

CONNECTION

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Qiqi Derosier, 14,
and dad Gabe with
some of the books
they donated to the
library, the book
nook at Britepaths.

Gift of Books, Reading For Local Children

PAGE 8

Colorful Protests on July 4

PAGE 4

'Hunchback' Relevant Today

PAGE 6

JULY 17 - AUGUST 6, 2025

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Trees encourage outdoor activities, such as dog walking in the woods for Karin Drinkhall and Callie, of Springfield.

The unquantifiable beauty of trees in every season is only one of many benefits trees provide.

Tree Commission Seeks Friends of Trees

Do you know a tree champion who deserves recognition?

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

What covers 50 percent of Fairfax County and grows? Trees! Or more correctly, the tree canopy, which is

made up of branches and leaves that seem to cover the ground when viewed from above. Fairfax County is fortunate to have this substantial boost of nature. Tree canopies play an essential role in improving our living environment by: providing shade to help offset urban heat island effects; regulating temperatures to aid energy conservation; intercepting rainfall, reducing stormwater runoff, flooding and water pollution; improving air quality; providing wildlife habitat, supporting biodiversity; and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events.

And, of course, the unquantifiable beauty of trees which improves streetscapes and landscapes, encourages outdoor activities, and supports mental health.

With all the benefits that trees and tree canopy provide, Fairfax County seeks to recognize those who make a difference for trees. This year, as it has since 1999, the county's Tree Commission will select individuals and organizations who demonstrated outstanding conservation actions to preserve, protect, or plant trees in the prior year. The nomination period closes on July 31.

Eligible for consideration are individuals; non-profit groups such as scouts, faith communities or home owner associations; and for profit organizations such as businesses, developers, nurseries and landscapers.

Friends of trees may be nominated, or self-nominate. Winners will be announced in the fall and recognized by the Board of Supervisors. Find the nomination form and information at: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/publicworks/tree-commission/friends-trees-awards>.

To assist in maintaining and enhancing Fairfax County's tree canopy coverage, the Board of Supervisors relies on a 15-member Tree Commission for advice and support. The Commission has a representative from each of the magisterial districts plus one at large member, and a representative of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Fairfax County Park Authority.

To read about last year's winners, see <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/publicworks/tree-commission/friends-trees-awards>.

COMMUNITY NEWS AT GLANCE

Free Back-to-School Vaccines

Inova Cares Back to School Pediatric Health Fairs offer children aged five and up free school physicals and immunizations with weekday and weekend clinics for VA Medicaid or uninsured Inova registered patients only. Appointments are required; call 703-698-2550.

— MERCIA HOBSON

The Fairfax County Health Department offers school-required immunizations at the Health Department clinics free of charge by appointment; call ahead at 703-246-7100.



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

ArtsFairfax, Call for Art

ArtsFairfax is accepting submissions now for an art exhibit. It will be at Springfield Town Center from October 2025 to March 2026. Fairfax County artists must submit applications by July 31, 2025. To learn more, visit the Exhibit at Springfield Town Center - ArtsFairfax.

— MERCIA HOBSON

H.R. 1: One 'Big Beautiful Bill' Act Is Law

VA Gov.says H.R. 1 is 'Rocket fuel for our economy.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

With the sweep of his black Sharpie, President Donald Trump signed the \$3.3 trillion H.R. 1: 'One Big Beautiful Bill' Act into law on July 4, unleashing the power of the reconciliation bill's sweeping domestic tax-and-spending package.

H.R. 1 impacts every person in Fairfax County and the United States, as well as those yet to come.

The U.S. Senate passed the behemoth bill on July 1, with Vice President J.D. Vance breaking the 50-50 vote tie, followed by the House's passage of the 940-page bill along party lines in a 218-214 vote on July 3, with the two Republican Congressmen voting "nay."

Virginia's two Democratic U.S.Senators, Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine, released a statement after they voted against the Republican budget megabill.

Warner and Kaine said in part, "Today, Republicans jammed through a partisan



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

Gov. Glenn Youngkin: [H.R. 1] "Lower taxes for families and small businesses, a secure border, American energy dominance, and rocket fuel for our economy."

megabill that slashes Medicaid, nutrition assistance, and other critical programs that Americans rely on to pay for massive tax breaks to the very rich. It's clear that the Trump Administration and congressional Republicans are only interested in helping the wealthiest—even if it means ripping off



PHOTO INSTAGRAM

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)

working-and middle-class people, killing jobs, and hurting our economy."

Rep. Arrington, Jodey C. [R-TX-19], who introduced H.R. 1 on May 20, described the legislation as "the most comprehensive and consequential set of conservative reforms in modern history."

The White House website states the signed reconciliation bill, H.R. 1, "lowers en-



PHOTO [HTTPS://WWW.WARNER.SENATE.GOV/PUBLIC/INDEX.CFM/HIRESPTOTOS](https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hirespotos)

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA)

ergy costs; slashes taxes on Social Security; permanently secures the border; brings jobs back to the U.S.," and more.

Virginia's Republican governor, Glenn Youngkin, posted on Facebook, regarding H.R. 1's passage: "Lower taxes for families and small businesses, a secure border, American energy dominance, and rocket fuel for our economy."

H.R. 1's Key Components and Impacts

What lawmakers representing Fairfax County are saying.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

H.R. 1 encompasses a wide range of policy changes, including significant cuts to social services, increased funding for border security and mass deportations, a reduction in clean energy incentives shifting toward fossil fuels, defunding Planned Parenthood clinics, changes to the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction Cap, and more. The Children's Hospital Association warned in June that the "bill will start a chain reaction impacting all children's access to health care."

The following are eight key aspects of the bill, accompanied by comments and impact statements leaning toward Fairfax County.

H.R. 1:

❖ Restructures SNAP benefits, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, which will experience significant reductions in federal funding allocations.

"The passage of Trump's disastrous tax bill is a betrayal of Virginia families," Sen. Ghasala Hashi (D-05) and Dem. Nominee for VA Lt. Gov. said on Facebook. "At a time

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Former VA Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-07). This bill "threaten(s) healthcare for more than 322,000 Virginians and leave(s) at least six rural hospitals at risk of closing."

when families are already stretched thin, the harmful budget bill guts food assistance programs."

Impact: As of October 2024, more than 71,000 people in Fairfax County participate in SNAP, according to the Fairfax County Department of Family Services website. H.R. 1 imposes work requirements on SNAP raising the age and shifting some of the costs to states with "high error rates," which will strain their budgets. More low-income individuals and families will lose SNAP benefits

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U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08): This bill "is denying due process and violating human rights."

if they cannot comply with the requirement of 80 hours of monthly work, volunteering, or participation in a qualified work program.

Abigail Spanberger @SpanbergerForVA-Jul 3: "House Republicans — including all five from VA — voted against advancing the bill that would threaten healthcare for more than 322,000 Virginians. ... "Every elected official who votes for final passage should be ashamed," Spanberger, a Democrat, posted. Over 150,000 Fairfax County residents currently participate in Medicaid,



Va. Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38): "Republicans have voted to defund Planned Parenthood. As a reproductive freedom advocate, I will work to keep abortion legal and our health clinics open."




Va. Sen. Scott Surovell (D-34): "Now Trump wants to steal the space shuttle from NOVA - thanks for fighting for Virginia, Governor Youngkin."

according to the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

❖ Increases the military budget by an additional \$150 billion. Intentions include to modernize the armed forces: \$29 billion intended to revitalize the nation's naval fleet and the maritime industrial base; \$25 billion for the so-called "Golden Dome" initiative; and enhance national security, \$25 billion is allocated to munitions and defense

SEE H.R. 1, PAGE 11

BURKE / FAIRFAX / FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON / SPRINGFIELD ❖ JULY 17 - AUGUST 6, 2025 ❖ 3



Virginia Department
of Transportation

Route 29 Southbound Shared-Use Paths

Fairfax County

Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing

Find out about planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements along two segments of Route 29 in Centreville: between the entrance to Newgate Shopping Center and the Trinity Parkway/Machen Road intersection (Site 1), and between O'Day Drive and Stone Road (Site 2). The Site 1 improvements include upgrading the existing sidewalk to a shared-use path (SUP) along southbound Route 29 from the Newgate Shopping Center to the Trinity Parkway/Centreville Drive intersection. The existing channelized right-turn lanes from southbound Route 29 onto Trinity Parkway at both of the Trinity Parkway intersections will be modified to reflect an "Urban Smart Channel" configuration, which provides improved visibility between motorists and SUP users; existing curb ramps, crosswalks, and connecting sidewalks will be modified to match the new configurations. The Site 2 improvements include upgrading the existing sidewalk to a shared-use path along southbound Route 29 from O'Day Drive to Stone Road, upgrading curb ramps and realigning crosswalks at the Stone Road intersection.

Pursuant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) has been prepared under agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included with the PCE.

Review project information at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/29SUPs> or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1795 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **August 13, 2025**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0029-029-458, P101

UPC: 121884

Federal: STP-5B01 (336)

News

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX INDIVISIBLE



Signs and demonstrators line a I-495 overpass on July 4th protesting federal immigration policies and the reconciliation bill that was signed into law later that day.

Local Protesters Continue Opposition

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION




American flags and red/white/blue outfits were prominent.

With American flags waving, and red, white, and blue a prominent color choice for attire, protesters were back being highly visible at area highways on July 4th.

About 300 people lined overpasses at I-495 and the Fairfax County Parkway through the morning to protest administration actions. How long will they keep their demonstrations active? Fairfax Indivisible lead Marianne Burke says, "Interest and participation is growing all the time with this [group] and so many other [protest] groups. So I believe we will continue indefinitely." The group's next action will celebrate the "good trouble" recommended by famed congressman, John Lewis later this month.

SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5



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Local Protesters Continue Opposition



American flags and red/white/blue colors drew attention of motorists.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Protesters' waves were answered by car horns sounding support from the highway below.



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‘It’s about Radical Kindness and Standing Up to Oppression’

City of Fairfax Theatre Co. presents ‘The Hunchback of Notre Dame.’

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a sweeping, musical score and an epic story of love, acceptance, prejudice and what it means to be a hero, City of Fairfax Theatre Co. presents “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.” It takes the stage July 18-26 at Katherine Johnson Middle School in Fairfax City.

Based on Victor Hugo’s novel and the Disney film, it’s the story of Quasimodo, a deformed yet kindhearted bellringer living in the Notre Dame Cathedral in 15th-century Paris. Kept hidden by his guardian, Archdeacon Claude Frollo, Quasimodo yearns to explore the world outside. He also befriends Esmeralda, a Romani woman fighting for freedom and justice.

The show has a cast and crew of 55 from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area, with actors ranging from age 12 to late 40s and everyone from seasoned veterans to those in their first play. And Director Zachary Flick says they’re doing an “incredible” job.

“This story’s been told many times before, but they’re seeing it with fresh eyes and their own ideas and perspectives on it and their characters,” he said. “They bring such humanity, life and nuance to them that I see them ‘become’ these people. We work collaboratively, and I couldn’t have asked for better actors.”

There’s also a 15-piece orchestra and a three-level set designed by Noah Beye. It’s a deconstructed version of Notre Dame, including a stained-glass-rose window and the bell tower. Costumes are based on that era’s fashions, with women wearing colorful, elegant dresses, skirts, aprons and headpieces. Men are dressed in breeches, flowing shirts and hats, soldiers wear French military uniforms and clergy are in the robes of Catholic priests.

Show times are Friday, July 18, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 19, at 1:30 and 7 p.m.; Sunday, July 20, at 3 p.m.; Wednesday, July 23, at 7 p.m. (Sensory Friendly Show); Thursday, July 24, at 7 p.m. (ASL, audio description, pay what you can); Friday, July 25, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, July 26, at 1:30 p.m.; and Saturday, July 26, at 7 p.m.

Ticket information, including prices, is at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/fairfaxcitytheatre/the-hunchback-of-notre-dame#/day>. Note: Because of language and content, it’s not advised for young audiences.

“At its heart, it’s about the way we as a society treat people who are different in their looks – body types, skin color and disabilities,” explained Flick. “It’s also about how Quasimodo and Esmeralda, who come from two different worlds, come together. By treating each other as people, with kindness and humanity – how they’d want to be treated – they change the world.

“It’s a story about radical kindness, standing up to oppression and finding your voice to speak out for what’s right. And it feels so extremely relevant to our world today – how we treat immigrants and people who come to this country with different languages, skin colors, cultures, customs, etc. It’s a story we all need to hear right now, and I’m honored to be telling it.”

Fairfax City’s Mylo Cluff, a 2018 Woodson High

grad, portrays Quasimodo. “He’s 18, optimistic and naïve,” said Cluff. “He’s got a hunchback but is strong and able-bodied, although partially

deaf from ringing the bells for years. He’s very lonely, because he only gets to talk to one person, Frollo, his whole life. But he’s inspiring because, despite his hard life, he’s still filled with so much hope and love for humanity.”

“He’s driven by a desire to be accepted by the community that he’s only watched from afar,” continued Cluff. “But Frollo told him the world is cruel and wicked and will never accept him so, for his safety, he must stay hidden away. Initially, this is true; but by the end of the show, he finds acceptance.”

Enjoying this role, Cluff said, “It’s challenging because he’s a very complex character, and I have to find a balance between the despair of such a tortured person and the joy and optimism within him. The music’s also challenging to sing because it’s vocally demanding.”

His favorite song is “Out There,” which he sings. “It’s Quasimodo’s first solo, and he sings about how much he loves the people of Paris,” said Cluff. “He appreciates what people take for granted in ordinary life, like being able to walk in the sun or take a stroll with their loved ones.”

Cluff said audiences will like the show’s “really lovely music – it’s Alan Menken’s best score. And the costumes, set and lighting will all work together to paint a beautiful picture. The message is moving and will resonate with people because we can really use a story now about love, hope and acceptance of different people. Being a transgender man has helped me connect to Quasimodo’s story. I exist in a body that the government and public in general think they can have an opinion about. And this whole story is important to tell right now; it’s been a real labor of love.”

Playing Frollo is Little Rocky Run’s Andreas Moffett. “He’s archdeacon of Notre Dame and the epitome of everything wrong with religion,” said Moffett. “He’s incredibly manipulative, intelligent and self-righteous. And he’ll rationalize anything to get what he wants, even if it means jettisoning his faith.

“At the same time, he’s Quasimodo’s father figure. Frollo experiences and expresses love for him, while also feeling intense hatred for him because he’s the son of a Roma woman. Frollo thinks Roma people are irredeemable monsters who need to be rounded up and exterminated – totally missing the irony.”

Moffett said this role is both physically challenging – because he’s a classically trained tenor who must sing bass as Frollo – and emotionally difficult “having to inhabit the antithesis of everything I believe in and make it convincing. It’s also scary. There are moments when Olivia [Clavel-Davis, as Esmeralda] and I have to check in with each other, before and after an intense scene, to make sure we’re both OK.”

He especially likes his solo, “Hellfire,” where Frollo’s pleading with the Virgin Mary to explain to him why he’s so obsessed with Esmeralda. And, said Moffett, “He resolves that he’ll accept damnation in order to have control over her.”

Calling this show both crucial and challenging to put on in the context of current ICE raids in Northern

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER REGAN



Mylo Cluff as Quasimodo



Olivia Clavel-Davis as Esmeralda

SEE ‘THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME’.

PAGE 7



Andreas Moffett as Frollo



Jasmine Jones as Clopin

‘The Hunchback Of Notre Dame’

FROM PAGE 6

Virginia, Moffett said it demonstrates how “absolute power corrupts people absolutely – especially when the person wielding that power is motivated by hatred, prejudice and fear. Theater is supposed to challenge people, and I hope it opens up their eyes to what individuals can do to fight injustice and how people together are stronger than any one man.”

Clavel-Davis describes Esmeralda as “free-spirited but grounded in her morals. And more than her love for her profession as a singer and dancer, she believes in uplifting those less fortunate. As a gypsy, she’s an outcast. She dances for money on the streets, and that makes the high-society people uncomfortable. It’s a dream role for me. I’m primarily a dancer, and I get to dance plus sing some of the most iconic songs in the show. I also represent lots of people who don’t have a voice or get to act particular roles because of what they look like.”

Her favorite number is “Someday,” which she sings with Nicolas Burgos as the soldier, Phoebus. “It gives such hope for the future, even if it means Esmeralda’s personal wants and desires won’t come to fruition,” said Clavel-Davis. “But it’s worth it for the greater good.”

She said this musical is “the classic Disney film everyone loves, but with a message we can relate to today. There are lots of unexpected moments that weren’t in the film, and they’ll get the audience thinking about how to apply these messages to their everyday lives and think before acting and judging others.”

Jasmine Jones plays Clopin, queen of the Romani people and leader of the performing troupe that celebrates the Feast of Fools

every Jan. 6 – and that’s when the story begins. She’s also one of the show’s seven narrators. “The Romani were ostracized, dehumanized and marginalized at that time by the church,” said Jones. “And that influenced how people felt about them.”

“Clopin’s mischievous and loyal to her people. She’s proud they’ve endured, although they’re only allowed to dance one day a year. So to make money, survive and keep each other safe, they must be able to fight, steal things without getting caught, be smooth talkers and run fast. They have a safe haven where anyone being persecuted can come and hide. But it’s a secret place, so you have to know a Romani to get in. It’s important to Clopin to keep that secret so no clergy or soldiers can get in.”

Jones loves playing her because “she and I have lots in common because of our views, how we relate to other people and our sense of responsibility to the people we love. Clopin can be silly and not take herself too seriously, but she’d fight to protect the people she loves. She’s nurturing and wants to care for people.”

Her favorite song is “Top of the World,” sung by Quasimodo, Esmeralda and the Gargoyles, who represent Quasimodo’s thoughts. “It makes me cry because of how lovely it is, and it’s the first time Quasimodo experiences genuine selfless kindness,” said Jones. “You get to know him more and see Esmeralda’s humanity toward him.”

“The show asks what makes a monster and what makes a man, and audiences must answer this for themselves. When there’s cruelty, will they let someone suffer, or will they lend a hand and help? This production is unique, beautiful, thought-provoking and nuanced; and through it, I hope audiences learn who they are.”

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Place for Good Food, Friends, Music, Fun and Memories

Fairfax City’s The Auld Shebeen celebrates its 20th anniversary.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Fairfax City’s popular Irish pub and restaurant, The Auld Shebeen, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. And both a houseful of enthusiastic customers and City officials were there to mark this special occasion.

“We’re here to recognize The Auld Shebeen as a wonderful, community business,” said Tara Borwey, assistant director for programs at Fairfax City Economic Development. “We’re thrilled to celebrate 20 years of literal excellence.” Loud applause then erupted throughout the entire restaurant.

“When I started working for this City, I quickly learned that you could hardly come across a person who didn’t have a story about The Auld Shebeen,” said Borwey. “People have shared so many wonderful memories with me about the times they’ve spent here. [They range] from their college days to bringing their children here, and we’ve certainly gathered here for our own community events. I’ve loved seeing this place filled with so many people getting to enjoy it for all these years.”

She then had co-owners Dominic “Domo” Keane and Mick Boyle join her onstage and



Dominic Keane speaking as (from left) Anthony Amos, Jennifer Rose, Catherine Read and Mick Boyle listen.

recognized other distinguished guests, including Fairfax Mayor Catherine Read, City Councilmembers Billy Bates and Anthony Amos, Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. Executive Director Tina Disch, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Rose, plus Fairfax Economic Development Director Chris Bruno and other FCED members.

“Most restaurants don’t make their fifth anniversary – that’s just the fact,” Read told

the owners. “And here you are, 20 years, and your business is thriving. And it’s because you’ve created a community where people want to make memories here with you. The fact that you have live music and have embraced the Irish culture and brought it to our City is really important.”

She noted that, over the past two decades, multitudes of people have celebrated graduations, birthdays and myriad other occasions at The Auld Shebeen. “You’re more than



Catherine Read (center) shakes Mick Boyle’s hand while (from left) Tina Disch, Anthony Amos and Jennifer Rose look on.



Mick Boyle (left) and Dominic Keane with their plaque.

just a restaurant and a business,” said Read. “You’re a place where people can make memories that matter to them, and they’ll always [be grateful] that you created this here.”

She said the first time she was in their



Entertainer Brian Gaffney singing and playing guitar.

building at 3971 Chain Bridge Road in downtown Fairfax was in 1981. “It was [called] Oliver’s then,” said Read. “I came to look at George Mason University because I was transferring there and had never seen



Some of the customers applauding and photographing the ceremony.

the campus. So the first meal I ever had in Fairfax City was in this building. I later took my kids here when it was the Black-Eyed Pea and they were in highchairs – and then came along The Auld Shebeen.”

Read also thanked the restaurant for being “such a great community partner. You provide space for all kinds of groups and organizations to gather. That’s really important because it’s hard to find space – and you all do such a good job. You serve great food and have a wonderful staff. You’re warm, you’re welcoming, and the doors are open to everyone.

“And that’s one of the reasons you’ve been in business 20 years and why our community values what you bring every single day.” Then, gesturing toward all the customers, she added, “I’m sure everyone here joins me in rewarding what these gentlemen have brought to Fairfax City.”

After more applause, Jennifer Rose took the mike. “I’m definitely one of the presidents of The Auld Shebeen’s fan club,” she said. “I have a little Irish in my heritage, and

there’s nothing like their beef stew on a cold, winter’s day. We’re thrilled to be celebrating their 20th anniversary.”

“We do our annual, holiday mixer here,” she continued. “And if it doesn’t happen here, it doesn’t happen at all. It’s a much-beloved tradition of the members of the Central Fairfax Chamber. You guys are so accommodating; you’ve swept in at the last minute and turned yourselves inside out to make events happen for us. And we’re grateful and just looking forward to the next 20 years. Congratulations!”

Next to speak was co-owner Dominic Keane. “As everybody’s said, our pub here is really about family, community and making relationships and friends over the last 20 years – and it’s been our absolute pleasure. We have a lot of long-time relationships. I look out there and I see people I’ve known for [two decades].

“I see [renowned singer and guitarist] Brian Gaffney, who’s played music for us for 20 years, keeping the Irish culture going every

Friday and Saturday night, and it’s just so important to us. It’s a great day with a long night. We’re going to be celebrating downstairs later on. Somebody mentioned stories about The Auld Shebeen, and I’m sure, if you stick around ‘til closing time, there’ll be a few more tomorrow.”

Co-owner Mick Boyle, a man of few words, simply expressed his “thanks to everybody in the community – including the Mayor and Council – for showing up.” He also said how much he appreciated the restaurant’s staff members for everything they do.

Then Read presented the owners with a plaque. It read: “Thank you for two decades of exceptional service, dedication to quality, and commitment to our community. Your continued success has made a lasting impact on Fairfax City and beyond.” Afterward, Gaffney took the stage and performed a set of Irish songs.

“I can’t believe it’s 20 years,” said Keane following the ceremony. “It’s quite an achievement for us. The best part is the relationship we have with our staff – both front and back of the house. We even have former staff members, who were with us for 15 years, coming back tonight to celebrate with us. Some are coming from as far away as New York.”

He also gave “a huge thank you to the community and customers for their support, all these years. We couldn’t do it without them.” When asked the key to his success, Keane said, “The biggest lesson for us is working side by side with our staff, on a daily basis. And during the pandemic, the City, community, and [Fairfax City] Economic Development really stepped up, helped us and supported us through that period.”

Books Give Children a ‘Window to the World’

Britepaths unveils The Secret Garden in its Fairfax office.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths provides many valuable services to area families in need. Now it’s also offering something enjoyable to its clients’ children – their very own reading area/library.

Called The Secret Garden, it’s a cute and cozy, in-office book nook where children may select new and like-new books to take home and treasure. This free, community resource is designed to inspire imagination, foster a love of reading and support literacy development in children of all ages. Toward that end, Britepaths held a ribbon cutting for its new addition on June 18.

“We’re so excited to introduce this new dimension to our family services,” said Britepaths Executive Director Abra Kurt. “It’s our very own, little free library where children in our community can [peruse] and take home books to keep.”

The books are available in multiple languages and range from chunky board books



Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Addelyn and Josue Erazo, Gabe and Qiqi Derosier, Abra Kurt, Karen Wheeler and Kimberly Reinhard.

for babies and toddlers, to picture books, chapter books and young-adult novels. All of them have been generously donated by community members, businesses and civic groups in the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

Reading plays a crucial role in children’s development by helping them build empathy, improve concentration and spark curiosity. So via this new initiative, Britepaths aims to help close the reading gap for children whose families may not be able to afford books at home.

“For many families we serve, books can



Addelyn Erazo poses with her new book.



Josue Erazo holds his “Toy Story” book.

feel like a luxury when essentials like food and housing take priority,” explained Kurt. “The Secret Garden at Britepaths is about nourishing young minds by offering a joyful place where children can explore stories, build their own home libraries and develop a lifelong love of reading.”

Joining Britepaths for the ceremony were families from its partner school, Daniels Run Elementary in Fairfax City; Britepaths Board of Directors President Karen Wheeler; Board member Gabe Derosier; Kimberly Reinhard, immediate past president of the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young

Children; and Cindy Southworth, whose 50-book donation seeded The Secret Garden.

Speaking first, Kurt said she was a voracious reader as a child. “I grew up in a house filled with books,” she said. “Rather than tuning in to television shows after dinner, my dad would settle in with a book. He was drawn to history and biographies.

“But I fell in love with the suspense of Nancy Drew mysteries, felt seen and understood by the novels of Judy Blume, and had endless adventures through series books like ‘Little House on the Prairie’ and the ‘Chronicles of Narnia,’ for all its transcendent themes



While Addelyn Erazo peruses her book, mom Denise shows son Caleb a picture book.

of music and friendship and that anything is possible. But of course, my favorite book was ‘The Secret Garden.’”

Later, as an adult, Kurt volunteered with the children’s literacy organization, The Reading Connection, and in 2012 founded a book club called The Cover Girls. “It’s still going strong with 10 dear friends today,” she said. “I proudly self-identify as a certified book nerd.”

“And those are just a few reasons why I’m so grateful for the opportunity to share this passion with the Britepaths community and inspire others to support the curiosity and joy of reading for young people,” she continued. “It takes a village, and everything in The Secret Garden – down to the shelves and bookmarks – has been donated.”

Next, Reinhard described the new book nook as “an inviting space built with love, hope and a deep belief in the power of words. Throughout my career in Northern Virginia, I’ve served in many positions where I’ve seen the impact that early reading and access to books has on children, their families and the community.

“Early childhood literacy is more than just developing language and learning to read – it’s the foundation for lifelong learning, opportunity and success. Infants and children who are read to from an early age develop stronger language, literacy, cognitive and social-emotional skills. Beyond research, we know this in our hearts – a child with a book is a child with a window to the world.”

Stressing the importance of a free library,



From left are Kimberly Reinhard and Abra Kurt in the cozy book nook.

Reinhard said, “For many families in our community, access to books is not a given. That’s why this space matters. Every shelf, story, cozy corner and nook in this Secret Garden represents a chance for a child to explore, imagine and grow. Access to books and rich language experiences should be a right for all children, not a privilege just for a few.

“By supporting early literacy, we’re not just preparing kids for school – we’re opening doors for their futures. And by opening The Secret Garden today, we’re making opening those doors just a little bit easier. This ribbon cutting marks not just the creation of a new book nook, but a commitment to providing children with windows, sliding doors and mirrors where they can see themselves,



Qiqi Derosier, 14, and dad Gabe with some of the books he donated to the library.

the world around them, a world they never dreamed possible, and a world that really could be – one reflecting their lives and expanding their thinking.”

All in all, said Reinhard, “It’s a commitment to growth, inclusion and empowerment. So, thank you to everyone here, and especially Britepaths, for believing in books, children and the power of a story to change a life.”

“Truly, creating The Secret Garden was a labor of love,” added Kurt. “So much love and generosity are infused into it. And it was a long time coming; it was something I’d wanted to do since I first started with Britepaths in early 2023.

Nativity Catholic Church in Burke Donates \$719,290 To Food For The Poor To Help Vulnerable Children and Families

For the parishioners of Nativity Catholic Church, supporting Food For The Poor (FFTP) and its mission is a spiritual quest, rooted in their desire to help vulnerable children and families in Latin America and the Caribbean. That spirit of love and generosity was on display Thursday when the Very Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Cilinski announced that Nativity is donating \$719,290 to FFTP through its Operation Starfish® fundraising campaign – the largest gift in the 27-year history of the partnership between the two organizations.

“Thank you for being there in these troubled places among the poorest of the poor in our world and in the human family and lifting them up to a new dignity and a better way of living,” Monsignor Cilinski said. “We’re so privileged to partner with you, and today as you receive this gift, and I know you’re going to use it well.”

FFTP President/CEO Ed Raine expressed his overwhelming gratitude for the groundbreaking gift and his appreciation for Nativity’s continued support of Haiti, particularly during this tumultuous time in its history.

“I’m totally in awe,” Raine said. “The fact that no one has given up on Haiti, and that we’re able to expand into other countries and ventures, I can only say ‘thank you.’ Obviously, we work hard to earn your trust to keep doing this, but this is a truly remarkable moment for us. Not only is this the largest gift that Nativity has given us, but I’m pretty sure it rates up there as one of the largest gifts we’ve ever received.”

Monsignor Cilinski, members of his staff, and parishioners participated online from the church’s headquarters in Burke, Va.

Nativity’s gift to FFTP will fund the construction of Nativity’s 15th village in Haiti, as well as other programs in Haiti, Honduras, and Jamaica.

Nativity Village at Bois-Louroux will provide families with two-bedroom furnished homes, equipped with water, sanitation, and solar-powered streetlights.

Part of the communal section of Grande Savane, Bois-Louroux is located between Grand-Bassin and Les Perches, in the Nord-Est department of Haiti. Residents survive on meager crops they grow themselves, such as peanuts and cassava, supplemented by wood cuttings they use to make charcoal. Much of the land remains uncultivated because many families don’t



Many families in Bois-Louroux, Haiti, live in houses made of wood slabs covered with dried mud, making them vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rainfall. Nativity Catholic Church, of Burke, Va., presented Food For The Poor with a donation from its Operation Starfish® campaign to fund construction of a new Nativity Village in Bois-Louroux, as well as other projects in Haiti, Jamaica, and Honduras.

have the money to grow crops. They live in houses made of wood slabs covered with dried mud, making them vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rainfall.

This year’s donation also includes funds for health clinics for three communities in Honduras, including San Juan, Guaimaca and Monteverde. Overcrowded with patients, the existing clinics in each location are in severe disrepair – with cracked walls, leaky roofs, broken windows and doors, faulty electrical systems, and rodent infestation. Each new clinic will provide safe, reliable health care for children, pregnant women and the elderly, featuring two exam rooms, an observation room, waiting room, pharmacy, four restrooms, and a storage room.

The Operation Starfish gift also provides tuition and living expenses for students from Jamaica studying medicine, including a student at the University of West Indies and a recent medical school graduate who is transitioning into her residency.

Other projects include:

- ❖ Medicines for El Colirio Clinic in Honduras, which the church funded in 2024.
- ❖ Birthing kits for distribution in Haiti and a generator for New Hope Hospital in Haiti.
- ❖ Continued funding for operational expenses and midwife training at the St. Anthony Clinic in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.
- ❖ A water purification project in Bondeau, Haiti.
- ❖ Scholarship programs for three schools at Nativity Villages in Cap-Haitien, including Ecole Communautaire Emmanuel de Chastenoye, Ecole Notre Dame de



Nativity Catholic Church, of Burke, Va., presented Food For The Poor with a donation from its Operation Starfish® campaign to build a new health clinic in Monteverde, Honduras, where the existing clinic (shown here) is in severe disrepair with an outdated infrastructure. A new clinic will provide safe, reliable health care for children, pregnant women, and the elderly.



Patients crowd into the waiting room of the Monteverde Clinic in Honduras, which is in severe disrepair with an outdated infrastructure. Nativity Catholic Church, of Burke, Va., presented Food For The Poor with a donation from its Operation Starfish® campaign to build new clinics in Monteverde, San Juan, and Guaimaca, as well as other projects in Haiti and Jamaica.

la Nativite de Prolonge, and Ecole Communautaire St. Pierre de Madras. The gift, which will enhance the lives of 595 community members, covers student meals, staff salaries, and operational expenses to ensure that education is accessible to low-income families in Madras, Plaine du Nord, and Fort Saint Michel.

This year marks the 27th anniversary of Nativity’s Operation Starfish campaign, which supports multiple projects each year. To date, Nativity parishioners and friends have made monetary donations of more than \$9.8 million and provided over \$3 million in goods to care for children and families in need.

foodforthe poor.org

PHOTOS
FOOD FOR THE POOR



Nativity Catholic Church, of Burke, Va., presented Food For The Poor with a donation from its Operation Starfish® campaign to support three schools in Nativity Villages in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, including Ecole Notre Dame de la Nativite de Prolonge (shown here), Ecole Communautaire Emmanuel de Chastenoye, and Ecole Communautaire St. Pierre de Madras. The gift, which will enhance the lives of 595 community members, covers student meals, staff salaries, and operational expenses to ensure that education is accessible to low-income families in Madras, Plaine du Nord and Fort Saint Michel.

H.R. 1's Key Components and Impacts

FROM PAGE 3

supply chains to boost production rates of weapons and replenish U.S. stockpiles; \$12 billion is for deterrence in the Indo-Pacific; \$15 billion is for modernization of the U.S. nuclear triad and intended to accelerate programs including the Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) and the B-21 Raider bomber, as well as support infrastructure improvements to maintain the ability to manufacture nuclear components.

Military spending will exceed \$1 trillion for FY 2026, the first time it has surpassed that threshold. Defense spending has exceeded \$800 billion every year since 2019. In FY 2024, defense spending was \$873 billion

Impact: All Americans, Fairfax County residents included, be forewarned that “sustained inflation and high interest rates” are on the horizon, said Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY-04) said when he voted no on Thursday, July 3, on the final passage of the budget reconciliation.

Provides tens of billions for new border wall construction, expansion of immigrant detention facilities, and hiring more ICE and Border Patrol agents.

Impact: Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08) delivered floor remarks specifically opposing H.R. 1, referring to it as the “One Big Ugly Bill Act,” and stated that it funds “a dramatic and permanent increase to an immigration detention and deportation apparatus that is denying due process and violating human rights.”

VA Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra posted on Instagram, “House Republicans passed a \$3.3 trillion budget that doesn’t just blow up the deficit, it doubles down on cruelty. They’ve made ICE the most heavily funded federal law enforcement agency in history, with more money per year at its disposal over the next four years than the budgets of the FBI, DEA, ATF, US Marshals and Bureau of Prisons combined. ... Virginians deserve better than cruelty disguised as policy. Virginians deserve care, compassion, and accountability.”

❖ Sunsets tax credits for electric vehicles and hybrids and significantly reduces or phases out credits for energy-efficient home improvements and hydrogen production, with clean-hydrogen tax credits expiring sooner than initially proposed.

Rolls back the 30 percent federal tax credits for clean energy installations, established under the Biden-era Inflation Reduction Act, by the end of 2025. It is phasing out wind and solar tax credits and terminating tax credit eligibility for these sources. That includes the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

The passage of H.R. 1 could impact Fairfax County’s Clean Energy Programs, as outlined in its Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and Operational Energy Strategy (OES). H.R. 1 could slow the pace of solar deployment and EV adoption within the county, given the reduced incentives for solar and EVs. Without federal tax credits, the economics of new renewable energy projects, such as the so-

lar projects planned for county facilities or larger ground-mount projects, may become less favorable, potentially increasing costs for the county or making some projects less viable.

Includes an \$85 million allocation to relocate the space shuttle Discovery out of the Smithsonian, where it is on display at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, and to Texas. “Now Trump wants to steal the space shuttle from NOVA - thanks for fighting for Virginia, Governor Youngkin”- Senator Scott Surovellssurovell.bsky.social @ssurovell

Impact: According to a written statement to The Dallas Morning News, a museum spokesperson said that NASA, “transferred all rights, title, interest and ownership of the shuttle to the Smithsonian.”

Defunds Planned Parenthood Clinics: The bill includes language that would effectively defund Planned Parenthood clinics for one year by prohibiting any health clinic that provides abortion care from receiving Medicaid funds for any other services they provide.

Va. Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-38) said on X July 5, “While I am working hard to enshrine reproductive rights in VA Constitution, U.S. Senate and House Republicans have voted to defund Planned Parenthood. As a reproductive freedom advocate, I will work to keep abortion legal and our health clinics open.”

Impact: There are two Planned Parenthood clinics in Fairfax County, one in Fairfax

and the other in Falls Church. Nearly 200 health centers in 24 states are at risk of closing. “The defund law blocks people who use Medicaid from getting care at Planned Parenthood health centers and means that over 1.1 million patients could now lose access to birth control, wellness visits, STI tests, cancer screenings, and more,” according to Planned Parenthood.

Temporarily increases the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for five years. The cap applies to taxpayers earning up to \$500,000 annually, specifically for tax years 2025 through 2029. Fairfax County’s median household income is high, around \$141,553 to \$150,113. This means that a significant percentage of Fairfax County residents fall into the highest income tax bracket in the state of Virginia.

Impact: For Fairfax County residents who itemize their deductions, the new \$40,000 cap allows them to deduct a larger portion of their state and local taxes on their federal income tax forms. The benefit is short-lived, only for five years.

What else does H.R. 1 do?

Extends many individual and business tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act benefitting wealthy taxpayers. This includes lower individual income tax rates, a higher standard deduction, and increased deductions for small businesses.

Introduces new temporary deductions for tips and overtime pay. The bill would allow many tipped workers to deduct up to \$25,000 of their tips and overtime from their taxes. That provision expires in 2028.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CAPITAL BIKESHARE COMING TO VIENNA

There are now more ways than ever to get around town thanks to a new bicycle-sharing system coming to Vienna. At its regular meeting on July 7, 2025, the Vienna Town Council voted to approve the Town’s first-ever set of Capital Bikeshare stations. Beginning in early 2026, Vienna will join the growing bicycle network with four new docking stations scheduled for installation at these locations: Navy Federal Credit Union, the Vienna Community Center, and the intersections of the W&OD trail and Ayr Hill Avenue, and Maple Avenue and Nutley Street. Town staff will coordinate with Capital Bikeshare to fabricate and construct the new stations. The work is expected to begin fall 2025. Visit <https://capitalbikeshare.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.

Britepaths Unveils The Secret Garden

FROM PAGE 9

“And it reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from ‘The Secret Garden’ – ‘At first, people refuse to believe that a strange, new thing can be done. Then they begin to hope it can be done. Then they see it can be done. And then it is done, and all the world wonders why it was not done centuries ago.’”

After the ribbon cutting, Denise Erazo of Herndon watched as her three young children – Josue, 7; Addelyn, 5; and Caleb, 3 – happily looked through the books and picked out some to take home. Erazo plans to take advantage of Britepaths’ emergency food pantry but had come that day specifically for this event.

“It’s an amazing library,” she said. “It’s great for children to improve their literacy skills by giving them free books.”

How to Support Britepaths’ Secret Garden

Britepaths welcomes community

support to help keep its Secret Garden stocked and thriving. Individuals, schools and local organizations are encouraged to donate new or gently used books for children and teens in all languages; host a book drive; or make a financial contribution. For more information or to coordinate a donation, go to britepaths.org or contact Britepaths at 703-273-8829 or info@britepaths.org.

About Britepaths

Nonprofit Britepaths provides families and individuals with the support and resources they need to thrive. Through its wide range of programs, Britepaths helps families and individuals move from crisis to resilience and stability by addressing food insecurity, financial education and workforce development. Since 1984, Britepaths has served hundreds of thousands of individuals in Northern Virginia, working to create a stronger, more vibrant community for all. See www.britepaths.org.

ENTERTAINMENT



LOVER: An Era's Tour Experience Concert takes place on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at McLean Central Park.

FACETS: BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

The Goal? Distribute 500+ backpacks filled with essential supplies to students in need. How You Can Help:

- ❖ Make a Gift—Donate and they'll handle the back-to-school shopping for you (donate \$100 to sponsor the price of a fully packed backpack!)
- ❖ Host a Drive—collect bulk school supplies or focus on most-needed items like backpacks
- ❖ Donate Pre-filled Backpacks—reach out to FACETS for checklists to pack your own backpacks
- ❖ Shop the Amazon Wishlist—support FACETS from the comfort of your own home

New donation drop-off location: Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax

Preferred donation deadline: August 1. Ready to make a difference this year? Reach out to development@facetscares.org if you are interested in hosting a drive, packing backpacks, or have any other questions about how to get involved. Flyers, logos, and backpack checklists are available to help promote your efforts.

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 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.

NOW THRU JULY 20

Creative Power People Exhibit. At

12 ❖ BURKE / FAIRFAX / FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON / SPRINGFIELD ❖ JULY 17 - AUGUST 6, 2025

Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The exhibition MaNiTo Ii'NiNiWak (Creative Power People): Creative Sovereignty—The Power of Indigenous Artists is on view now through July 20, 2025. This powerful and timely exhibition celebrates the cultural expression, resilience, and sovereignty of Indigenous artists currently living and creating in Virginia. Featuring 98 artworks by 22 artists across 8 tribes, MaNiTo Ii'NiNiWak includes traditional and contemporary works in pottery, beadwork, gourd art, basketry, digital media, and more. Organized by the Virginia Native Arts Alliance (VNAA), the exhibition showcases the power of Indigenous art to resist erasure and affirm identity, creativity, and continuity. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/maniito-iininiwak>

NOW THRU AUG. 8

"Myth to Reality" by Kate Brogdon.

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. "Myth to reality" includes a series of portraits rooted in reality with fantastical elements transporting toward myth. A portrait was historically crafted to capture a real person; now it serves as a starting point for various tales. While myth is thought to root in reality, perception bends beneath the weight of expectation: instead of what is, we often see what we believe. Which then is stronger, and does this vary for each person? Does the reality inspire the myth or does the myth shape what we call real? Can we ever truly see the same way?

THROUGH THE SUMMER

SFrank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana is celebrating with the return of its fan-favorite Fresh Tomato Pie.

Now in its 17th year, the season-



Check out "Drawn to Travel" by Marni Maree through Aug. 6, 2025 at Workhouse Arts Center.

al pie is available from June 30 through the end of summer at all locations. Frank Pepe's summer pie features fresh native tomatoes; mozzarella sliced daily in-house; garlic; basil; grated Pecorino Romano imported from Italy; and a touch of Pepe's olive oil blend. Each pie is served on Frank Pepe's signature crust, known for its perfect balance of crispy, chewy and slightly charred. Visit www.pepespizza.com.

NOW THRU AUG. 6

"Drawn to Travel" by Marni Maree.

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In this exhibit, viewers are invited to explore the pages of Marni Maree's many sketchbooks—each one capturing moments from around the world and from her own backyard. Some pages are fully painted, while others remain simple ink drawings, preserved in their original form. Several sketchbooks still in progress are also on display, reflecting Marni's belief that the creative journey is always unfolding. Visitors are encouraged to join in the fun by contributing their own doodle, sketch, or a few lines to the community sketchbook or wall, complete with a variety of mark-making tools, inviting everyone to contribute a drawing or creative mark.

NOW THRU AUG. 15

Beyond the Clouds. At Workhouse

Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. W-16 Muse Gallery. Mike Pacheco seamlessly blends surreal elements with natural themes, creating imaginative and captivating scenes. His pieces often feature animated characters set within thoughtfully designed landscapes, merging fantasy with the organic world. This unique combination allows Mike to explore both the realms of imagination and the beauty of nature in his creations. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/beyond-the-clouds>

NOW THRU JULY 31

Earth to Table. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A Feast for the Eyes: 13 Artists Set the Table. An exhibit that explores everyday utility while elevating the aesthetics of the dining table. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/earth-to-table>

NOW THRU JULY 30

"Animal Spirits" Glass Art by Candi

Durusu. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518

Workhouse Way, Lorton. Explore the transformative power of masks and spirit in Candi Durusu's "Animal Spirits" exhibition. Through the delicate medium of glass, this show delves into masks as ancient symbols bridging physical form and the spiritual realm. Glass becomes a metaphor for transformation—solid, liquid, and beyond—inviting viewers to experience a journey into new realms where life and spirit intertwine.

NOW 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 now thru 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

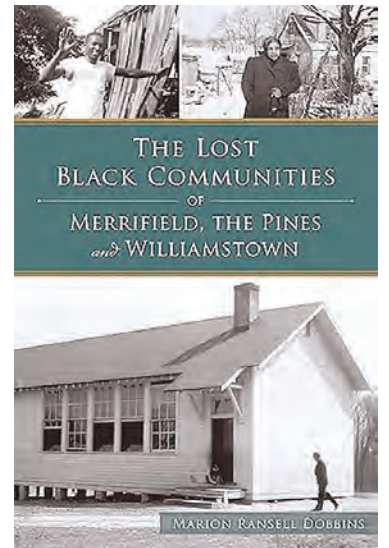
NOW TO AUG. 15

2025 Summer Art Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 2025 Summer Art Camps at Workhouse Arts Center for ages 6-16. Spots are filling fast—secure your child's summer adventure today! Get ready for 9 unforgettable weeks of creativity and fun! Workhouse Arts Center's 2025 Art Camp kicks off June 16, offering dynamic, hands-on experiences for young artists, performers, and musicians. Whether your child joins us for one week or all nine, they'll explore new passions and build lasting friendships.

Choose Your Track:

- Visual Arts – From clay to canvas, campers dive into a world of color and creativity.
- Theater – Lights, camera, action! Budding performers learn acting, directing, and playwrighting.
- Music & Dance – Let the rhythm move you with vocals, instruments, and high-energy dance.

Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org>



The Burke Historical Society Meeting will take place on Sunday, July 27, 2025 at Pohick Regional Library in Burke.

housearts.org/camps

SPOTLIGHT BY STARLIGHT

Travel the world without leaving your own neighborhood this summer by coming out to Spotlight by Starlight, part of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series. Audiences can witness awe-inspiring music and dance performances by talented artists from across the globe at Ossian Hall Park, located at 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale.

Immerse yourself in spectacular performances that include:

- Saturday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.: Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night 'Centro Cultural Peru'
- Saturday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.: Indonesian Cultural Heritage Night 'Santi Budaya'
- Saturday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.: Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night 'Prelude Chamber Ensemble'
- Saturday, Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.: China Cultural Heritage Night 'Hai Hua Community Center'

Spotlight by Starlight also features additional concerts and children's shows Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at Mason District Park, located at 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH DURING NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH

July is National Ice Cream Month, and there's no cooler way to celebrate than with a visit to your favorite Fairfax County park. Whether you prefer it in a cone, a cup or with sprinkles on top, the Fairfax County Park Authority has a scoop (or two!) of sweet ways to enjoy this classic summer treat.

Visit the Burke Lake Ice Cream Parlor – Swing by the Burke Lake Ice Cream Parlor for a well-earned cool down after a round of mini golf or a ride on the train. Located near the playground, this fan-favorite spot offers a selection of frozen treats, drinks, and snacks for all ages. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Ice Cream–Themed Programs and Events

Celebrate the creamy goodness of National Ice Cream Month with hands-on programs that will have everyone screaming for ice cream! Whether you're churning your own or enjoying a scoop while playing old-fashioned games, these

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT



Check out the “Animal Spirits” Glass Art by Candi Durusu now through July 30, 2025 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

programs promise a deliciously good time:

Dairy Days: Ice Cream & Butter at Sully Historic Site. July 27 and Aug. 17, starting at 2 p.m. Step into the past and try your hand at making ice cream and butter the old-fashioned way.

Ice Cream and Games at Colvin Run Mill. Saturday, Aug. 9. Sign up for slots 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Enjoy games and a cold treat at this historic mill site.

Making Ice & Ice Cream at Walney at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Sunday, July 20, at 2 p.m. Discover the science and history of ice making, then sample the chilly reward.

TYSONS CORNER CENTER SUMMER 2025 PROGRAMMING
May– August on PenFed Plaza
Fridays: Live music offers two distinct experiences:

7/25, 8/8, 8/29
4-6 p.m.

Close out the work week with the laid-back vibes of live acoustic music—perfect for unwinding or singing along with friends. Grab dinner at a PenFed Plaza restaurant patio like Earl's, Shake Shack, or Barrel & Bushel and soak in the sounds of summer.

July 18, Aug 22 (rain dates: July 24th, Aug 28th)
5-8 p.m.

Check out PenFed Plaza for an exciting new concept music series featuring The Flying Ivorys, Dueling Pianos, a live, fun, interactive duo performance. From Billy Joel to Aretha Franklin, from Sinatra to Metallica, from Johnny Cash to Taylor Swift, we've got it covered. You control the set list, so no two shows are ever the same.

THURSDAYS: FAMILY GAME NIGHT

July 17, Aug 7, Aug 21
4-7 p.m.

Tap into your competitive side with a friendly game of cornhole or ping pong, all set to an upbeat soundtrack curated by a live deejay. Between matches, savor happy hour specials from Barrel & Bushel's summer menu just steps away. Game equipment is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ARTS IN THE PARKS

Gather the entire family and head out to the Fairfax County Park Authority's Summer Entertainment Series. Make it a summer to remember with Arts in the Parks. The Arts in the Parks series features children's performances on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and Saturday evenings through August. Award-winning entertainers present interactive performances designed to both educate and en-



Take an “In the Flow” Sound Bath with Iris McCray on Sunday, July 20, 2025 at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

ertain young minds. With science shows, puppet theater, storytelling, comedy, magic and music from across the world, there's something every child will love. Join in the family friendly fun:

Saturdays, 10-10:45 a.m. at:
Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station;

E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly;
Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale;
Wakefield Park in front of Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale.

Saturdays, 6-6:45 p.m. at:
Mosaic Live! At Mosaic District, Strawberry Lane, Fairfax.

Saturdays, 7-7:45 p.m. (followed by Starlight Cinema movie) at:
Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly.

Wednesdays, 10-10:45 a.m. at:
Frying Pan Park Visitor Center Pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon.

SUMMER CONCERTS

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's 2025 Summer Concert Series at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Thursday nights at 7 p.m. at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Audiences will be able to enjoy free, family-friendly evenings featuring premier U.S. military ensembles representing the Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force.

Schedule:

❖ Thursday, July 24 - United States Navy Concert Band: The Navy's premier wind ensemble presents a wide array of marches, patriotic selections, orchestral transcriptions and modern wind ensemble repertoire.

❖ Thursday, August 7: “The President's Own” United States Marine Big Band: The Marine Big Band will transport audiences back to yesteryear with swinging tunes and smooth tones of a bygone era, featuring the timeless sounds of big band jazz.

❖ Thursday, August 21 – U.S. Air Force Band Airmen of Note: This 18-member jazz ensemble, with a 75-year history, is one of six musical units that form the U.S. Air Force Band.

❖ Thursday, August 28: “The President's Own” United States Marine Band: “The President's Own” returns to close out the 2025 Summer Concert Series with a performance featuring concert band works, orchestral transcriptions, and traditional patriotic marches. Visit marineheritage.org/eventcalendar-368789.

DIVE-IN MOVIES

When was the last time you experienced the pool at night? Join Reston Association for an evening

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed. Struc. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
BOTETOURT	3537	T1003	2ND.AVE./T1003	TINKER CREEK	7/1/2025
FLOYD	7506	221	FLOYD HWYS 221	BR OF DODD CREEK	6/3/2025

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

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

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

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

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Fatal Crash in Fair Oaks

Detectives from FCPD Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating a fatal two-vehicle crash that left a man dead in Fair Oaks. Friday, July 11 at 1:22 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle crash at Monument Drive and Fairfax County Parkway in Fair Oaks.

Preliminary investigation indicated the driver of a 2024 Hyundai Tucson was traveling eastbound on Monument Drive, drove through a red signal and struck a 2012 Honda Accord. The driver of the Honda Accord, Stephen Rhodes, 69, of Fairfax, was transported to the hospital in life-threatening condition and later died.

Preliminary alcohol does not appear to be a factor in the crash. Detectives continue to investigate whether speed was a factor.

Detectives would like to speak to anyone who may have information about this case. Those with information are asked to please call our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

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ENTERTAINMENT



The Marshall Charloff & Purple Xperience Concert takes place on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at McLean Central Park.

FROM PAGE 13

poolside movie under the stars. Doors open at 8:00 pm. / Movie starts at 8:45 p.m. Aug. 6 featuring, Moana 2

WEDNESDAY/JULY 16
Pathway's Artists Reception. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center, South Atrium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Pathway Homes is hosting an Artist Reception as part of its 12th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. Original art and artists will be on hand at this free reception that gives an opportunity to meet these talented people and celebrate their artistry. Pathway Homes is a nonprofit providing mental health services—starting with safe, stable housing—to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity.

THURSDAY/JULY 17
Historic Campus Walking Tour. 10-11 a.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Curious about all of the seemingly abandoned buildings on the Workhouse campus? Wonder what they were used for when our site was a functioning prison? Wonder no more. Museum Coordinator Jay Loy leads a campus walking tour and explores our history as a prison site. The tour starts and ends at the Lorton Prison Museum, and participants are invited to view the museum's exhibitions following the tour – which is open for extended hours during Second Saturday Open House & Art Walks. \$10/person (\$5/youth 12 and under) Pay onsite, no registration required. Meet at Lucy Burns Museum entrance

THURSDAY/JULY 17
LOVER: An Era's Tour Experience Concert. 7 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. This one is for all the Swifties who couldn't get Eras Tour tickets, those lucky ones who did and are craving more and everyone else who just loves to "Shake It Off." LOVER has paid incredible attention to the details and woven every

moment into this celebration of the highest-grossing tour of all time—get your Eras outfits ready and let's make the whole place shimmer!

SATURDAY/JULY 19
Aquapoolooza. 4-7 p.m. At Lake Newport Pool, Reston. Reston Association's Aquapoolooza is making waves this summer with a retro splashdown summer pool party of fun, music and poolside memories. The 70s-style summer celebration will be packed with tie-dye stations, pool games, an 18-foot water slide and plenty of funky prizes. The event is free for Reston Association members and Recreation Pass holders. Non-member tickets are \$30 for adults (ages 12+) and \$20 for kids under 12. Children under 3 attend for free. Advance registration is required for all attendees.

SATURDAY/JULY 19
Old Town Civil War Roundtable Historical Civil War Talk. 10 a.m. At Murphy's Grand Irish Pub (2nd floor), 713 King Street, Alexandria. Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro will be discussing their new books, "A Tour Guide and History of Col. John S. Mosby's Combat Operations in Central Virginia" and "A Tour Guide and History of Col. John S. Mosby's Combat Operations in Southern Virginia and Other States." The host is Mark Tooley.

SATURDAY/JULY 19
Historic House Tours. 10:30 to 12:15 p.m. At Sunrise at Silas Burke House, 9619 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Burke Historical Society will be leading free tours at Woodbury, the historic house on the grounds of Sunrise at Silas Burke House. Reservations not required. Email: burkehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com.

STAND UP COMEDY NIGHTS
Comedian Rahmein Mostafavi. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Tickets: \$18. Get ready for a night of big laughs and top-tier talent as Rahmein Mostafavi brings his signature comedy showcase to the Workhouse Arts Center. Show Times: Saturday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 23 at 7:30 p.m.

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Legals

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSE DOGUE CREEK MARINA TRAVEL CAMP FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA

The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir hereby gives Notice of the Availability (NOA) for the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of a travel camp at the current Dogue Creek Marina that would result in approximately 6.5-acres of recreational space for campers and RV owners. The travel camp would include a support facility with an office, laundry section, camper's lounge space, restrooms and showers, vending machine space, and parking, and approximately 50 pull-through RV camp sites with picnic pads, and water, sewer, and electric hook-ups. The purpose of this project is to upgrade, construct and operate a travel camp at Fort Belvoir to be managed by the Installation Management Command's Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate. The Proposed Action would provide needed space for customers at Fort Belvoir in a highly desirable waterfront area with access to the Potomac River.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 43214347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and the Army's Implementing Regulations (32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions). The EA is available to view in printed form at the Fort Belvoir Library and the Kingstowne Branch and Sherwood Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Public Library system, or to view/download electronically at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. Click the "Programs and Documents" tab, then "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program." Information about the EA and links to download the various documents are provided under the "Open for Public/Agency Review & Comment" heading.

Comments or questions on the draft EA and draft FONSI may be directed in writing to: Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or by email to: belvoir.travel.camp.nepa@usace.army.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this NOA.

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"Ripped from the Headlines"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Dun, Dun." "Can you watch my baby?" (On the streets of New York City, no less.) Said the young mother to me as we sat outside a New York City cafe. She was fussing with her baby's carrier on the adjacent seat to mine trying to secure it in some way when she looked at me, helplessly almost, and asked if I could watch her baby; she just needed "to walk inside" the cafe, she said, and grab her coffee to go. (It was apparent that there was no wait staff for the outside.) And almost before I nodded my assistance, she thanked me and quickly walked the 15 feet or so inside the cafe to grab her coffee. Sure enough, she was back in a relative flash but that didn't stop my mind from wondering. After all, I was caught, sort of, holding the baby while the mother disappeared.

Having watched hundreds of episodes of "Law & Order," from the original to the current remake and all the offshoots as well, I've seen this episode - many times; the one where the innocent patsy, is left holding the bag so to speak. Though, in this instance, the bag was a baby - but I was holding him/watching him anyway. That's when I hear the famous "Dun, Dun" known to Law-and-Order fans everywhere. I was half anticipating that a police car would drive up alongside the sidewalk where I was sitting and catch me holding the baby and drag me off to the local police precinct where I would vehemently (or would I calmly characterize this episode as a total misunderstanding? I was just holding the baby for a minute as the mother went inside the cafe to get her coffee, I'd say) deny their accusations. Then the police would respond with some version of the baby had been reported as stolen and how was it that I was sitting there holding him. I was just doing a young woman a favor, I would stammer. Then the police would counter that there was no woman at the cafe missing a baby, and there I sat, with someone else's baby and I couldn't account for the fact that a woman, who the police said didn't exist, had asked me to hold her baby. I said, "ask my wife and my father-in-law. We were all sitting together. Did you speak to them," I pleaded? The police assured me they would speak to everybody involved. In the interim, it was me and the baby and the long arm of New York law. Innocence as I've seen played out many times on "Law & Order" was not necessarily a sure-fire defense.

Sure enough, and thankfully so, the baby's mother (yes, she was real, married to a Norwegian man which accounted for the baby's rather unique name: Haaken or something, I didn't really understand. Though the mother was American, the baby's given name was a Norwegian one, she explained) returned coffee in hand and sat herself down next to me and the baby where she then waited for a friend - who, as it soon turned out, was as happy to see her and the baby as I was to no longer be responsible for said baby's welfare. Despite all's well ending well, as in there was no incident involving me and the police, I still couldn't help feeling as if I had somehow dodged a bullet, thankfully not literally, though I was in New York City, which again, if you've watched as many episodes of any of the 'Law & Order' franchise as I have, seems to happen occasionally, at least according to their writers. (I do realize that what happens on "Law & Order," as it scrolls "the following story is fictional and does not depict any actual person or event" has nothing to do with my life.) Nevertheless, as a dedicated television watcher, I do take the story lines somewhat seriously, though I'd like to think I can still separate fact from fiction. But the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt fact in this instance: it was me and the baby, and the baby wasn't mine.

Though I am exaggerating for affect, New York City can do that to you. It's been my experience after many visits to New York City that when a city never sleeps, all sorts of irregular-type only-in-New-York things happen. And what appears on television as a drama is often drawn from some of those things that actually happen. And for a few minutes on this Friday afternoon, I felt as if I might be one of those 'things' that happen only in New York City. It was a bit stressful while it happened. But it's been even funnier now that it didn't. Still, I hear it: "Dun-Dun."

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

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