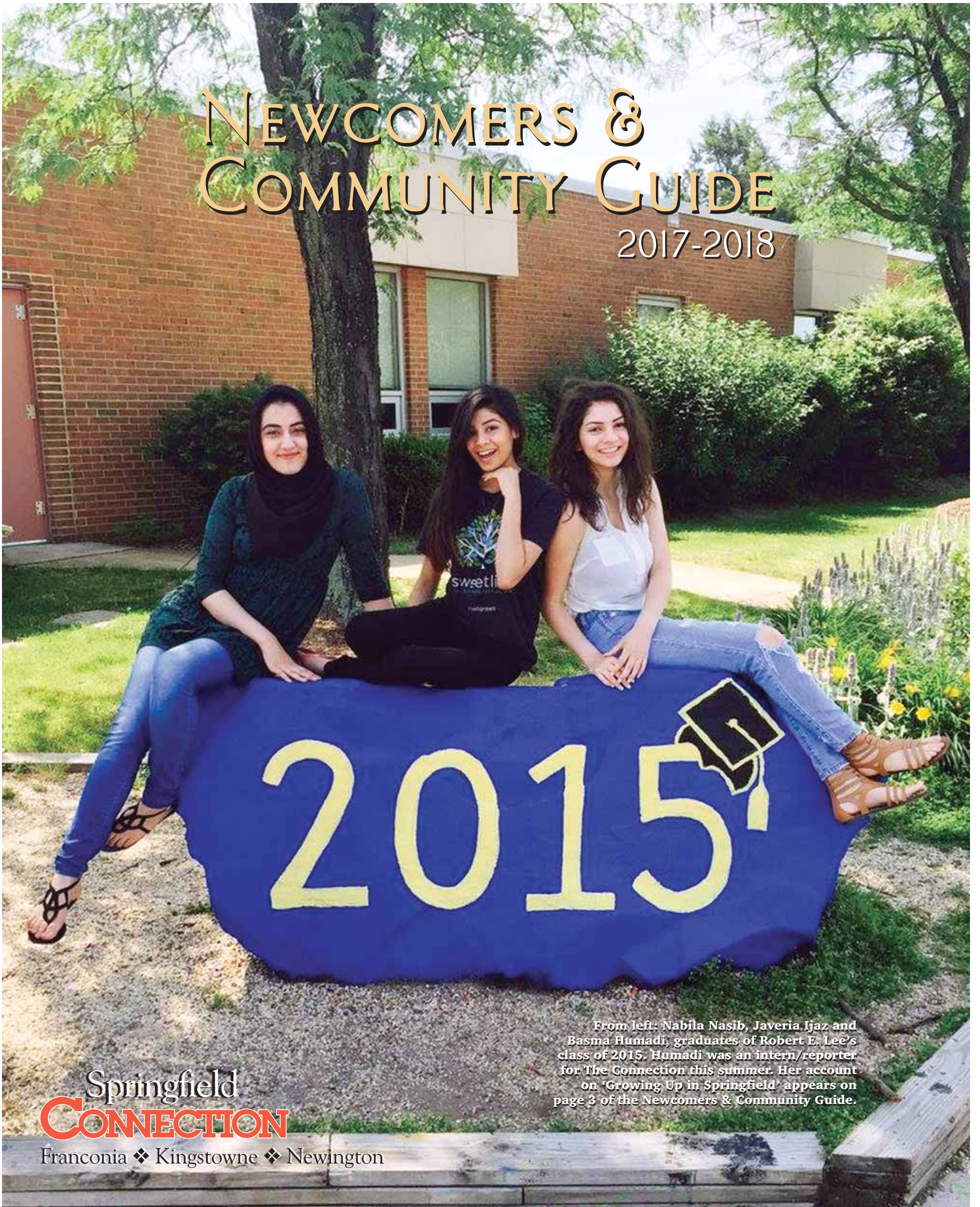


NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2017-2018



From left: Nabila Nasib, Javeria Ijaz and Basma Humadi, graduates of Robert E. Lee's class of 2015. Humadi was an intern/reporter for The Connection this summer. Her account on 'Growing Up in Springfield' appears on page 3 of the Newcomers & Community Guide.

Springfield
CONNECTION

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BASMA HUMADI



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BASMA HUMADI

Rushing water at Lake Accotink during sunset.



From left: my grandmother Khalida, my mom Mariam, my father Raad, and my sister Jasmin at one of our favorite restaurants in Springfield-Marib, which serves food of Yemeni cuisine.

Growing Up in Springfield Community is a welcoming and diverse place to live.

BY BASMA HUMADI

I moved to Springfield from Falls Church in 2005 when I was in second grade. Even though I was just a kid at the time, my family and I were immediately welcomed by our neighbors and by students and teachers at my school at the time, Crestwood Elementary. My family and I remain on good terms with our neighbors and on many occasions, they have helped us in cases when my mother's car wouldn't start or helping us shovel our sidewalk when snow falls. The hospitality of Springfield is a testament to the kindness the community fosters.

One of my favorite things about Springfield is its great diversity that permeates into all aspects of the city. I'm happy to say my high school had one of the most diverse student bodies, representing more than 60 countries — and this was something which was always embraced and made my high school more welcoming and enriching as everyone came from different walks of life.

In terms of its cuisine and dining options, Springfield has all sort of foods and flavors from numerous different countries and cultures. From Afghan kabob to Greek cuisine to Japanese Sushi, Springfield caters to any and every craving you could possibly have.

Having lived in Springfield since I was little, I watched the city grow as I grew up in it. I watched Springfield Mall grow to become Springfield Town Center, I watched new businesses spring to life, and have made good friends along the way. I'm still best friends with my friends from high school and often run into them as well anytime I go someplace in the city.

Here are places I enjoy in Springfield that I recommend visiting:

❖ **Lake Accotink:** The park is a beautiful piece of nature with its rushing water and beautiful lake to go canoeing or water pedaling. When the weather's nice, it's a



A perfect place to go canoeing or rent the water pedaling boats available on site at the Lake.

great place to have a picnic or bring your bike and go on its nature trail. The park also has a carousel and a place to buy snacks and concessions.

❖ **Springfield Town Center:** Formerly known as Springfield Mall, the recently opened and renovated Springfield Town Center is a bustling place to shop and dine. Featuring stores like Topshop, Michael Kors and, even a store for vinyl, Records & Rarities, the town center is bound to be a fun and vibrant place to go shopping. I'd also recommend catching a movie at the movie theater located inside the mall since its reclining seats make the movie-going experience much more comfortable.

❖ **Hidden Pond Nature Center:** Woodland trails, picnic and play area,

ponds, and live animal displays — the center is a great place to spend in nature and also learn more about it.

❖ **Flight Trampoline Park:** Flight is an indoor trampoline park where kids and adults can enter and spend the day bouncing around. Flight has more than 50 trampolines, two dodgeball areas, a basketball "slam dunk" area, and occasionally holds "Club Flight DJ Nights."

❖ **Dave & Busters:** Great place for games, drinks and food. Located at Springfield Town Center.

❖ **ShadowLand:** A fun place to get a group of friends together to go laser tagging. On Fridays between 8 p.m. to midnight, for \$15 per person, they offer unlimited games of laser tag.



From left: Faaiza Ahmed, Basma Humadi, Nabila Nasib and Henry Munoz. Our high school graduation at George Mason's EagleBank Arena where our hard work of the past four years paid off.

❖ **Go Ape Treetop Adventure Course:** South Run Park in Springfield has a zipline and obstacle course treetop adventure to embark on. You can make a reservation at goape.com.

❖ **Smart Markets:** Starting in May, this farmers market is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features the best from local vendors and organic fruits and vegetables.

❖ **Richard Byrd Library:** One of the best hubs of Springfield's thriving community, is its Richard Byrd library. A place for community events and gatherings, families, and free books.

Basma Humadi was an intern/reporter for The Connection this summer. She is a student at George Mason University.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we report on the character of your community, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

In 2016 alone, Connection papers won dozens of awards, including the top Virginia Press award — for Integrity and Community Service, for our coverage of police reform and related issues.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.



Local Media Connection writers and photographers won 37 Virginia Press Association awards for work in 2016, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service. Pictured here from left: John Bordner, Mark Mogle, Mary Kimm, Shirley Ruhe, Tim Peterson, Vernon Miles, Eden Brown, Andrea Worker and Jeanne Theismann.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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- ❖ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/
- ❖ Events to list in the calendar, www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/

- ❖ Digital editions of papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs
- ❖ Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at www.ConnectionArchives.com/PDF/
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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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John C. Cook

Braddock District Supervisor



Braddock Neighbors:

One of my most important jobs as your County Supervisor is to keep you informed of county issues and important neighborhood events.

I send out a monthly newsletter, the Braddock Beacon, and periodic Cook Advisories updates. Sign up for our email newsletters and keep up with your community. You can also stay informed by visiting my website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock.

Every one of us has the exciting

opportunity to shape our neighborhoods and make Fairfax County an even better place to work and live. That's why, here in Braddock, I continually encourage folks to become active participants in their community and their local government. So come on out, step up and become an involved Braddock District resident.

Remember, I am here to serve you. Please keep in touch and let me know what more I can do for you.

Come in and see us!

We are located at:

Kings Park Library
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, Virginia 22015

Call us at: 703.425.9300

Visit us online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock

Follow us on: Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/SupervisorCook

@JohnCookVA

How To Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. Note: If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location (see locations below). Voting absentee by mail? Read below for the process of applying for your mail-in ballot.

You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has voter identification requirements, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an

employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without ID

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Nov. 7.

To determine whether eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at elections.virginia.gov/ or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

To vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (General Election)

❖ Register/update address by: Monday, Oct. 16.

❖ Request absentee ballot by mail by: 5

p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

❖ Vote early (in-person absentee ballot by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711

Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735,

TTY 711

School Bonds on Ballot

There is a \$315 million public school bonds referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved by voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools' current plans to use this bond money are to:

❖ Plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the Northwest county area.

❖ Relocate one modular building

❖ Plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac.

❖ Plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools.

See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Special Election

Aug. 29, 2017 Special Election, School Board At-Large

All county polling places will be open on Aug. 29 to fill a vacancy for member, School Board At-Large for the remainder of the present term of office which expires Dec. 31, 2019.

In-Person Absentee voting is underway until Aug. 26

❖ Aug 26: Final Day In-Person Absentee Voting

❖ Aug 29: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline, 7 p.m.

Four candidates are on the ballot:

Chris S. Grisafe

Sandra D. Allen

Karen A. Keys-Gamarra

Michael H. Owens

For more on the school board race, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

ON THE BALLOT in Fairfax County:

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)

Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)

Clifford D. Hyra (L)

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)

Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)

Jill H. Vogel (R)

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D)*

John D. Adams (R)

44th District

Paul Krizek (D) incumbent, unopposed

House of Delegates (100) (2-year term)

34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent

Cheryl Buford (R)

45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

46th District

Charniele Herring (D) incumbent, unopposed

35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

47th District

Patrick Hope (D) incumbent, unopposed

36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D) incumbent, unopposed

37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D) incumbent
Adam Roosevelt (R)

38th District

Kay Kory (D) incumbent

Paul Haring (R)

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent
Mike Case (I)

39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

40th District

Donte Tanner (D)

Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent
Linda Schultz (R)

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

VIEWPOINTS

What is a good part about Springfield that newcomers should know about?

COMPILED BY MIKE SALMON

Alma, City of Fairfax, at Lake Accotink Park:
 “The parks and trails, there’s so much available here.”



Sherry, Fairfax:
 “Farmers markets and concerts in the park.”



Bill and Inez, Fairfax:
 “Great restaurants and great people.”



Devon Anthony, Fairfax Station:
 “High variety of food.”



Silvia Nutbrown, Springfield:
 “We have a lot of tiny parks so we can rejuvenate, diversity of people.”

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- Free Shuttle Service along BC Pkwy • Police/Fire/Rescue Displays

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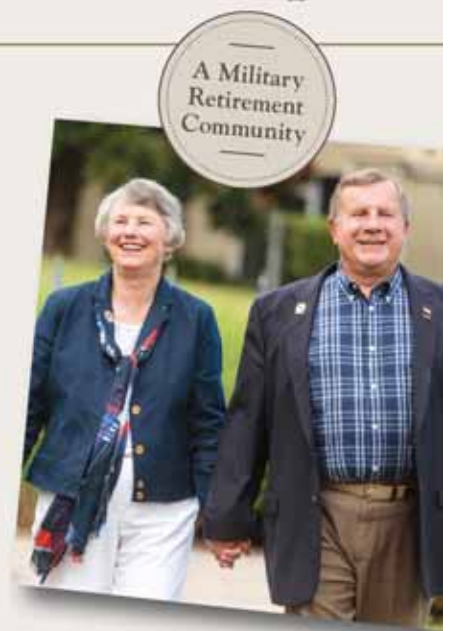
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“The Fairfax is like a cruise ship.”

—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to Fairfax County: 'Work Hard, Play Hard'

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County, one of the greatest places in the nation to live, work, play and raise a family. Fairfax County is home to a thriving business community, vibrant entertainment and shopping destinations, a world class university, beautiful parks and a diverse population of engaged residents. Whether you are a long time resident or new to the county, I hope you'll take some time to visit some of our most popular spots and enjoy what Fairfax County has to offer.

Tysons Corner Center, Fair Oaks Mall, Reston Town Center, Fairfax Corner, Springfield Town Center and the Mosaic District are great places to shop, eat and spend time with friends. For cultural destinations, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton are some of my favorites. For fresh air and exercise, I recommend our extensive network of trails, parks and RECenters.

While there are a lot of fun things to do in Fairfax County, our community is notorious for our "work hard, play hard" ethic. Time Magazine has described us as the epicenter of the Washington region's job boom and one of the great economic success stories of our time. Fairfax County is home to nine Fortune 500 company headquarters, approximately 9,000 tech businesses and over 116 million square feet of office space.

Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate of nearly 93 percent. Fairfax County Public Schools is the third largest employer in Virginia and the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 189,000 students. After high school graduation, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community Col-

lege are located just down the road for affordable higher education opportunities in many different subject fields. Our business-friendly economy offers a wide array of impressive career opportunities for both our older and younger residents.

On the local government level, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is constantly hard at work to ensure quality public services for our residents. Our 10-member Board of Supervisors strives to maintain positive community engagement, while strategically planning for the future with land use and infrastructure decisions.

Some recent Fairfax County accomplishments include updating many of our police policies, establishing a Diversion First program for people with mental illness who become involved with law enforcement, and successfully extending Metrorail to Tysons and Reston. Phase 2 of Metro's Silver Line is currently under construction and will extend all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County offers opportunity and quality services for residents of all ages. People from all over the globe have made Fairfax County their home, enriching our community with their diverse cultures and entrepreneurship. In Fairfax County, we believe we must all do our part to set a positive tone of acceptance, inclusiveness and kindness.

As chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by Fairfax County residents. My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or give my office a call at 703-324-2321. I hope you will sign up to receive my monthly Bulova Byline newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your new community. I also encourage you to visit fairfaxcounty.gov and fxva.com to see what Fairfax County has to offer you and your family every season and every day. Welcome to your new home.

Striving To Make Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization composed of men and women who are dedicated to making democracy work. Since it is nonpartisan, it does not support or endorse candidates. It registers voters and provides them with unbiased information about the voting process, issues of interest, and elections. It encourages active participation of citizens

by holding candidate forums, so they can meet and ask questions of the candidates who are running for office. It conducts studies of important community issues, has monthly meetings during which members discuss these issues, and uses education and advocacy to influence local public policy in the interest of the public. To learn more about this organization or to join, go to www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Service for Seniors Who Want to Serve

RSVP is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, providing individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

RSVP offers opportunities for volunteers including providing rides, support and meals to older neighbors, assisting local veterans in need and helping prepare communities for disasters. RSVP also recruits volunteers for community events throughout the year.

RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to group projects and social gatherings with other RSVP volunteers.

To sign up for an upcoming RSVP orientation email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Back to FCPS

BY SCOTT S. BRABRAND,
Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



It is great to be back in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) family! I am returning to FCPS after spending the past five years as superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools. My family is also very excited to be back; my two sons will be attending Fairfax High School this year, the same school where I once served as principal. I always dreamed of coming back to FCPS and it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to lead this amazing school system.

I was a career changer, after doing volunteer work in the schools, and began in FCPS as a social studies teacher in 1994. I also served as an assistant principal at Herndon High and an associate principal at Lake Braddock Secondary School before being named principal at Fairfax High School in 2005. In 2009, I was named the cluster assistant superintendent for schools in the Hayfield, West Potomac and Mt. Vernon pyramids.

As your superintendent, I am making Fridays my school days. I want to visit our schools to understand the work and the challenges our teachers, administrators and employees face, to understand what is happening "on the ground" so I can be better informed when making decisions.

I am committed to following through on the work of my predecessor, Dr. Karen Garza, who established Portrait of a Graduate — the 21st century learning model that our system has embraced — that focuses on the skills necessary for our students to succeed in college and beyond. As a school division, we are committed to achieving this goal for every student, in every classroom, in every school. We can we make this vision happen through ...

Excellence: We need to make sure every student and family has an excellent experience during their time with us. This also requires our employees to be fully invested in the important work they do every day.

I want to visit our schools to understand the work and the challenges our teachers, administrators and employees face, to understand what is happening "on the ground" so I can be better informed when making decisions.

**Scott S. Brabrand, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools**

Equity: FCPS is a microcosm of the world with students and families who come from all backgrounds and cultures. We will ensure that all students reach Portrait of a Graduate outcomes by addressing opportunity, access and attainment gaps. Every child, by name and need, can succeed with the proper support.

Effectiveness: We need to ensure that FCPS is being effective and efficient. One step I am taking is to narrow down our strategic plan in order to focus our efforts on achievable priorities that we can do well this year as a school division. We will align our resources to these priorities.

Expectations: I want our employees to love kids. The personal connection that our students feel with their teachers and all of our employees is critical to their success. I want our employees to love teaching and learning which I know will positively impact a child every day, and I want our employees to be professional in their work and role models for our students.

All of the challenges we face as a community and a country can best be solved through public education and FCPS can and will lead the way.

I wish all students, teachers, and parents a very successful school year and I look forward to seeing you in your schools!

NEWCOMERS

POSTCARDS FROM SPRINGFIELD



In Lake Accotink Park, kayak lessons are one outdoor activity available.



Ann Pham and Krista Argabright are hiking on one of the many trails in Springfield.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



Jen Shunfenthal, park naturalist at Hidden Pond Nature Center, with fluffy the snapping turtle.

Jubilee Christian Center
"A Caring & Spirit-Filled Church"

Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45, 11 am & 6 pm
 Sunday School (Life Groups) 10:10 am
 "Beyond the Limits" Youth - Sunday 6 pm - Pastor Randolph Houston
 Family Night for all ages, Wed. 7:15 pm
 Children's Ministries & Nursery at All Services - Emily Nelson, Children's Director
 Home Life Groups & Sports Ministry
 Discipleship – Mike Colón, Associate Pastor
 George Mason Chi Alpha College / Young Adult Ministry - Caleb Yirdaw
 Senior Adult Ministries - Roy Dunn

Visit our website: www.jccag.org
 Check out www.WeAreThePeople.me to pray with us for America
 Patriot Day Prayer Walk in Fairfax City, Sunday Sept 10, 4:30-5:30 pm

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Lorton Community Action Center

LCAC has been serving the community for over 42 years!

You can help your neighbors by getting involved with one of LCAC's many programs and events.

- Food pantry
- Complete the Circle
- Spring Gala
- Lorton's Attic Thrift Store
- Tutoring Program
- Thanksgiving, Warm Coat and Christmas Outreaches
- Adult, Group and Youth Volunteer opportunities

See our website for ways to be involved or call 703/339-5161, ext. 140!

LortonAction.org Donate. Volunteer. Shop



LCAC's mission is to enhance the quality of life by providing food, basic needs and self-sufficiency programs through the generous support of our community.

GUIDESTAR GOLD PARTICIPANT

CFC# 58126

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Year Round Fun

Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Open through Oct. 30, Occoquan offers a baseball/softball batting cage, perfect for hitters of all levels, from beginner to expert. Pitching machines have a wide range of speeds, both in baseball and softball, and offers other pitches like curveballs. Batters must use helmets with protective face guards at all times. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60 min. \$34 Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park/things-to-do/batting-cage

Kayak Rental Occoquan Regional Park 9-6 p.m. daily through Sept. 30 This park offers hourly and daily kayak rentals for those interested in exploring the river and surrounding. Kayaks are launched from shore and are available in one or two seat configurations. Please note: Pets are not permitted in rental boats.

Rock The Block Free Concert Series 6:30-9:30 p.m. Old Town Square 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Recurring monthly on the 4th Friday through Oct. 28. Call 703-385-7858.

Stories From Strawberry Park 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in Mosaic - Strawberry Park, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/

August 2017

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Flora Fauna for Kids. 11-11:45 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Go on the trail walk and learn about the pond. \$5. Ages 3-6. Call 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

EqualiTEA. 2-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. The event will include afternoon tea, a tour of the Mansion at Gunston Hall, a presentation about the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, and a gift for each guest from the Preservation Society of Newport County. Dress: Hats and pearls, Suffragist attire welcome. \$60. Email pwirth@suffragistmemorial.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 27

Civil War Reenactment. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host Civil War re-enactors and modern practitioners who will demonstrate medical and rescue practices then and now in commemoration of Fairfax Station's role as an evacuation center during the Battle of Second Manassas in 1862. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

September 2017

FRIDAY/SEPT. 1

Photo Exhibition. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Over There: Americans in World War I" a traveling exhibition from the National Archives and Records



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGEL/THE CONNECTION

Amusement rides were popular at the Celebrate Fairfax Festival.

Administration showcases photographs from the battle fronts in France, Italy, and Russia, supply and support operations behind the lines, and the Paris Peace Conference, open through Oct. 20. Group guided tours available by reservation, \$25. Call 703-385-8414.

SEPT. 3-4

Model Train Shows. noon-5 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Labor Day Weekend, The Potomac Module Crew members will have HO Scale and others will have a LEGO Model Train Show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 8

Movie Under the Moon. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Featuring The Sandlot, starts at 7:30. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov.

SEPT. 9-10

Burke Centre Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Burke Conservancy, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway. Arts and crafts, live shows, rides, face painting, and festival foods. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com.

SEPT. 9-20

Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Various venues around



From left: John Myers as John Rice, plus Carmen Wooden and Fred Eckstein as Margaret and Amos Benson. During the Battle of First Manassas, the Bensons nursed the wounded Rice back to health; 25 years later, he repaid them by donating money to rebuild their church at the annual Fairfax Civil War Day.



Thousands turned out for the Celebrate Fairfax Festival in early June.

425-9225.

October 2017

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Taste of Fall Feast. 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening filled with food, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds to help parents, children and individuals in Fairfax County and City who suffer the effects of poverty. Attendees at the fundraiser can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries while enjoying music by Pan Masters Steel Orchestra. \$50. Visit www.FACETSCares.org or call 703-554-3609.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Clifton Day. 9 a.m.-5p.m. The annual Clifton Day is a non-profit event, raising funds for a variety of local organizations. The festival includes arts and crafts, antiques, demonstrations, the Town Market, live music, children's activities and lots of good food. Visit www.cliftonday.com/.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

41st Fairfax Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Over 400 arts, crafts, information, food vendors, children's activities and three stages of music and entertainment for all ages. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival.

November 2017

TUESDAY/NOV. 7

Election Day. General and special elections. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar.htm

SATURDAY/ NOV. 11

The Robinson Marketplace. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. From home crafters and jewelers. robinsonpsa.membershiptoolkit.com/marketplace

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 18-19

2017 Holiday Craft Show. Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m.-3p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Artisans from all over the United States, displaying holiday gift choices. \$5 admission fee, \$8 for a two day pass. Under 18

years old free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/holiday-craft-show

THURSDAY/NOV. 23

Fairfax Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. Grab your friends and family and join us in the heart of Old Town Fairfax for the third annual Fairfax Turkey Trot benefiting the City of Fairfax Fire Department Benevolent Fund. For information on how to register, visit www.runpacers.com/race/fairfax-turkey-trot/.

December 2017

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 1-2

Holiday Book Sale. Friday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road Burke. Peruse a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

SATURDAY/ DEC. 2

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. 2p.m.-7p.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores, caroling and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Alphabet Soup. 10:30-11:15am, Burke Centre Library. Stories and activities about letters in the alphabet. Register beginning Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m. Age 3-5 with adult. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

2018

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 2-4

Chocolate Lovers Festival. Friday: 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday: noon-4 p.m. The Chocolate Lovers Festival features activities including the Taste of Chocolate, the Chocolate Challenge, the ever-popular Kiwanis Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast, open houses at historic buildings and more. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/chocolate-lovers-festival

APRIL 21-28

Historic Garden Week. Visit www.vagardenweek.org/

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 8-10

Celebrate Fairfax Fair. 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Northern Virginia's largest community-wide celebration. Visit www.celebratefairfax.com or call 703-324-3247 for more information.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

The Annual Fishing Derby. Ashby Pond Conservatory, 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax. Ashby Pond will be stocked with hundreds of trout. Bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag, and ice. Bait will be supplied. 9:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11a.m. \$5 per fisherman. Pre-registration required.

JULY 4

City of Fairfax Independence Day Celebration. Events at various locations around the city. A fun-filled Independence Day celebration in the City of Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

POSTCARDS FROM SPRINGFIELD

At Cardinal Shell, at Old Keene Mill and Rolling Roads, is a landmark truck at a gas station that has been in the family since 1969.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON THE CONNECTION



Springfield Town Center is an up and coming fashion center as well as a destination for dining out.

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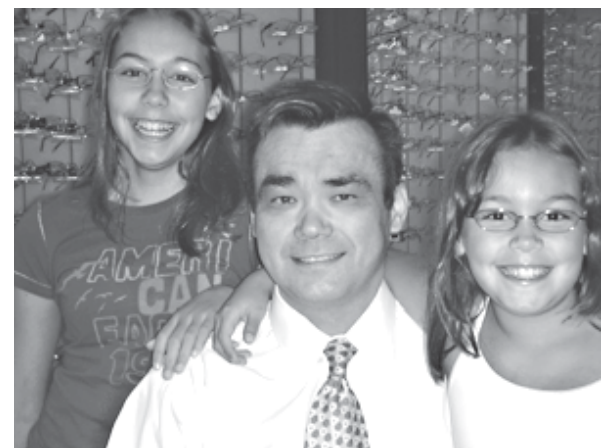


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Area Interstates Have Toll Lane Options

Latest addition, 395 Express Lanes, are scheduled to be opened in 2019.

BY MIKE SALMON

The introduction of the “express lanes,” on area highways have made tolls commonplace for anyone driving in the Northern Virginia area. These lanes on I-95, I-495, and I-395 are outfitted with overhead sensors instead of booths, and everything is done with the E-Z Pass or the E-Z Pass Flex which has a feature for high occupancy vehicles (HOV) to avoid the tolls by carpooling. The variable toll amount is calculated by traffic levels at that time, and this price is reflected on the overhead digital signs.

On I-495, commonly known as the Capital Beltway, the 495 Express Lanes stretch 11 miles from Springfield in the south to a point just past the Dulles Toll Road in the McLean area. These are two lanes in each direction that are in operation 24-hours a day.

The 95 Express Lanes stretch 29 miles from Alexandria inside the beltway, south to Route 610 in Stafford County. These lanes are “reversible,” meaning they are heading northbound in the morning,

and southbound in the afternoon and evenings during the week, and almost entirely southbound on the weekend.

The 395 Express Lanes are a continuation of these lanes inside the beltway, ending at the Potomac River. This project is just getting underway, and are scheduled to be opened in 2019. For now, the northern stretch of HOV lanes is still operating under the old rules, that requires a minimum of three passengers during rush hours, and open to anyone during non-rush hours.

In December this year, I-66 inside the beltway, from Arlington to Falls Church, will be a tolled facility but only on the eastbound lanes in the morning and westbound lanes in the afternoons. It will be toll-free for vehicles with at least two passengers for now, but that HOV requirement will change to HOV-3 in a few years when the I-66 express lanes outside the beltway open in 2022. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation is adding an additional lane on the eastbound side only, from the Dulles Access Road to Fairfax Drive, a distance of four miles.

On I-66 outside the beltway, officials are building one lane in each direction for 22 miles from Vienna to Gainesville, and there will be two express lanes on each side, similar to I-495. This project, priced at \$2.3 billion, is expected to be done in 2022.

The Dulles Access Road and the Dulles Greenway are toll facilities also but the access road still takes change as well as the E-Z Pass, and neither road has an HOV exception.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

This toll gantry in Arlington is not in use yet, and is currently being tested.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Pride of the Area

Graduates toss their mortarboards at the 2016 West Springfield High School commencement ceremony. Fairfax County prides itself with one of the best schools systems nationwide.



PHOTO BY
TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION



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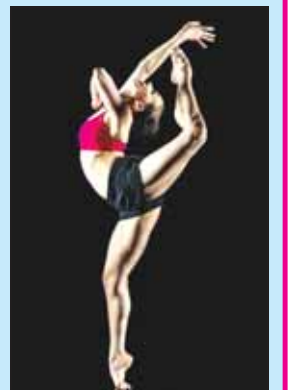


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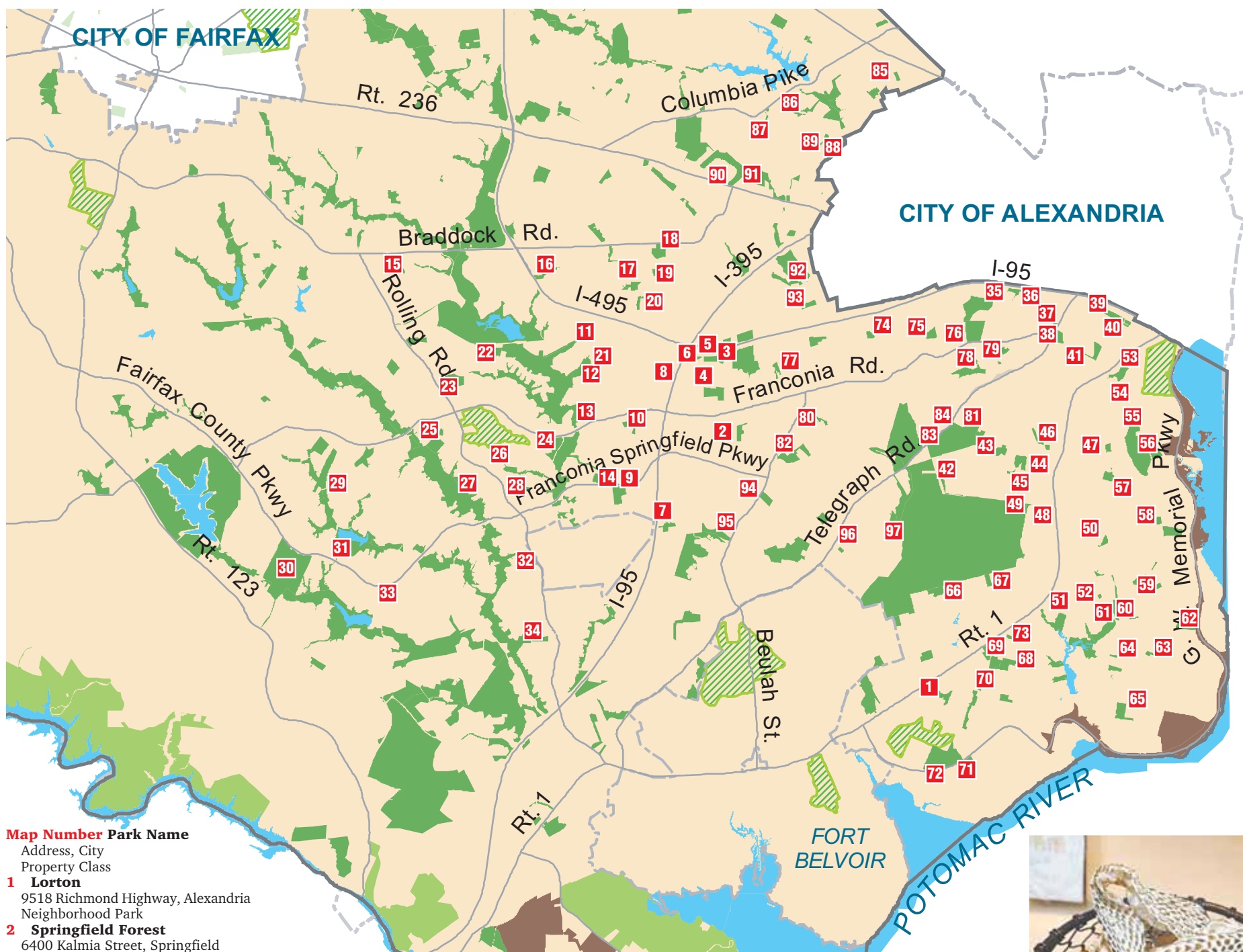
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PARKS

A GUIDE TO FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS IN THE
SPRINGFIELD & MOUNT VERNON AREAS

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
FEATURING HIDDEN POND NATURE CENTER
MAP BY LAWRENCE FOONG; DESIGN BY JEAN CARD



Map Number Park Name

Address, City
Property Class

- 1 Lorton**
9518 Richmond Highway, Alexandria
Neighborhood Park
- 2 Springfield Forest**
6400 Kalmia Street, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 3 Franconia**
6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield
Community Park
- 4 Lee High**
6501 Deepford Street, Springfield
Community Park
- 5 Monticello Woods**
6444 Northanna Drive, Springfield
Community Park
- 6 Trailside**
6000 Trailside Drive, Springfield
Community Park
- 7 Loisdale**
7419 Loisdale Road, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 8 Lynbrook**
6005 Augusta Drive, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 9 Hooes Road**
7233 Hooes Road, Springfield
Community Park
- 10 Springvale**
6508 Spring Road, Springfield
Community Park
- 11 Lake Accotink**
7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield
Multiple Resource Park
- 12 Brookfield**
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield
Community Park
- 13 Byron Avenue**
6500 Byron Avenue, Springfield
Community Park
- 14 Hooes Road School Site**
7336 Hooes Road, Springfield
- 15 Kings Park**
8717 Trafalgar Ct., Springfield
Community Park
- 16 Flag Run**
7620 Elgar Street, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 17 Leewood**
7111 Woodland Drive, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 18 Deerlick**
6821 Braddock Road, Springfield
Community Park
- 19 Edsall**
6845 Edsall Road, Springfield
Community Park
- 20 North Springfield**
7025 Leesville Boulevard, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 21 Royal Ridge**
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield
Community Park
- 22 Carrleigh Parkway**
8020 Carrleigh Prkwy, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 23 Cardinal Forest**
6121 Roxbury Avenue, Springfield
Community Park
- 24 Hunter Village**
7700 Jansen Drive, Springfield
Community Park
- 25 Hidden Pond**
8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield
Community Park
- 26 West Springfield**
6805 Caneel Street, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 27 West Springfield Village**
6910 Loudoun Lane, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 28 Rolling Forest**
7019 Flax Street, Springfield
Neighborhood Park
- 29 Cherry Run**
7001 Cottontail Court, Springfield
Neighborhood Park



Snakeskins found around the park indicate the snake population at this wooded park.



A slider turtle are one of the species living in Hidden Pond.



At Hidden Pond Nature Center, a tree bows out over the still waters of the pond.

The pond is surrounded by a community so it is a natural refuge for birds in the area.

- 30 South Run District**
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield District Park
- 31 Huntsman**
9150 Dorothy Lane, Springfield Community Park
- 32 Rolling Wood School Site**
7511 Chancellor Way, Springfield Community Park
- 33 Chapel Acres**
7900 Giles Street, Springfield Neighborhood Park
- 34 Saratoga**
8121 North Umlerland Rd, Springfield Community Park
- 35 Loftridge**
5549 Janelle Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 36 Burgundy**
5516 Norton Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 37 Heritage Hill**
5744 Telegraph Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 38 Jefferson Manor**
2909 Farmington Drive, Alexandria Community Park
- 39 Huntington**
2121 Fairfax Terrace, Alexandria Community Park
- 40 Farrington Avenue**
2213 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 41 Mt. Eagle**
5919 North Kings Highway, Alexandria Community Park
- 42 South Kings Forest**
4505 Lantern Place, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 43 Stoneybrooke**
3900 Stoneybrooke Drive, Alexandria Community Park
- 44 Groveton Heights**
3429 Clayborne Avenue, Alexandria Community Park
- 45 Huntley Historic**
6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria Natural Resource Park
- 46 Lenclair**
6625 Lenclair Street, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 47 Bucknell Manor**
2223 Beacon Hill Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 48 Hybla Valley**
3431 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria Neighborhood Park

- 49 Huntley Meadows**
3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria Natural Resource Park
- 50 Hollin Meadows**
7603 Elba Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 51 Martin Luther King Jr**
8115 Fordson Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 52 Stephen S. Foster Intermediate School Site**
2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria Community Park
- 53 Belle Haven**
6036 Grove Drive, Alexandria Community Park
- 54 Fort Willard Circle**
6625 Fort Willard Circle, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 55 Mount Vernon District**
2017 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria Multiple Resource Park
- 56 Westgrove**
6801 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 57 White Oaks**
7100 Devonshire Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 58 Gilbert S. McCutcheon**
7509 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 59 Hollin Hall School Site**
1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria

- Community Park
- 60 Kirk**
2206 Collingwood Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 61 Williamsburg Manor**
2213 Collingwood Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 62 Collingwood**
8200 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria Community Park
- 63 Carl Sandburg School Site**
8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 64 Stratford Landing**
2301 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 65 Fort Hunt**
8822 Linton Lane, Alexandria Community Park
- 66 Muddy Hole Farm**
7941 Kidd Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 67 Mount Vernon Woods**
4014 Fielding Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 68 George Washington**
8426 Old Mount Vernon Road Special Purpose Park
- 69 Walt Whitman School Site**
8333 Richmond Highway, Alexandria Community Park
- 70 Mount Zephyr**
8601 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria

- Neighborhood Park
- 71 Washington Mill**
4341 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria Community Park
- 72 Grist Mill**
4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria District Park
- 73 Vernon Heights**
8225 Central Avenue, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 74 Bush Hill**
5417a Waycross Drive, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 75 Mark Twain**
5920 Larpin Lane, Alexandria Community Park
- 76 Clermont School Site**
4100 Franconia Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 77 Franconia Forest**
6013 Bitternut Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 78 Ridgeview**
4111 Duvawn Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 79 Wilton Woods School Site**
3701 Franconia Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 80 Tara Village**
6417 Joyce Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 81 Virginia Hills School Site**

- 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 82 Manchester Lakes**
6775 Beulah Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 83 Greendale Golf Course**
6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria Special Purpose Park
- 84 Lee District**
6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia District Park
- 85 Dowden Terrace**
5616 Bradley Blvd., Alexandria Community Park
- 86 Glasgow**
3935 Arcadia Road, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 87 Parklawn**
6454 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 88 Glen Hills**
6090 Larstan Drive, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 89 Heywood Glen**
6210 Larstan Drive, Alexandria Neighborhood Park
- 90 Pinecrest Golf Course**
6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria Special Purpose Park
- 91 Green Spring Gardens**
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria Special Purpose Park
- 92 Bren Mar**
6324 Edsall Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 93 Backlick Run**
5590 First Statesman Lane, Alexandria Community Park
- 94 Beulah**
7119 Beulah Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 95 Amberleigh**
7516 Beulah Street, Alexandria Community Park
- 96 Hayfield**
7611 Hayfield Road, Alexandria Community Park
- 97 Wickford**
7331a Wickford Drive, Alexandria Neighborhood Park



In the nature center, a park volunteer handles a black rat snake.



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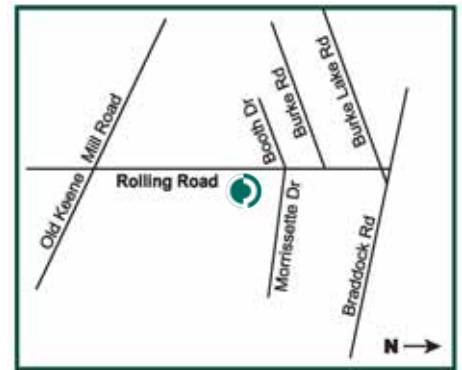
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"Best Dentists in Metropolitan Area"
by Washingtonian Magazine
"Top Dentist"
by Northern Virginia Magazine



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- Fillings and sealants
- Sedation "sleep" dentistry
- Nitrous oxide
- Crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays
- Extractions
- TMJ/TMD therapy
- Endodontic (root canal) therapy
- Periodontal (gum) therapy including scaling and root planing
- Custom partial and full dentures
- Custom occlusal and sport guards
- Implants
- Bonding and veneers
- In-office professional whitening
- Invisalign (clear braces without the wires)

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X-rays not included. Not valid with insurance submission.



Peter K. Cocolis, Jr., DMD & Associates

Peter K. Cocolis, Jr., DMD, MAGD

Emily A. DaSilva, DDS, FAGD



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