

THE CONNECTION

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Andreas Moffett as Frollo
in "The Hunchback of
Notre Dame" at City of
Fairfax Theatre Co.

Radical Kindness; Stand Up To Oppression

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Path to Freedom For Justin Wolfe?

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Town of Herndon Heads to Court

PAGE 6

JULY 16 - AUGUST 5, 2025

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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



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

Pathway to Freedom for Justin Wolfe?

After decades of ‘vindictive prosecution,’ court orders new hearing.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Chantilly High grad Justin Wolfe has spent the past 24 years in prison – 13 of them on death row – for a crime he always said he didn’t do. Now, three judges with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit say his prosecution was biased, vengeful and tainted with misconduct.

Toward that end, they’ve vacated a lower court’s denial of Wolfe’s most recent legal challenge to his imprisonment and ordered he receive a new hearing based on his claims of innocence. The July 7 decision came from Judges Robert King, Stephanie Thacker and Nicole Berner, with Thacker writing the opinion.

“The facts of this case span decades and deal with conduct by the Commonwealth of Virginia that we and lower courts have recognized as ‘abhorrent to the judicial process,’” wrote Thacker. “Twenty-four years ago, the Commonwealth decided [Wolfe] was a guilty man. From that moment, [it’s] done everything in its power to ensure [he] dies in prison, eschewing the Constitution, ethical strictures and [Wolfe’s] own repeated and consistent assertions of actual innocence.”

In May, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia denied Wolfe’s petition for a “writ of habeas corpus” challenging the validity of his conviction and stating that his detention was unlawful. It

declared he hadn’t provided “new, reliable evidence” in support of his Schlup claim of actual innocence. But, wrote Thacker, “We conclude otherwise.”

The 1995 Supreme Court decision in Schlup v. Delo made it possible for convicted prisoners to have their cases reheard if they later allege an adequate claim of real innocence. Wolfe had been convicted of hiring Owen Barber to kill Centreville’s Danny Petrole in 2001 (see background sidebar).

From the start, Barber – who indeed killed Petrole – was threatened with the death penalty by police and prosecutors in Prince William County, where the murder occurred, if he didn’t say Wolfe hired him. And at Wolfe’s 2002 trial, Barber testified accordingly.

Then during a 2010 hearing in federal court in Norfolk, Barber recanted that testimony under oath. Yet, again coerced prior to Wolfe’s 2016 retrial, Barber agreed to plead the Fifth. Then in 2023, he wrote a statement saying Wolfe had nothing to do with Petrole’s murder.

Now, the Fourth Circuit has ruled that Barber’s latest declaration “constitutes new evidence because it rendered Barber available” to Wolfe as a witness who could testify to Wolfe’s innocence, “when Barber had previously been unavailable, pursuant to his invocation of his Fifth Amendment privilege.

“And Barber’s declaration is reliable evidence be-

SEE JUSTIN WOLFE, PAGE 12



Justin Wolfe and mom Terri Steinberg during a July 2017 prison visit.

The Background: Drugs, Money, Murder, Misconduct

Prosecutors, police coerced shooter to implicate another.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When 21-year-old, Centreville High grad Danny Petrole was slain in his car in front of his Bristow townhouse, March 15, 2001, it stunned the community and devastated his family. It also led police to discover a drug ring of major proportions operating in the Centreville/Chantilly area.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars changed hands regularly, and a dozen young drug dealers in Fairfax and Prince William counties became rich. Among them, said authorities, were Centreville’s Justin Wolfe, almost 20, Petrole and the man later convicted of killing him, Owen Barber IV, 21, of Centreville.

After Petrole arrived home that night, Barber fired 10 shots from a 9 mm Smith & Wesson through Petrole’s passenger-side window, with all but one bullet striking him. Driving away, Barber tossed the gun into a nearby intersection. Both he and Wolfe then left Virginia. Barber went to California and Wolfe, to Florida – but both were arrested that April.

Petrole was the son of a former Secret Service agent who lived in Virginia Run. He attended NOVA and delivered flowers part-time. But when police searched Petrole’s belongings, they discovered \$965 in his wallet and \$17,460 in the trunk of his car.

In his townhouse were guns, \$120,366 in cash and nearly half a million dollars worth of ecstasy and marijuana. It was later revealed that Petrole spent \$360,000/month buying marijuana from Seattle, pocketing \$100,000 to \$140,000/month from selling it.

Barber and Wolfe were 1998 Chantilly High grads; Petrole graduated in ‘98 from Centreville. During Barber’s and Wolfe’s trials in Prince William County Circuit Court, much of the testimony came from young, self-admitted drug dealers and users in the local area.

Both Barber and Petrole sold marijuana. According to court testimony, Wolfe also had a high-level operation, buying marijuana from both of them and dealing it to others. Initially facing the death penalty for killing Petrole, Barber testified against Wolfe. He said he hadn’t known Petrole but killed him because Wolfe had hired him to do so. In return for his testimony, Barber’s charge was reduced from capital to first-degree murder.

In January 2002, Wolfe, then 21, was convicted of capital murder, since murder-for-hire is a capital offense. Five months later, Wolfe was sentenced to death, as his jury

had recommended, plus 33 years in prison – 30 for drug distribution and three for use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. On Aug. 6, 2002, Barber received 38 years in prison.

Wolfe always maintained his innocence, and Barber provided the only evidence directly linking Wolfe to the murder. But during a November 2010 evidentiary hearing in Federal Court in Norfolk, U.S. District Court Judge Raymond Jackson heard evidence not presented in 2002.

In his July 2011 decision to overturn Wolfe’s convictions and sentences, Jackson wrote that the commonwealth “failed to disclose evidence indicating Barber had a relationship with Petrole” prior to his death. This disclosure, he wrote – plus statements from a confidential informant that “Barber owed Petrole money [and] Petrole had a hit out on Barber” – could have impeached Barber’s testimony.

Then in August 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, in Richmond upheld that court’s ruling that Wolfe’s due-process rights had been violated and his convictions and sentences should be vacated.

In a court document dated Aug. 16, 2012, Judge Robert B. King wrote that he’d based his opinion on “a written police report reflecting that – before Barber ever asserted that Wolfe hired him to murder Petrole – Prince William County Det. [Samson] Newsome advised Barber that he could avoid the death penalty by implicating Wolfe.”

King therefore concluded that “Barber had a motive to misrepresent the facts regarding Petrole’s death” and added that any evidence of Wolfe’s alleged drug-dealing is “inevitably tainted by the prosecutorial misconduct in this case.”

Indeed, Wolfe’s cousin, 1998 Chantilly High grad Jason Darne – who knew Barber well – knew all along he wasn’t telling the truth. “When all this – Danny’s death and the arrests – transpired, some friends and I asked him, ‘Why are you saying Justin asked you to do this?’” said Darne. “We knew otherwise.”

He said Wolfe was “shocked” by Petrole’s death, but he didn’t “flee” to Florida afterward. “It was a planned trip,” said Darne. “Justin and I went to a Super Street car show in Daytona. He and his girlfriend and my friends and I were just hanging out at the beach. We were eating crabs and shrimp when the U.S. marshals showed up.”

Darne said he and his friends later sent letters to Barber in prison asking him to come clean and tell the truth about Wolfe. Then, at the November 2010 hearing in Norfolk, said Darne, “[Owen] testified and said he wanted to ‘do the right thing.’ So all our letters finally hit home. According to what I heard at that hearing, based on public records, all the evidence that did not point toward Justin’s guilt was overwhelming.” Like the rest of Wolfe’s family, Darne hopes his cousin will someday be a free man again. He’s still waiting.

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Town of Herndon v. Comstock L.C.

Lawsuit demands land back.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon announced late Friday afternoon, July 11, that it, as the plaintiff, filed a lawsuit that same day in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County against Comstock Herndon Venture, L.C.

The lawsuit arises from a dispute revolving around Comstock's refusal to reconvey approximately five acres of land located in the center of the downtown district back to Herndon, which it had intended for redevelopment. Herndon alleges that Comstock is wrongfully retaining the land to pressure Herndon into paying for Comstock's predevelopment fees, which Comstock claims, according to Herndon's suit, amount to "several million dollars."

Herndon seeks two actions. The first is the immediate return of the property to Herndon. The second is a Declaratory Judgment that Herndon owes no predevelopment costs to Comstock, and seeks recovery of its legal costs incurred in pursuing this action.

Herndon argues that the mutually signed Comprehensive Agreement does not obligate them to pay these costs if Comstock decides not to proceed, and that Comstock's actions constitute a breach of contract. According to court documents, the agreement's terms for such payments apply only if Herndon requests that Comstock transfer the plans and property to a new developer, which has not occurred.

After selecting Comstock as Herndon's development partner, Herndon and Comstock entered into a Comprehensive Agreement dated Nov. 1, 2017. The lawsuit states, "The agreement gave Comstock the option to elect not to proceed with the construction by issuing a Notice Not to Proceed, and it provided to Herndon a corresponding right to repossess the land via its Right of Reentry."

Comstock delivered a letter addressed to Herndon on Dec. 6, 2024, stating in part that Comstock "would not proceed with the construction project." The letter read in part that under Section 8 of the First Amendment to the Comprehensive Agreement, "Comstock hereby elects to not proceed with the Commencement of Construction. ... This letter shall be deemed a Notice Not to Proceed pursuant to the Comprehensive Agreement, which shall be deemed to expire and be of no further force and effect on the date hereof."

On Jan. 23, 2025, Herndon exercised its Right of Reentry, demanding that Comstock execute documents to return the land to Herndon. Herndon stated that Comstock's rights to the property were being terminated due to their alleged failure to sign documents transferring ownership back to the town.

In turn, Comstock replied to Herndon, in a letter on Feb. 24, "acknowledging receipt of Herndon's request that Comstock give the property back." According to the July 11 complaint by Herndon, "Comstock's Feb. 24 letter stated that it [Comstock] would transfer the Property to another developer upon payment of Comstock's costs and expenses, which Comstock maintains is 'several million dollars.' This is a willful misreading of Comstock's rights under the Agreement, which provides for no qualification of Herndon's Right of Reentry. Comstock has thus breached the Agreement," says Herndon in the suit.

"Accordingly, Herndon is entitled to judgment for Comstock's breach of the Agreement by failing to reconvey the Property back to Herndon, an order for specific performance compelling Comstock to convey the Property back to Herndon, and a declaratory judgment that Comstock is not entitled to

payment of the claimed predevelopment costs and expenses."

Herndon argues in the lawsuit that Comstock explicitly agreed that the development of the "Final Project Plans, Construction Drawings and Site Plan" were to be at Comstock's "sole cost and expense."

Herndon says in the lawsuit that the agreement "provided that if Comstock abandoned the Project or there was an imminent foreclosure, Herndon was to have a Right of Re-entry ... This right provided for reversion of Herndon's right, title and interests in and to the Property back to Herndon."

In June of 2018, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to contribute \$1.2 million for the redevelopment of downtown Herndon. Estimates suggested that the project would generate \$800,000 annually in new property and sales tax. The board accepted the Town of Herndon's request for an additional \$5 million over five years in funding from the county's Economic Opportunity Reserve Fund, which was approved in October 2021.

Looking back at the the redevelopment project from 2020 through 2024, the original plan was for a new \$85 million mixed-use, art-focused development on the 4.675 acre parcel to include 281 residential units, an unfinished 18,000

square foot space for a new arts center shell, an arts walk, public spaces, an eight-level parking garage with 761 spaces and 18,000 square feet of boutique, restaurant, and retail space. By the summer of 2024, the project had not commenced construction, although some older buildings had been demolished.

Redevelopment plans reduced the art center to approximately 4,275 square feet, the lowest level of the parking garage was removed, and the number of residential units dropped to 273. In September, during his last session as town manager, Bill Ashton opined that the project could collapse if interest rates did not lower.

In December, Comstock sent Herndon the "Notice Not to Proceed" letter, thus initiating the correspondence between the parties. In June, Comstock and Herndon entered into mediation, according to a town spokesperson.

Clemente, manager of Comstock Herndon Venture, LLC, did not respond to a request for comment.

The full text of the filed lawsuit by Herndon demanding Comstock's return of the downtown redevelopment site to Herndon's ownership, along with exhibits, can be found here.

Ex 1 - Comstock Herndon Venture LC Comprehensive Agreement w-Herndon.pdf

COMMUNITY NEWS AT A GLANCE

Rotary Club of Great Falls New Officers

Citizen of the Year and Rotarian of the Year honored.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Rotary Club of Great Falls VA held its Officers' Installation Ceremony on June 19 at the Great Falls Grange and recognized their Citizen of the Year, Tom Tucker, an avid volunteer who dedicates his time to various charities such as Arts of Great Falls, Great Falls Grange Foundation, Lift Me Up, a therapeutic horse riding center in Great Falls, and at Legacy Farms in Loudoun County, which provides job training and opportunities for neurodivergent individuals.

"I must admit that I was caught off guard receiving this recognition," Tucker said. "It is an honor to take part in giving back to others."

The club honored IB Barghout as "Rotarian of the Year. Barghout is known for his fun Rotary social experiences, which resulted in increased involvement and stronger friendships. "It has been a lot of fun to be engaged with such a group of dedicated Rotarians in meaningful fellowship and service above self," Barghout said.

Michael Broyles, the area governor, presided over the oath of office ceremony for the incoming 2025-2026 officers, including Steve Flannery, president, and the selected board members. "We will all be in great hands under Steve's leadership," June Kelly, immediate past president, said.



PHOTO BY SCOTT KELLY

Members of the Rotary Club of Great Falls gather in front of the Great Falls Grange at the Officers' Installation Ceremony.

COMMUNITY NEWS AT GLANCE

ArtsFairfax, Call for Art



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

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

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Stream Flooded

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

At Wolf Trap Creek, rainfall on Saturday, July 12 wiped out the bridge and halted traffic on this trail for a short time while the water worked its way downstream to the Great Falls area. All park trails in this area were closed for a few days while park officials assessed the damage. This was following a downpour on July 8 that also caused the stream to overflow its banks.





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COMMUNITY NEWS AT GLANCE

— MERCIA HOBSON

Free Back-to-School Vaccines



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
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.

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.

New Student Representative to Fairfax County School Board



SCREENSHOT FCPS.EDU/NEWS

Faith Mekonen is the new student representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

Mekonen is a rising senior at South County High School. The countywide Student Advisory Council elected her to serve a one-year term that began July 1. According to the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Communication, "Mekonen has three main focuses as student representative: reducing discipline disproportionality, elevating student voice in policy decisions, and the implementation of the revised grading and cell phone policy."



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Fairfax County School Board Approves \$150 Million Purchase

Shuttered school, buildings and campus would become western high school.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board authorized, in a surprise move, \$150 million to purchase the King Abdullah Academy at 2949 Education Drive, Herndon, in an unincorporated area of the county, during its scheduled meeting on June 12. The board acted without public notice and approved the purchase of the private school. School Board Chair Karl Frisch referred to the pending action as “Agenda Items 5.10, Acquisition of Western High School Property.” That evening, the item was neither itemized nor detailed on the online agenda, and a staff report was also not available.

The board approved the motion, with nine school board representatives voting in favor: Kyle McDaniel, member at-large; Ryan McElveen, member at-large; Robyn Lady, Dranesville District; Marcia St. John-Cunning, Franconia District; Dr. Ricardy Anderson, Mason District; Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District; Sandy B. Anderson, vice chair, Springfield District; Seema Dixit, Sully District; and Karl Frisch, chair, Providence District.

Three school board members abstained: Ilryong Moon, member at-large; Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Braddock District; and Melanie K. Meren, Hunter Mill District.

On Jan. 30, 2025, King Abdullah Academy said that it would close permanently at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. Reportedly, “a comprehensive financial evaluation found the institution fulfilling its mandate, but with no viable financial path to self-sustainability.” The K-12 private school opened as new construction in the fall of 2016 under the direction of the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the United States.

King Abdullah Academy was situated on a large campus, its site zoned for industrial use, including data centers. However, such a use could have required a special exception from Fairfax County.

Sandy Anderson presented the motion: “I move that the school board approve the acquisition of the Western High School property and authorize the division superintendent or her designee to execute and deliver the purchase agreement to the property owner.”



King Abdullah Academy, exterior view with track field.

SCREENSHOT KING ABDULLAH ACADEMY



Sandy B. Anderson, vice chair.



Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District representative.



Ilryong Moon, member-at-large, abstained.



Rachna Sizemore Heizer, Braddock District representative.

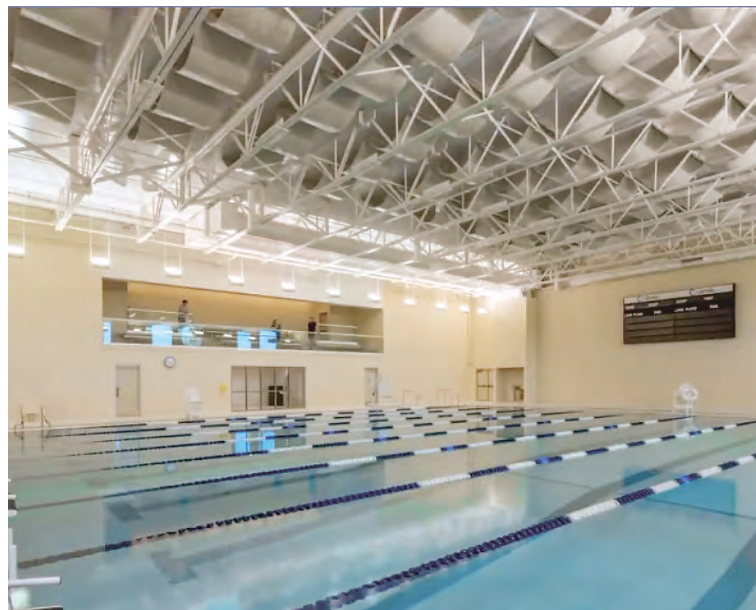
PHOTOS: FCPS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Anderson said she viewed the purchase as a “unique opportunity to capture a school property that was almost complete.” She referred to it as an “elegant solution” to a problem that the board had been wrestling with for quite some time, seeking a location for the Western High School.

Dunne supported the motion with a second. He characterized the purchase as “a smart and strategic investment, fiscally responsible from a taxpayer perspective.”

Dunn reported that the school division had projected the cost of building a new high school from the ground up to be around \$450 million, including the acquisition of adequate land for the campus and the construction of the new school. In contrast, with this purchase, the division was acquiring it for \$150 million. “Thirty-five acres of property in a region where land is in scarce supply and a modern, award-winning school campus, featuring three gymnasiums and ...” Chair Frisch interjects, stopping Dunn and stating that a five-minute recess is necessary.

The meeting continues without clarification on the recess. Dunn wraps up, saying, “With three gymnasiums, an indoor Olympic



SCREENSHOT KING ABDULLAH ACADEMY

King Abdullah Academy, indoor Olympic-sized pool.

pool, and state-of-the-art athletic and performing arts facilities. [It] represents a total savings of \$300 million, which can be allocated to accelerate necessary renovation projects across the county.”

Dunn notes he originated and advocated for the initiative. He recalled that in February, when he realized the private school was shutting down, “it was a once-in-a-generation opportunity

to acquire premier property for a cost-effective price.”

Anderson highlighted other amenities, including two amphitheater-style outdoor classrooms, robotics and ceramics laboratories, state-of-the-art performing arts and athletic facilities, multiple cafeterias and dining areas, and two administrative buildings of 15,000 square feet each.” She reiterated that it was not just the school

building, but there were also some outbuildings that would be utilized “in very creative ways to support our students.”

Moon said he wished he could support the motion. “Unfortunately, from my perspective there are a lot of unanswered questions. And so tonight, I will be abstaining.”

Sizemore Heizer also would abstain.

The newly formed nonprofit organization, Citizens for Great Falls, said in a media release the next day that “purchasing a high school by a county public school authority without adequate public disclosure and input from the community that has been involved in this effort for decades is an example of an administratively unsound choice.”

“Taking this action behind closed doors is another striking example of the lack of transparency and disregard for citizen participation typical of this school board and the division’s administrators ... Major policy choices like building new schools in our community or acquiring major new facilities should involve public engagement and not be decided behind closed doors.”

Fairfax County Public Schools adopted a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2026-2030. This program outlines the school division’s five-year plan for capital projects, including new school construction, capacity enhancements, and renovations. Key aspects of the FY 2026-30 CIP include the construction of two new elementary schools.

View the video of the school board meeting on YouTube, 6/12/2025 - FCPS School Board Meeting, and the release from Citizens for Great Falls here.

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.

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.

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PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



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

This year, as it has since 1999, the county’s Tree Commission will select individuals and organizations who demonstrated outstand-

ing 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.fairfaxcounty.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.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/tree-commission/friends-trees-awards>.

Pathway to Freedom for Justin Wolfe?

FROM PAGE 4

cause it was consistent with Barber's prior credible testimony [exonerating Wolfe]. Therefore, as detailed below, we vacate the district court's judgment and remand for adjudication of [Wolfe's] substantive claims."

Presenting the background of Wolfe's case, Thacker said a January 2002 jury convicted him of murder for hire, dealing drugs and using a firearm. Wolfe was sentenced to death, plus 33 years in prison. That July, he requested a stay of execution and, that November, he filed a habeas petition. He then obtained an affidavit from Barber repudiating his trial testimony and exonerating Wolfe from the murder-for-hire scheme.

Wolfe also secured affidavits from two of Barber's former roommates. Centreville's Jason Coleman stated he'd "told prosecutors Barber had confessed to [him] that [he'd] acted alone in Petrole's murder," wrote Thacker. And a former cellmate, Carl Huff, stated that Barber "had admitted [to him] that [Wolfe] was in no way involved in Petrole's shooting and that Barber had testified falsely at [Wolfe's] trial."

According to Barber's affidavit, wrote Thacker, "The officers who initially interviewed Barber [after his arrest] threatened him with the death penalty if he didn't cooperate in [Wolfe's] prosecution. Per Barber, 'On the flight back to Virginia from California, the officers accompanying Barber told [him] they already knew [Wolfe] had hired [Barber] to kill Petrole and that one of [them] would tell the story and the other would end up with capital murder.'"

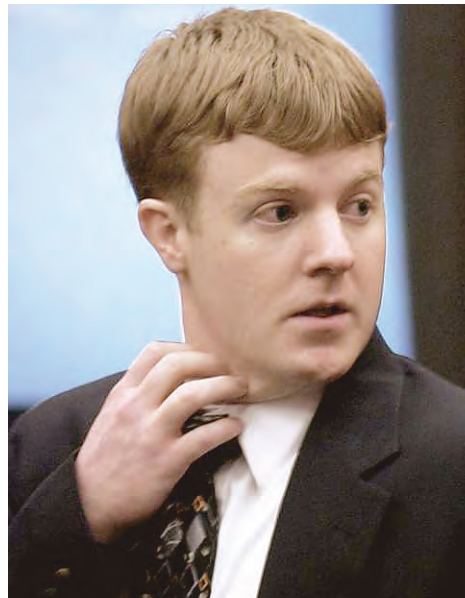
"[Then] in jail, Det. Sam Newsome and Det. Brenda Walburn repeatedly told [Barber] they and the prosecutors had linked [his] gun to the killing and would pursue capital murder against either [Wolfe] or [him]. According to Barber, they were entirely focused on [Wolfe] as a suspect. And Barber's attorney warned him, if he didn't implicate [Wolfe], prosecutors would [make sure Barber received] the death penalty."

Barber said he testified against Wolfe because the officers had had "made it clear it was either do this or die," wrote Thacker. "Accordingly, he 'made up a story with lies woven in [about] a murder for hire [because it was what] the prosecutors wanted to hear.'" In his affidavit, Barber said he was now telling the truth because Wolfe "did not deserve to die for something he did not do."

Based on these affidavits, in December 2005, Wolfe made a Schlup claim of innocence. And he contended that the commonwealth also colluded with another witness, J.R. Martin, to present false evidence to the jury.

Thacker explained that Martin was a close friend of Barber and "provided him with a car to use on the night of [Petrole's] murder. At [Wolfe's] trial, Martin corroborated Barber's testimony that Barber and [Wolfe] had private conversations before and after the murder. Martin also said it was 'obvious' that [Barber] killed Petrole at [Wolfe's] instruction."

But, wrote Thacker, "The commonwealth had coordinated Martin's testimony in a



Justin Wolfe at an earlier court appearance.

joint meeting with Barber, Martin and the prosecutors, without disclosing that meeting to [Wolfe's] trial counsel. Further, [his] counsel was unable to effectively impeach Martin's testimony [at trial] because the [commonwealth] withheld an off-the-record agreement not to prosecute Martin [for his involvement in Petrole's murder] if he cooperated with the commonwealth."

Still, in February 2008, the district court dismissed Wolfe's petition. He appealed that decision, and the Fourth Circuit Court vacated that court's judgment for failing to consider Wolfe's claim of innocence. It also instructed the district court to determine whether Wolfe was entitled to an evidentiary hearing and other evidentiary discovery.

That led to the commonwealth producing "a plethora of previously undisclosed material evidence," wrote Thacker. "It included the fact that Barber possessed [his own] potential motives for murdering Petrole, plus evidence which could have allowed Wolfe to present possible alternate motives for Petrole's murder [by others. For example], reports and witness statements relating to a parallel drug investigation indicating conflict in Petrole's drug business, evidence that Petrole was rumored to be a government informant, and the statements of three witnesses that they saw a second car at the crime scene shortly after [the shooting]."

"This listing represents only a snapshot of the commonwealth's decades long misconduct in its prosecution of [Wolfe]," continued Thacker. "The court subsequently held an evidentiary hearing, wherein Barber credibly recanted his trial testimony and indicated that [Wolfe] wasn't involved in Petrole's murder. On Sept. 7, 2012, the court then ordered the commonwealth to retry him within 120 days or release him unconditionally."

However, wrote Thacker, "Incredibly, just four days later, on Sept. 11, Det. Newsome and [Prince William] prosecutors Richard Conway and Paul Ebert

visited Barber in prison," and again



Danny Petrole

threatened him with the death penalty if he changed his original testimony in a new trial and said Wolfe was innocent. "Ebert directly threatened Barber, 'We would bring the charge against you, capital murder.'" Accordingly, Barber's attorney advised him to plead the Fifth, thus rendering him useless to Wolfe's defense.

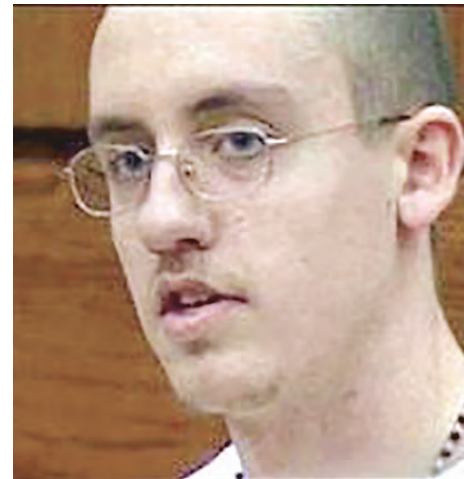
Conway and Ebert then recused themselves from the case, and Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh prosecuted Wolfe in Prince William as relentlessly as his predecessors. He levied additional charges against Wolfe, including felony murder and engaging in a continuous criminal enterprise. And once again, Wolfe faced the death penalty – all the while proclaiming his innocence.

"Twenty-four years ago, the Commonwealth decided [Wolfe] was a guilty man. From that moment, [it's] done everything in its power to ensure [he] dies in prison."
— U.S. Circuit Court Judge Stephanie Thacker

However, justice moved slowly. With a slew of pre-trial motions, several changes in defense attorneys and a failed attempt at a Supreme Court hearing, the case dragged on for years with no end in sight – until, on March 19, 2016, Wolfe wrote a letter seemingly "confessing" to the murder for hire.

His attorneys made a plea deal with the prosecution, taking the death penalty off the table. Wolfe then pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and conspiracy to distribute marijuana. And that July 20, he was sentenced to 41 years in prison. But his friends and relatives always maintained that, after all his legal setbacks, he only wrote that letter so he'd someday be released from prison.

Then on April 12, 2023, Barber signed a new declaration stating Wolfe had nothing to do with Petrole's murder. He said he knew his statement wouldn't benefit him in any way, but that Wolfe had "served a lot of time



Owen Barber

for a crime he did not commit" and if he'd been able to freely testify in Wolfe's favor at his retrial, he would have.

Wolfe again legally asserted a claim of innocence, but the district court rejected it, considering Barber unreliable and saying his statement didn't contain new information about Petrole's murder. However, Thacker disagreed, explaining that it "converted Barber from a [previously] unavailable witness" who'd invoked the Fifth Amendment, into one who was now willing to declare Wolfe innocent.

"[Barber] is an imprisoned man who has struggled for decades between telling the truth and preserving his own life," wrote Thacker. "We cannot condone the commonwealth's conduct in creating this dichotomy. We must take [its] coercive acts, which were abhorrent to the judicial process, into account when considering Barber's reliability."

Thacker further noted the commonwealth's "vindictive prosecution" during Wolfe's re-trial, with six new charges, plus capital murder, and Newsome, Conway, and Ebert's threats to Barber that effectively silenced him from testifying to Wolfe's innocence. If all these things had been brought to light, said Thacker, "No reasonable juror would have found [Wolfe] guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

"For the foregoing reasons, we hold that Appellant (Wolfe) has alleged a meritorious Schlup claim for actual innocence. Therefore, we vacate the district court's judgment and remand for adjudication of Appellant's substantive claims." This decision now paves the way for either Wolfe's retrial or his release from prison.

"We're profoundly grateful for this important ruling in Justin's case, which recognizes what we've known all along – Justin is innocent," said Wolfe's mother, Terri Steinberg. "We're hopeful and cautiously optimistic that Justin is one step closer to finally coming home to us."

Meanwhile, in a Facebook post, family friend Bob Lessemun placed the blame for Wolfe's long incarceration squarely on those who colluded against him. "Shame on those prosecutors for their deal making and their suppressing the evidence," he said. "It's time for the truth to be told."

Arts Herndon 'Open Doors' At Novel HerndonPRIDE

Attendees hope
for 2026 event.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The second annual HerndonPRIDE, presented by Arts Herndon and Sacred Roller Skates Supply in association with Capital Pride Alliance, may best be summed up by a 7-year-old named Andy.

"What I liked about the Pride Festival is that everyone got to be their own person. I think everyone liked it because it celebrated love when there is a lot of hate going on in other places," Andy said.

The first segment of the two-part event, Rolling Pride, featured an indoor, open-air community roller skating party with DJ music and live drumming, keeping the crowd energized from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 28. "We created a brand-new stage and opened up an area of the building that was previously unusable — all on a volunteer basis. It was amazing," volunteer Demeter Caposalis said.

During the week before the event, organizers and volunteers removed a non-load-bearing partition in the concrete-floored space, a former storage area that lacked air conditioning. On the day of PRIDE, they opened the two commercial-sized roll-up garage doors, which for the first time were visible on opposite sides of the building. Removing the wall created a wide central breezeway, similar to those found in old southern homes with dogtrot architecture. One door opened to the expansive north lawn with open views to the W&OD Trail, and the other door opened to the south-side parking lot, where young and old could browse the tented vendor, food, drink and activity booths, and enjoy icy mocktails as well as take part in a community hands-on mosaic with Mizz Mosaic.

"Running the t-shirt table, I got to hear from many people about how glad they were that the event was going so well and how grateful they were to Arts Herndon for making it happen," Sage Kerr said. "It's wonderful to see everyone joyful and proud, and I'm happy I was there to help."

The Critter Carnival, DJ music and live drumming kept the crowd fully engaged until 5 p.m. Stacey LaRoy, a member of Herndon Friends Meeting, said that those in support of the LGBTQIA+ commu-



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

Kailah Perry and Gabriel of Centreville "I think this event is special to me because we're celebrating Pride and friendship and we're rollerskating." Kailahl said.

nity, enjoyed the fun atmosphere with "music, skating, freebies, and lots of local art being offered, created and displayed."

A two-hour dinner break allowed guests to support local restaurant businesses one block away and attend the evening show from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., featuring "Night of the Vampire 1," a metal night by Arts Herndon DIY.

Supervisor James Bierman (D-Dranesville District) delivered remarks during the roller party and later wrote, "It's so great to see our corner of the county come together to affirm and support the LGBTQ+ community in June and every month."

Katie McDonald, owner of Sacred Roller Skate Supply, said they couldn't have pulled off the event without Bierman's support, and she knew that he meant every word of encouragement he spoke to the community on stage.

McDonald described co-hosting Herndon Pride with Jo Ormesher, the CEO and president of Arts Herndon, as the "absolute best time. ... It was super DIY and community-focused, and our communities came together to make an incredible event from the ground up," she said.. "As a queer-owned and operated business, we felt so supported by the vibrant residents

of Herndon and made so many new connections with people and businesses who share our same core values," McDonald said.

Ormesher reported that 1,500 people attended the HerndonPRIDE events. "To all the people who helped me work on this project, from obtaining the permits to managing pets and everything in between, thank you. Brilliant."

Bierman, the Reston Art Gallery & Studio, Patricia and Steve McDonald, sponsored HerndonPRIDE.

Demeter Capisalis shared his opinion statement and a dire forecast warning with The Connection. "The town is unfortunately starving Arts Herndon out of its residence at 750 Center Street.

Jo Ormesher should be celebrated and supported as a bastion of our community. But the current council is aiming for profitable redevelopment over investment in our vibrant community, as it is. If the council sees this through, we will lose our beloved Arts Herndon."

Capisalis' statement references the ongoing property deed dispute between the Town of Herndon and developer Comstock Herndon Ventures LC. The nonprofit group Arts Herndon is entangled in the conflict between the developer and the local government because it occupies property within the boundaries of the broader contested property.

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/Centrewood 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)

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'It's about Radical Kindness and Standing Up to Oppression'

Local man performing in '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, 3801 Jermantown Road, 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, including Little Rocky Run's Andreas Moffett. There's a 15-piece orchestra and a three-level set that's a deconstructed version of Notre Dame, including a stained-glass-rose window and the bell tower.

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/fairfax-citytheatre/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 Director Zachary 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 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."

Moffett portrays Frollo. "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 Virginia, Moffett said it



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER REGAN

Andreas Moffett as Frollo

demonstrates how "absolute power corrupts people absolutely – especially when the person wielding that power is motivated by hatred, prejudice and fear. Theater is sup-

posed 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."

July 1 Brings New Laws to VA

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Health, consumer protection, seatbelts: some of the new state laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly during the 2025 session. They are grouped by topic, and nearly all of which take effect on July 1, 2025. The legislature sent 916 bills to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, of which he signed 599, amended 159, and vetoed 157. For the complete list of legislation from this year's session, visit the Virginia Legislative Information System website.

Health care, pregnancy, and pregnant prisoners

❖ HB2083, introduced by Irene Shin (Chief Patron), requires the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange to establish a special enrollment period for a pregnant qualified individual to enroll in a qualified health plan at any time.

❖ HB2235, introduced by Rae Cousins (Chief Patron) prohibits local and regional

correctional facilities to use restraints on prisoners known to be pregnant or in postpartum recovery unless a deputy sheriff or jail officer makes an individualized determination that (the prisoner will harm herself, the fetus, the newborn child, or any other person; the prisoner poses a flight risk or the totality of the circumstances creates a serious security risk.

❖ Consumer protections

❖ SB1339, introduced by David W. Marsden (Chief Patron), is the Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act; telephone solicitations by text message. Effective January 1, 2026, it permits an individual receiving a telephone solicitation via text message to request not to receive telephone solicitations from a telephone by replying with the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" or "STOP" and requires the solicitor to honor such request for at least 10 years.

Cocktails to-go, Vaping changes

❖ HB2058, introduced by Paul E. Krizek (Chief Patron) / SB 811 Aaron R. Rouse (Chief Patron), makes the previous tempo-

rary policy permanent and allows restaurants and other licensed businesses to deliver wine, beer, and cocktails to-go by third-party delivery providers.

* HB1946 Vaping ban for those under 21, introduced by Patrick A. Hope (Chief Patron), prohibits any person younger than 21 years of age from possessing any retail tobacco or hemp product intended for smoking.

Child support

❖ SB805, introduced by Scott A. Surovell (Chief Patron), updates the amounts in the schedule of basic child support obligations based upon gross monthly income from \$35,000 to \$42,500.

Nazi graffiti

❖ HB2783, introduced by Marcus B. Simon (Chief Patron), creates a Class 6 felony for any person vandalizing property with a Nazi symbol, such as a Nazi swastika, intending to intimidate. The law can apply to private property as well as highways or

public places.

Education & Changes in Virginia schools
❖ SB738, introduced by Stella G. Pekarsky (Chief Patron / HB1961, Sam Rasoul (Chief Patron)), Virginia school districts have been enforcing the bell-to-bell cellphone restrictions since Gov. Glenn Youngkin's executive order last summer. Each school board is required to develop, and each public elementary and secondary school is to implement age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate policies relating to the possession and use of cell phones by students on school property during regular school hours.

The policies must restrict use deemed disruptive to the learning environment, with limited exceptions, such as those necessitated by a medical condition as outlined in a child's IEP or 504 plan. This law prohibits any student from being suspended or expelled as a consequence of violating these policies.

❖ HB 2774, introduced by Del. JJ Singh

SEE NEW LAWS, PAGE 15

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New Laws

FROM PAGE 14

/ SB1240 introduced by Sen. Glen H. Sturtevant Jr., requires Virginia public school principals and heads of private schools to report certain information to the parents of enrolled students within 24 hours of a confirmed or suspected school-connected student overdose.

Fee visibility

❖ HB 2515 introduced by Del. Adele Y. McClure/ SB1212 introduced by Sen. Stella G. Pekarsky prohibits a supplier, in connection with a consumer transaction, from advertising or displaying a price for goods or services without clearly and conspicuously displaying the total price, which shall include all mandatory fees or surcharges. It includes electric utilities, natural gas utilities, and telecommunications service providers; certain costs associated with real estate settlement services; and the provision of air transportation by air carriers, as well as food delivery platforms including a clear and conspicuous disclosure of any additional fee or percentage charged, as defined in the bill, and after a consumer selects items for purchase, but before checkout, display a subtotal page that itemizes the price of such selected items and any additional fee or percentage included in the total cost.

Vehicles, Traffic, Transportation, Licensing

❖ HB2475, introduced by Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra, requires all adult passengers in a vehicle to wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion on a public highway. Current law only requires adult passengers to wear safety belts when occupying the front seat.)

❖ SB1416, introduced by Sen. Adam P. Ebbin, makes it a traffic infraction if a driver fails to stop for pedestrians and makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor if failure to stop results in the serious bodily injury or death of a vulnerable road user lawfully crossing a highway.

❖ HB2116, introduced by Del. Karen Keys-Gamarra (Chief Patron), requires the DMV to add non-apparent disabilities on a driver's license when requested by an applicant and upon presentation of a signed statement confirming the condition.

❖ HB2501, introduced by Del. Sam Rasoul, requires the DMV to implement a program for promoting, printing and distributing envelopes to assist officers in communicating with drivers with autism. Envelopes shall contain information on how to best communicate with the person, as well as space for vehicle registration, insurance and emergency contact details, along with directions for the driver on what to do with the envelope.

Protection for minors, Child labor

❖ SB854, introduced by Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, requires social media apps to provide age verification for accounts and, for any account holder under 16, limit the application's use to one hour, with a parental consent option to override this limit.

❖ HB 2401, introduced by Del Jackie H. Glass / SB998 introduced by Sen. Angelia Williams Graves, requires that a child under the age of 16 who meets certain criteria must be compensated when taking part in content creation. Parents or guardians who are earning money from on-line content involving children must set aside earnings for those children in a trust account with access to the children when they turn 18 or are declared emancipated.

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

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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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 16 ❖ THE CONNECTION ❖ JULY 16 - AUGUST 5, 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

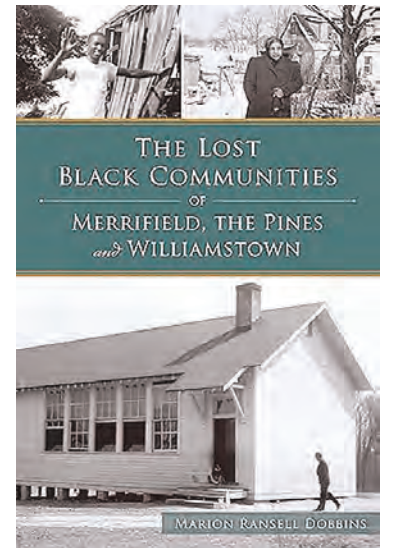
NOW TO AUG. 15

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

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ENTERTAINMENT



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



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



A Fairy Festival takes place Saturday, July 19, 2025 at Walker Nature Center in Reston.

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 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 Ivories, 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 entertain 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 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.

“ANASTASIA – THE MUSICAL.”

Presented by Vienna Youth Players. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Adapted

from the popular animated film and Broadway hit, Anastasia invites audiences on a journey from the fall of the Russian Empire to the excitement of Paris in the 1920s. Performances will take place at the Vienna Community Center auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 19, and Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26. A matinee performance is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sundays, July 20 and 27. Visit www.viennava.gov/theatre.

SATURDAY/JULY 19

Fairy Festival. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Walker Nature Center, Reston. This magical midsummer celebration invites families to don their wings and immerse themselves in a woodland world of wonder. Visitors of all ages will delight in a charming stroll through the trails of the Walker Nature Center, which will be lined with fairy houses, sparkling mushrooms, and hidden woodland sprites. Along the way, guests can cast their vote in the Fairy House Contest, sip tea with fellow forest dwellers, and gather for an enchanting tale told by none other than the Fairy Queen herself. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in their most fanciful fairy finery—gossamer wings, glittering crowns, and all. Space is limited, so be sure to register no later than Wednesday, July 16. Call 703-476-9689 ext. 3.

JULY 19-20

AKP Sports Summer Camp.

12:30-5 p.m. At Meridian High School, 121 Mustang Alley, Falls Church. AKP Sports Foundation presents its annual summer camp, offering children an educational, affordable (FREE!), and professional sports experience right here in the DMV area. This two-day camp is designed for kids from 1st to 8th grade to grow in their basketball and soccer skills while learning from professional and collegiate athletes and coaches in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment.

Saturday, July 19 – Sunday, July 20
Time: 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM each day
Sports Schedule:

❖ Saturday, July 19 – Basketball

❖ Sunday, July 20 – Soccer

What's Included:

❖ 2 days of expert coaching

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

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NEWS

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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Contributing Writer



The Pathway's Artists Reception takes place on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax.

FROM PAGE 17

❖ Instruction from pro and college-level coaches
❖ Camp T-shirt, waters, and snacks
❖ A great time with new friends!
Fee: FREE – no cost to attend!
Register now:
<https://form.jotform.com/251317699414160>
Email: academy@akpsports.org

SUNDAY/JULY 20
'In The Flow' Sound Bath with Iris McCray. 4 to 5:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come and experience getting into your flow enthused by soothing echoes of antique Dolphin Singing Bowls, sounds of Crystal Tones Singing Bowls, Angklung Bamboo Chime, Ocean Drum and additional Sound Healing instruments for a visceral participation to remember and draw from.

SUNDAY/JULY 20
The Hot Lanes Perform. 7-8:15 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, Alexandria. Free concert. Bring a chair or grab a picnic table early - a cool drink helps as well!

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
July 23: Featuring: Black Bag (rated R)
Aug 27: Featuring: Last Breath

THURSDAY/JULY 24
Marshall Charloff & Purple Xperience Concert. 7 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Purple Xperience was co-founded in Minneapolis by Marshall and Matt "Doctor" Fink (keyboardist for Prince & The New Power Generation) in 2011, an era where Prince closely monitored the use of his art. XPERIENCE Prince's music, performed 100% live with heart,



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

authenticity and reverence.

FRIDAY/JULY 25
Climate Fresk Workshop. 9 a.m. At Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Road, McLean. Global temperatures have been rising since the Industrial Revolution. While natural causes play a part, human activities, particularly emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases from industry, building usage, transportation, and agricultural activities, are mostly responsible for warming the planet. Rising temperatures, lead to extreme climate events such as hurricanes, river and coastal flooding, droughts, heat waves and others, which can only get stronger and more frequent if we fail to act. Further emission of greenhouse gases must be stopped. To achieve carbon neutrality, the transformation of our societies is urgent. The Climate Fresk workshop will walk you through the science of climate change based on the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is a game of 42 cards that must be laid in a logical, cause-effect order. Ultimately, a "Climate Fresco" emerges -- a collection of cards with connecting arrows that depict the climate system and how it is changing. The result is concrete actions the participants commit to implement to contribute to reversing the climate crisis. Dates: 07/25, 08/22 and 08/29 at 9:00 a.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Rd McLean. Call (571) 277-6282 (also WhatsApp) to sign up.

FRIDAY/JULY 25
Learning at Lunch: Troublemakers of the NWP. 12 to 1 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join Susan Philpott from the National Park Service for an engaging discussion of the confrontational campaigns developed by Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and the National Woman's Party in the fight for women's right to vote. Although best known for picketing the White House, for which many women were arrested and imprisoned at Occoquan Workhouse, the NWP used many different strategies to win support for a constitutional amendment enfranchising women. Susan is a park ranger at Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C., the historic headquarters of the National Woman's Party.

"THE LIGHTNING THIEF"
Presented by The Sterling Playmakers. At The Theater at Potomac Falls, 46400 Algonkian Pkwy., Potomac Falls. From July 25-27, August 1-3 & 8-10, 2025
Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Visit the website: www.sterlingplaymakers.org

SATURDAY/JULY 26
Bourbon on the Hill: A Tasting Experience. 4 to 6 p.m. At Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Take your summer sipping to the next level at Jailbreak Johnny's Private Stock Tasting Series -- an exclusive, guided bourbon tasting event at Laurel Hill Golf Club. On Saturday, July 26 from 4 to 6 p.m., discover the bold and distinctive flavors of the Penelope Project X Collection, in an elegant, scenic setting. Dive into the unique blends of the Project X Series, featuring Oloroso Sherry, Cognac, Double Cask and PX Sherry Bourbons. The tasting lineup includes a 1-ounce tasting of each featured bottle, along with light snack pairings designed to perfectly complement each sip.

SATURDAY/JULY 26
Live Summer Concert. 7-9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Mall, McLean. Live on PenFed Plaza is DC's White Ford Bronco, a 90s cover band. This free outdoor concert, sponsored by Lava Technology Services is for all music lovers filled with throwback hits from the '90s. Attendees can expect high-energy, interactive fun at the LAVA section and have the opportunity to snap photos with LAVA's mascot, grab cool swag, and connect with their team.

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SUNDAY/JULY 27
Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3 to 4:30 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Local historian Marion Ransell Dobbins will speak on her recently published book, *The Lost Black Communities of Merrifield, the Pines, and Williamstown.*

THURSDAY/JULY 31
Virginia Chamber Orchestra Brass Quintet. 7 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Broadway medleys, marches and pop tunes from Northern Virginia's premiere brass ensemble.

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK SALE
At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville.
Fiction and Nonfiction for all ages; DVDs, audiobooks, and more!
Friday, Aug. 8, 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 10, 1-4 p.m.
Bag Sale on Sunday! Fill a grocery bag with books and DVDs for just \$10!

SATURDAY/AUG. 16
Play Palooza - The Ultimate Pop-up Kids Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. At Springfield Plaza, 7206 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Includes rock wall climbing, a giant bounce house, inflatable obstacle course, truck touch zone, foam and confetti parties, face painting, toddler play zone, virtual gaming experiences and kid vs. parent challenges. In addition, there will be cotton candy and popcorn.

AUG. 23-24
Experience Your Korea. At Tysons Corner Mall, McLean. Experience Your Korea is a vibrant cultural roadshow coming to PenFed Plaza at Tysons Corner Center with the best trend driven Korean content from food and fashion to beauty and live cultural experiences. Attendees can immerse themselves in curated K-culture zones, discover Korea's hidden travel gems and iconic festivals, and enjoy a range of interactive programs.

"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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