy’s electric transmission projects, visit [DominionEnergy.com/Powerline](https://www.dominionenergy.com/powerline)

SOURCE DOMINION ENERGY

Grid-Enhancing Technologies provided by a spokesperson of Dominion Energy.

Are Data Centers Driving Dominion’s Power Needs?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Oct. 15, 2024, Dominion Energy Virginia filed its 2024 Integrated Resource Plan, a comprehensive, long-term regional plan to meet growing power demand, much of it driven by data centers, according to its press release, “Dominion Energy Virginia releases comprehensive long-term plan to meet growing power demand with reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean electricity.”

The company is making investments to expand the transmission grid. “In the first half of 2024, Dominion Energy completed 123 new transmission projects, including nearly 90 miles of new and rebuilt transmission lines and 13 new substations,” according to the press release details.

“We are experiencing the largest growth in power demand since the years follow-

ing World War II,” Edward H. “Ed” Baine, president of Utility Operations, Dominion Energy Virginia, says in the release.

The Connection reached out to Baine for comment and asked if Dominion would increase the W&OD transmission line capacity by building new lines, upgrading existing lines, expanding grid capacity through the deployment of advanced sensors and analytics, or other technologies to maximize the potential of the existing wires over the next five to ten years.

A spokesperson for Dominion Energy responded by email on May 29, writing that for any electric transmission project, Dominion evaluates “the most effective solution designed to minimize impact to the surrounding area while maximizing the infrastructure itself.”

“For example, we are simply replacing the conductor, or wire, on existing infrastructure, on a four-mile stretch of the Trail between Vienna and Fairfax. This

will allow for more capacity along that transmission corridor. While grid-enhancing technologies are certainly a piece of the equation for a reliable electric transmission grid, they are one consideration among a multitude of factors in our planning and engineering analysis,” the spokesperson wrote.

“We’ve been closely engaged with NOVA Parks over the last several weeks, and we’ve had constructive discussions on the long-term forestry maintenance plan for the trail. We’re confident we can develop a plan that supports the trail’s natural habitat and preserves low-growing native species, while also protecting the safe and reliable operation of the transmission lines that serve our customers across the region. We’ll continue keeping the public informed as our plans progress.”

The spokesperson provided The Connection with a Dominion Energy document, “Grid-Enhancing Technologies.”

grid.” It could also result in substantial penalties if they did not comply with federal requirements overseen by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Woomer said after community feedback, Dominion decided to “temporarily pause” additional forestry work; it has not determined the scope or timing of future tree clearing, and such will not be determined until after “a comprehensive review of the remaining trees and engag[ing] with the community.”

Gilbert acknowledged the need for reliable power lines; no one wants trees to grow

into power lines. But they have the opportunity to create a “beautiful park under the power lines,” which includes trees, bushes, and flowering meadows.

Gilbert reaffirmed that the draft MOU focuses on plants that support pollinators, such as flowering plants, meadows, bushes, and trees, all of which are native to the area. It would significantly improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the W&OD.

Gilbert added that numerous invasive plants require attention. It’s not just planting the new stuff,” Gilbert said. There are “really aggressive plants that are nonnative

that choke out the native plants. ... With an intentional focus, we can make the W&OD into a beautiful garden of native plants,” Gilbert said.

Woomer concluded his letter saying, “We are working with NOVA Parks on a long-term plan for re-plantings of pollinator areas and low-growing native species, as well as enhanced control of invasive species along the entire Trail. Our goal is to develop a plan that supports the Trail’s natural habitat and preserves low-growing native species, while also protecting the safe and reliable operation of the transmission lines.



In 2009, Sofie posed at the end of year recital with the Adagio Ballet School in McLean.

McLean Ballerina Pirouettes to L.A.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Former McLean resident Sofie Treibitz followed the ballerina path since she was a two-year old dancing in a local ballet class, and now she is in the big time, dancing professionally at American Contemporary Ballet in Los Angeles.

In early June, Sofie dances in a combination of “The Euterpides,” and George Balanchine’s “Serenade.” These are described as the “landmark of 20th-century ballet that changed the art forever. ... Set to Tchaikovsky’s luminous score, Serenade remains as mesmerizing today as when it debuted in 1934, a work of enduring beauty, mystery, and poetic power.”

Sofie’s been in LA about a year, dancing in a CBS studio, visiting the HOLLYWOOD letters on the mountainside and smiling at celebrities as she passes by en route to the next moment in the spotlight. “Dancing With the Stars,” is also filmed in the same building so she sees them too. “I always get excited,” she said.

It’s different than McLean but she tries to remain grounded. “Ballet was always my focus, I love to perform,” she said. Gawking at the HOLLYWOOD sign was even exciting. “That’s a must, there’s always people filming

there,” she added.

The American Contemporary Ballet attracts the attention of national reviewers from the LA Times, Vogue, The New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter and the Ballet Herald to name a few. It’s a big deal in the dance world and Sofie finds herself immersed in Hollywood out on the west coast. She’s gone to two high level photo shoots with professional photographers that are known for magazine covers such as Vogue and Vanity Fair. They had professional make-up artists, costumes and everything that is seen on the red carpet.

“Both shoots that I have been part of were way above things I’ve experienced before,” she said.

These red carpet experiences are etched in her mind, as is the massive fire in Los Angeles recently.

“The fire was scary,” she said. Sofie was not directly affected by that, but she saw many of her fellow artists impacted, so she pitched in and helped whenever possible. That included sorting out donated goods at the local YMCA.

Kelly Treibitz, Sofie’s mother, looks at the ballet training as a good move throughout her life. “Ballet has offered Sofie the opportunity to work with so many other talented dedicated professionals all over the country.



Sofie Treibitz in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER NORMAN JEAN ROY. HIS WORK HAS BEEN FEATURED IN MANY MAGAZINES: VOGUE, VANITY FAIR, GQ, ALLURE, HARPER’S BAZAAR, AND ROLLING STONE.

She has learned to persevere when things get hard and appreciate the positive in every situation,” she said.

Fitting in out in L.A. is easy for her, and

just to make sure, she’s taking surfing lessons too. Surfing and ballet might even share some of the same gnarly moves.

PETPALOOZA!

Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 03 p.m.

Reston Town Center,
11919 Market St, VA 20190-5615, Reston, Virginia

Pet Palooza welcomes the summer season with animal related businesses and pet adoption non-profits, educational exhibits and tons of pet-related entertainment. This outdoor family-friendly event attracts thousands of visitors. Meet wonderful animals looking for their forever homes and check out the latest in pet products. Gather the kids and join us for a day of pets and fun for the whole family! Bring your leashed pet to do some shopping, meet new friends, or maybe even adopt a new family member!

Highlights:

❖ Ryan “The Bug Man” Bridge

All the bugs are real and many of them are the largest species in the world! Anatomy, defensive characteristics and importance to the environment are some of the other highlights of this program. Visitors will not only get to see some of the most beautiful insects in the world, but, upon request, get to hold some of the largest live bugs around.

❖ Raging Reptiles

This educational program encourages active participation, allowing visitors to observe, touch, and learn about reptiles up close. This hands-on experience can deepen the understanding of complex scientific concepts.

❖ Poppy the Pony

This beautiful Pygmy Pony will be on hand to meet and greet visitors and

deliver a basket of programs around the event. She wears a flower crown and is gentle with children.

❖ NOVA Wild

NOVA Wild is a non-profit zoo that financially supports international conservation efforts, located in Reston, Va. NOVA Wild offers fun, interactive opportunities to learn about different animal species from around the world.

❖ Entertainment and other activities -

The Bubble Lady
Face Painting
Strolling Entertainers
Pet Caricaturists
Live DJ Music

Local animal nonprofits and rescues, pet-related businesses and adoptable pets!

Yes! There will be puppies!

Fun for the whole family and your furry companions.

‘Outstanding Commitment and Dedication to Excellence’

PFC Jessica Marte feted as Sully’s Officer of the Quarter.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

PFC Jessica Marte was selected as the Sully District Police Station’s Officer of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2025. She was honored at the May 14 meeting of the station’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

In his letter nominating her, 2nd Lt. Chad Cosgrove, the Days A supervisor, called Marte “a dedicated, four-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department. She has consistently demonstrated outstanding commitment and professionalism during her tenure as a day-shift patrol officer at the Sully District Station.”

Cosgrove wrote that “Marte’s positive impact on her squad is undeniable. She routinely goes above and beyond, staying late to finalize cases and readily assisting her colleagues. Her proactive pursuit of professional development, exemplified by her enrollment in crime-scene technician classes, underscores her dedication to excellence. Notably, her meticulous documentation en-



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

sures successful prosecutions, reflecting her commitment to being a thorough and effective officer.”

This year, she leads day-shift officers in arrests, with 21 made in the first quarter. Cosgrove said Marte proactively identifies and executes active warrants within her area. And when not serving warrants, she “diligently pursues case closures, often extending her shift to ensure thorough completion.”

“Her exceptional dedication was illustrated in a complex welfare check,” wrote Cosgrove. “Responding to an FCPS report concerning three absent elementary-school siblings, Marte navigated a challenging domestic situation. The mother had reported that her eldest juvenile daughter was confin-

ing her younger brothers.

“Marte’s swift response to the home address led to crucial contact with the mother, revealing that the mother was abandoning her children. Following the daughter’s statements of abandonment, and subsequent school notifications, Marte – in collaboration with CPS [Child Protective Services] – conducted thorough interviews with the children. Their accounts revealed a pattern of neglect and emotional distress, with their sister providing essential care.”

According to Cosgrove, “Marte’s on-scene observation of the deplorable living conditions further underscored the severity of the situation. Demonstrating exceptional coordination and diligence, she worked seam-

lessly with CPS to establish a safety plan for the children. She then secured warrants for the mother’s arrest on three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The mother was apprehended, and the children were safely placed with their grandmother.”

Cosgrove said this case represents Marte’s “unwavering dedication and meticulous approach to every assignment. Her comprehensive and eloquently written reports leave no investigative stone unturned – showcasing her commitment to thoroughness and ensuring justice is served. Her dedication to the citizens of Fairfax County is commendable. I proudly nominate PFC Jessica Marte for the Sully Station Citizen Advisory Committee’s Officer of the Quarter award.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MPO SCOTT RICHARDS

PFC Jessica Marte standing beside her police cruiser.

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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.

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 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.

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

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



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



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

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 and enter: "McLeanCC" to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting 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 se-

cret. 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 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

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 & 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.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

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

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

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

developers to reimagine underused office space.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Hope Rising: Concert for a Better World. 5 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF), 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Mosaic Harmony and UUCF are coming together for a powerful fundraising concert filled with HOPE, harmony, and a vision for a better world. This special event marks Mosaic Harmony's 31st Annual Spring Concert and features the inspiring voices of UUCF's Choir. Tickets: \$30/adult; \$10/ages 9-18; \$70/family of four or more; free/children 8 and under.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

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

SUNDAY/JUNE 15

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

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

JUNE 16 TO AUG. 15

2025 Summer Art Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 2025 Summer Art Camps at Workhouse Arts Center for ages 6-16. Spots are filling fast—secure your child's summer adventure today! Get ready for 9 unfor-

gettable 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 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



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

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 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, 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.

OBITUARY

Janie Strauss

FROM PAGE 8

ed global economy to climate change and energy sustainability — our children's education is more important than ever. ... We must maintain our rigorous programs for ALL students in the STEM fields, the arts, humanities and athletics." She added, "Their success will come not from what they know but what they can do with what they know."

In 2020, Strauss posted to Facebook, "I love this quote. 'You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.' -C.S. Lewis."

Among her many awards and recognitions, in 2018, Jane Strauss's consistent commitment to education was recognized when the Virginia School Boards Association awarded her the Advocate in Education Award.

tion Award. In 2021, the Board of Supervisors named Strauss "Lady Fairfax" for the Dranesville District in recognition of her long-standing commitment, leadership, and positive impact on the Dranesville District, particularly in the realms of education and community advocacy.

Strauss served for many years as the board chair of the Country Day School in McLean; and also held the position of president of the Fairfax County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations; board member, Healthy Families Fairfax; organizing member, Fairfax Families Care; and vice president of the McLean Citizens Association. As the education chair of the McLean Citizens' Association, she was part of the group that founded the McLean Teen Center. Strauss also served as a board member of the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA).

Lori Carbonneau. MPA executive direc-

tor posted, "She was always responsive, thoughtful, and deeply rooted in service — to us, to her constituents, and to so many across our region. I was especially honored when Janie called last summer, already feeling unwell, and asked to walk the site of our new Arts & Education Center. She was genuinely excited for MPA's future and made a point to understand and support what we were building — a gesture of encouragement I will never forget."

Strauss's husband, Bill Strauss, predeceased her in 2007. She is survived by her three daughters, Melanie (Cyril) Yee, Victoria (Jeremy) Hays, and Rebecca Strauss; a son, Eric Strauss, and five grandchildren.

A celebration of Strauss's life was held on Sunday, May 18, at McLean High School Auditorium. Instead of flowers, contributions may be sent to Cappies at admin@CAPPIES.com according to a Strauss family request.



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