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# Fairfax CONNECTION

FALL FUN  
PAGE 8

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14



# Spirit of the Irish Fills the City

NEWS, PAGE 4

**'For All Time, a Hero and a Patriot'**  
NEWS, PAGE 3

**Fairfax Storyteller Goes National**  
NEWS, PAGE 13

The 23rd Annual CCÉ Irish Folk Festival was Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Sherwood Center. The Maple Academy of Irish Dance performed at the festival.

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Kim and Debbie Balzer stand beside the display honoring Kim's brother Michael, including his photo, shadowbox of medals, Silver Star and Purple Heart.



Jack Sweeney, speaking at the ceremony, was Mike Balzer's commanding officer in Vietnam.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# 'For All Time, a Hero and a Patriot'

**Fairfax High grad who died in Vietnam honored at Fairfax Museum.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

While serving in the Army in Vietnam, 1963 Fairfax High grad Michael Balzer wrote letters to his high-school friend, Robert Lucas. On March 6, 1967, Specialist 4 Balzer told him about a buddy's death and his upcoming combat mission.

Eagerly counting the days until his tour of duty in Vietnam would be over, he wrote, "Only 200 days to go!" Just 15 days later, Balzer was killed in action.

Lucas later donated that letter, plus Balzer's first letter to him, to the Fairfax City Museum. And on Sept. 6, Balzer's family donated his medals – including the Silver Star and Purple Heart, awarded posthumously – to the Fairfax City Museum.

The event coincided with the annual reunion of the survivors of Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry ('66-'67), in Washington, D.C., so many of his former brothers in arms attended the presentation. Also there were Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer, plus City Council and School Board members and some members of Balzer's high-school class.

"Specialist Balzer gave his life for his country on March 21, 1967," said Meyer. "A machine gunner with Co. A, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, he was killed when a Viet Cong regiment attacked their bunker. And this morning, we went to Michael's grave at Arlington and had a remembrance for him."

Meyer noted that Balzer received the Silver Star for his "extraordinary heroism during combat." His name is engraved on panel 16E, row 128, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Balzer was the second Fairfax High grad to die in Vietnam.



Michael Balzer

**City Council members Michael DeMarco and So Lim listen to Mayor David Meyer speak about Balzer.**

Warrant Officer Robert Thruston III, a helicopter pilot and class of 1959 graduate, was killed in 1964.

**BALZER WAS JUST 22** when he died; his commanding officer, Jack Sweeney – who was 25 then – came to Fairfax for the ceremony at the museum. "I was his platoon leader and lieutenant in Vietnam, and he and his peer group were an extraordinary bunch," said Sweeney. "Those who survived Vietnam will never forget their experience. And for all time, Balzer is recognized as a hero and a patriot."

Saying Balzer was killed while he and others held off the enemy, Sweeney quoted John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Choking up, Sweeney said, "I had to write the letter home to his parents that said, at 22 years, 2 months and 14 days, he got killed. I also wrote the Silver Star recommendation for him."

In that letter, Sweeney wrote that Balzer did his best during training at Fort Lewis, Wash., and in Vietnam, "He gave his all. I knew your son well; the respect and confidence I had in him was excelled by no man."

Sweeney said that, when the Viet Cong attacked, Balzer and his fellow soldiers were protecting the artillery unit which was supporting other infantry units. "Mike was a brave man who conquered his fears to face a mission all of us dread," he wrote. "Mike was a part of us and his life will not have been spent in vain."

The local museum now contains a shadowbox filled with Balzer's military awards and funeral flag. Inside are his Silver Star; Purple Heart; National Defense, Vietnam Service and Infantry medals; Presidential Unit Citation with Bronze Cluster; Vietnamese Gallantry Award with Palm; and Combat Infantryman's Badge and cord.

Also included is a special, Alpha Gators



**Several survivors wore T-shirts in memory of the battle that took Mike Balzer's life.**



**A closeup look at the shadowbox honoring Specialist 4 Michael Balzer.**

ing combat." His name is engraved on panel 16E, row 128, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Balzer was the

second Fairfax High grad to die in Vietnam.

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 6



## Park Authority to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Property Exchange

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 to receive public comment on a proposed exchange of property in the Mason District.

The Park Authority proposes to exchange approximately 1,000 square feet of currently disturbed property in Holmes Run Stream Valley Park, that is identified on the Fairfax County Real Property Identification Map as Tax Map No. 61-4((34))C, for approximately 1,000 square feet of undisturbed property that is owned by Bruce E. and Patricia Kasold. In addition, Bruce E. and Patricia Kasold will grant a conservation easement, approximately 2,000 square feet in size, to the Park Authority for undisturbed natural open space. The property of Bruce E. and Patricia Kasold, 5914 Skyline Heights Court, Alexandria, Virginia, is identified on the Fairfax County Real Property Identification Map as Tax Map No. 61-4((34))72. With the exchange, the Park Authority will add approximately 0.07 acres of open space to the county's park system.

Park Policy 209, Disposal of Land or Facilities, requires a public hearing be held prior to the Park Authority's decision to dispose of land or facilities. The public hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Park Authority Board Room of the Herry Building, at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia. Those interested in this exchange are urged to attend the public hearing or send a representative to the hearing to present their views.

If you would like more information, please visit our website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/board/archives/2018/091218-cow-pkg.pdf>. To speak, please call Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, at 703-324-8662, or send an email to [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov). For persons with hearing impairments, sign language interpreter services are available upon request. Please call 703-324-3988 TTY at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Written comments from the public on the exchange of the Holmes Run Stream Valley Park property will be received by the Fairfax County Park Authority for a period of 30 days, closing on October 23, 2018. Written comments should be directed to Cindy McNeal of the Planning & Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 406, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. Email comments should be sent to: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) • E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

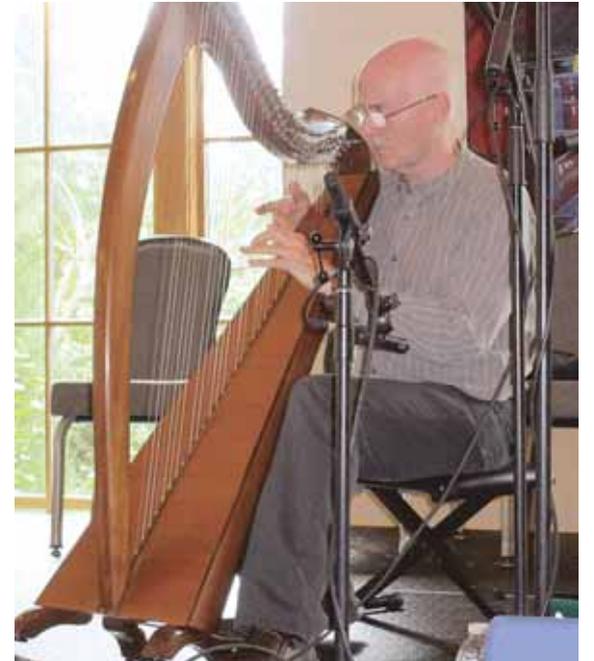
Playing flute, fiddle and guitar, Bua entertains in the tent outside.

## Spirit of the Irish Fills the City

The 23rd Annual CCÉ Irish Folk Festival was Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Sherwood Center.



Rob Gándara makes and sells Irish tin whistles made of carbon fiber to resonate like wood.



Billy Jackson playing the harp on the main stage.



Instructors (on left) teach festival attendees how to finger-knit acrylic scarves.



The Maple Academy of Irish Dance performed at the festival.

# NEWS



Performing an Irish reel, "As Luck Would Have It," are Mike Winch, Kevin Elam and Meara O'Malley.

Sean Heely's band plays Irish tunes in the Sherwood Center.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS THE CONNECTION

Join us for a FREE Remodeling Educational Seminar

**Sat., Sept 29, Noon-3pm**  
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 3930 University Drive, 1st Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030



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 KITCHENS  
 BATHROOMS



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## CAREGIVER CONNECT

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At The Kensington, we understand that caregiving for someone with dementia is a demanding responsibility. We also believe it is one you should not undertake alone. That's why we strive to preserve your well-being by helping you stay positive, manage fatigue and make the most of moments as your loved one's memory changes.

Join us each month to share time connecting with other caregivers and discussing common challenges. Guest facilitators offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting.

Dr. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, an expert in aging and dementia, leads our Caregiver Connect program and brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

**The first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm**  
**Oct 3, Nov 7 & Dec 5 • Light refreshments**  
**RSVP to (703) 992-9868**



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## NEWS

# Fairfax Honors Its Hero

FROM PAGE 3

patch created by members of his company, showing an armed alligator trudging through mud. Sweeney explained, "It's because we were in Alpha [A] Co. walking around in a swamp and we felt like alligators."

Balzer's brother Kim was at the ceremony with his wife Debbie. She said their father died 30 years ago, and their mother, nine years ago, "as did other family members, so we've had a lot of grief." Kim was just 9 when Michael died, and their sister Sharon was 11. Debbie said Michael was a "devoted brother and son," but "the family's grief became so sacred that they couldn't speak of it."

Then a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," as many of the attendees wiped away tears. After the event, some of those present shared their memories of Balzer. Co. A had about 180 people, and among them was Gary McLaughlin. "I served with Mike, and he was never in trouble," said McLaughlin. "This ceremony means everything."

"We only lost 11 guys out of our company because we all trained together," he continued. "We knew we could depend on each other. Mike was a machine gunner, and during the Battle of Suoi Tre, our company and another company formed a circle around the artillery. But the Vietnamese overran us and that's when he got shot. We were all kind of numb – but we always remembered."

Bill Scott went to high school with Balzer, in the class of '63. "He was a nice fellow," said Scott. "I've visited his panel at the Vietnam memorial. It's good that he's recognized and that there's something honoring him at this museum."

**DEBBIE RECALLED** how Page Johnson, with Historic Fairfax City, visited them in 2008 to interview her and Kim for an article he was writing about Fairfax residents who'd died in Vietnam. It was published in the spring 2009 issue of "The Fare Facts Gazette," right before Balzer's mother died.

Regarding the event at the museum and the many people who attended it in Balzer's memory, Debbie said, "It's overwhelming – it's been 51 years since his death. He must have been a hero to those he served with."



## Fairfax County Parkway Widening Fairfax County

### Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2018  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Oak View Elementary School  
5004 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

**Find out** about plans to widen Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The proposed project design also includes an interchange at Popes Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension, improvements to the existing trail in the Fairfax County Parkway right of way and construction of a new shared-use path to make the trail continuous within the project limits.

**Stop by** between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design, including Popes Head Road interchange options under consideration. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

**Review** project information at the VDOT project website ([www.virginiadot.org/projects](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-691-6710 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **October 15, 2018** to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway Widening" in the subject line.

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. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Mr. Sitaram Kodali at 703-691-6710 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0286-029-259, P101,  
UPC: 107937, Federal: STP-5A01 (775)



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) will hold a series of public hearings to solicit comments on a proposed fare increase that will average approximately 3% over current fares. The VRE Operations Board will act on the FY2020 Budget, which includes the proposed fare increase, on December 21, 2018. If adopted, the fare increase would take effect the first week of July 2019.

See locations below to attend a public hearing near you.

Date and Time	Location
Tuesday, October 30, 2018 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Crystal City Marriott Jefferson Room 1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy. Arlington, VA 22202
Tuesday, October 30, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Burke Centre Conservancy The Commons CC 5701 Roberts Parkway Burke, VA 22015
Thursday, November 1, 2018 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn Capitol The House Room 550 C Street SW Washington, DC 20024
Thursday, November 1, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Stafford County Government Center Board Chambers 1300 Courthouse Road Stafford, VA 22554
Wednesday, November 7, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Germanna Community College Fredericksburg Campus—Room 105A 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Thursday, November 8, 2018 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Union Station Starlight Room – Near Gate D 50 Massachusetts Ave NE Washington, DC 20002
Thursday, November 8, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Manassas City Hall City Council Chambers 9027 Center Street Manassas, VA 20110
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.	VRE Headquarters Suite 202 1500 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	PRTC Second Floor Board Room 14700 Potomac Mills Rd Woodbridge, VA 22192
Thursday, November 15, 2018 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Rappahannock Regional Library Room 2 1201 Caroline Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Visit [vre.org/publiccomment](http://vre.org/publiccomment) for more information. Written comments will be accepted through **Friday, November 23, 2018**. Written comments can be mailed to: Public Comment, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Comments may also be submitted via email to [publiccomment@vre.org](mailto:publiccomment@vre.org) or via fax at (703) 684-1313. The public hearings are conducted in locations accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance or need to request a sign language interpreter, please contact Lucy Gaddis by e-mail at [lgaddis@vre.org](mailto:lgaddis@vre.org) or call at (703) 838-5433 or TTY (703) 684-0551 at least ten business days prior to the public hearing you're planning to attend. For information about the VRE Operations Board visit [vre.org/about/board](http://vre.org/about/board).



**Walk To Prevent Suicide**

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District) gathered a team of top County leaders to participate in the Out of Darkness Walk to combat suicide, taking place in Fairfax City on Sept. 29. Pictured (from left): Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler; Deputy County Executive Dave Rohrer; Department of Family Services Director Nannette Bowler; Deputy County Executive Tisha Deeghan; Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith; Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; Sheriff Stacey Kincaid; Out of Darkness Walk organizer Karrie Boswell; Braddock Supervisor & Team Captain, John Cook; Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry; Deputy Fire Chief Richard Roatch; Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Director Bob Bermingham; Braddock District School Board Member Megan McLaughlin; Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, and Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler. Not pictured: Police Captain Tonny Kim and Police Detective Laura Tiso.

**TAX NOTICE  
CITY OF FAIRFAX**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX  
PAYMENTS ARE DUE**

Personal Property tax bills have been mailed and are due  
**October 5, 2018**

**LATE PAYMENT PENALTY**

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment must be made in full in person or postmarked by close of business on  
**October 5, 2018**

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Treasurer’s Office, Room 234, City Hall

**IMPORTANT**

Even if you do not receive a bill,  
You are responsible for paying personal property taxes on time.

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7900

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# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



An Aerial View of the Clifton Day Festival

## Clifton Day 2018

This year's Clifton Day will feature an outdoor marketplace with 150 vendors as well as live music, train rides, crafts, children's activities and great food. Sunday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Town of Clifton, 7144 Main St., Clifton. Admission is free. Parking starts at \$5 per car. The VRE will provide roundtrip train service to Clifton from all stops between Manassas and Rolling Road. The train ride to Clifton is free and the return trip costs \$5 per person (children under 2 ride free). Call 703-968-0740 or visit [www.cliftonday.com](http://www.cliftonday.com) for more.

## CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

#### The Sunday Farmers' Market.

Through Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com).

#### Saturday Community Farmers' Market.

Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com).

#### Pop-Up Art show.

Through Dec. 16 at Gallery 57, 11899 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Emerging Artists Initiative and the Peterson Companies are partnering to bring an artistic and creative facet to the Fairfax community. A new pop-up art gallery at Fairfax Corner Center will be exhibiting paintings and sculptors by four resident artists in the vacant retail space. Free. Email [director@eaiinc.org](mailto:director@eaiinc.org) or visit [eaiinc.org](http://eaiinc.org).

#### Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit [www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/](http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/).

#### Funday Monday

10:30 a.m., every

Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 28

**Rock the Block: JunkFood.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly free concert series, which features live bands, beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock).

**Dessert on Broadway.** 7-10 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Dessert On Broadway" is an annual fundraiser for the Lake Braddock Chorus Department. The event will include desserts, performances and a silent auction. \$10 pre-sale, \$12 at the door. Email [jbach5050@gmail.com](mailto:jbach5050@gmail.com) or call 703-470-0026.

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food

# A Bucket List for Fall

Activities that will add spice to the season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When the leaves turn colors and the air is crisp, Caitlin Upton gathers her family and pulls out a whiteboard and a marker. She's careful to jot down all of the ideas, shouted in rapid-fire fashion from her three children.

"We always create a fall bucket list of things that we want to do as a family," said Upton, who is a mother of three children ranging in age from two to seven. "This year, the kids want to go on a hayride and pick pumpkins. It's not too original, but they love it and get really excited about it. It gives us something to look forward to during the week when we're so busy."

Creating a fall bucket list — a compilation of experiences or achievements that one wants to accomplish — is an important way to create lasting family traditions and memories, while enjoying all that the season has to offer. From hayrides to pumpkin-carving, fall ushers in enough family-friendly activities to create an overflowing list of activities that make the most of the season's bounty.

"The start of a new season is a perfect time to create bucket list, and during fall there are so many fun things to do," said Upton, a marriage and family therapist in Burke. "So often, people have ideas of things that they want to do either with their kids, their friends or just personal things, but never get around to them. It's important to write them down and commit to doing them. I write our list on a white board in our kitchen, but I keep it

short and attainable so we don't get overwhelmed. Carving out quality time to spend with family is important."

Foraging for vibrantly color fallen leaves in shades of orange and yellow is at the top of Bella Middleton's bucket list. Middleton, who is an art

instructor in Bethesda, gathers her two preschool-age children and collects leaves with the goal of turning nature into art. "Sometimes we do something as simple as taking branches with leaves that have turned orange and put them in vases that we display around the house. I mix pumpkins with leaves to create a centerpiece for the dining room table.

Making wreaths and collages is another project that Middleton does with her family. "This is really one of the most inexpensive and fun projects that you can do," she said. "My kids and I go to a park and gather fallen leaves. Then I get some construction paper and glue sticks or spray mount and let my kids attached the leaves to the paper in any way they want, then I display their works of art around the house. It's a great way to welcome the season."

Turning leaves into candle holders is another project that Middleton and her family enjoy. "You take leaves and glue them to the inside of mason jars and let them dry. You can attach the leaves with a craft glue called Modge Podge, which dries clear. Tie a pretty ribbon around the mouth of the jar and you have a beautiful decorative piece for fall."

Spending a day enjoying a scenic drive to Shenandoah, passing through the so-called Apple Trail, is must-do task for Arlington mother Camilla Kendrick and her family.

"It's a beautiful drive down. We stop and pick apples and then we come home and make apple doughnuts," said Kendrick, who works as a private chef. "They're messy, so the kids think they're fun to make. I also make apple cider doughnuts for some of my clients."

Taking a local fall foliage drive with her four children is something that Lauren Bickle puts on her bucket list each fall. "It's certainly not as breathtaking as the fo-

liage in some place like New England, but this area has a lot to offer," she said. "There's Great Falls of course, and then Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery have some great colors. If you're up for a longer drive, Harper's Ferry in Maryland is fantastic for a fall day trip."

## Apple Doughnut Recipe

**Ingredients**  
2 cups flour  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
3 tablespoons buttermilk  
1/3 cup whole milk  
5 Granny Smith apples, cored and sliced vertically into three pieces to create doughnut shapes.  
2 cups olive oil for frying  
1/2 cup powdered sugar, for coating

**Directions:** Stir together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt to create the batter. Gradually stir-in buttermilk, whole milk and egg. Coat each apple ring with batter. Heat the oil in a deep frying pan. Place the doughnut rings in the pan and fry on each side for three minutes or until golden brown. Drain doughnuts on a paper towel and allow to cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

#### Kayak the Marsh at Lake Accotink.

7:30-9:30 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. "Kayak Tour-Wildlife of the Potomac" is designed for participants age 13 to adult. Glide past bad eagle nests to get an early morning view of wildlife. No previous experience is required. A single-seat

kayak and life preserver are provided. \$31 per person. Boaters younger than 16 must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. This program will be canceled in the event of rain or unfavorable water levels. Call 703-569-3464 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink).

#### Fall Art Lessons for Youth.

9:15-10:30 a.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin teaches drawing and watercolor for children 8 and older. Visit

[www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

#### Fall Art Workshop for Teens/

Adults. 10:30-12:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin explores drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush and portfolio development. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

#### Azalea Auction and Sale.

1-4 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Azalea Society of America (ASA) will

# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

be holding its 11th Annual Public Azalea Sale and Auction. The Silent Auction starts at 1 p.m. followed by the live auction at 2:30. The plant sale will run 1-4. Contact Lars Larsen 703-505-5733 or Carolyn Beck 703-860-5676.

**Taste of the Vine.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Historic Fairfax City Inc. (HFCI) will hold its 10th annual fundraiser, "Taste of the Vine." Visit [www.historicfairfax.org/](http://www.historicfairfax.org/).

## SEPT. 29-OCT. 28

**The Rocky Horror Show.** Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m. (standard and VIP ticketing); Sunday, 5 p.m. (standard tickets only) at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Rocky Horror Show is an unusual interactive theatrical experience, during which audience members may (voluntarily) sing-along with the cast and sometimes shout out jokes and/or use props during the performance. Some audience members wear costumes inspired by the production, too. Workhouse will provide props for attendees at no cost. No outside props are allowed. VIP tickets include access to a pre-show VIP lobby and preferred seats. Standard tickets, \$25-\$35; VIP tickets, \$50-\$60. Visit [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org) for tickets.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

**Civil War Book and Memorabilia Sale.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Come out and meet the authors and vendors at the inaugural Civil War Book and Memorabilia Sale. Additional vendors wanted. Admission \$5. Email [mayo5304@cox.net](mailto:mayo5304@cox.net) or call 703-389-1505.

**50+ Expo.** Noon-4 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. This annual expo is designed for older adults and their families, featuring the winning works of the Beacon's Celebration of the Arts contest, as well as free health screenings (glaucoma, blood pressure, bone density and balance), fitness classes, flu and pneumonia vaccines, door prizes and entertainment for older adults and their families. Dozens of informative exhibitors — including government agencies, nonprofits and local businesses — will provide giveaways and helpful information. Free.

**Reading Circle Activities.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. "The Caboose That Got Loose" book will be featured. The Reading Circle will be held in two 45 minute sessions — one at 1:15, one at 2:30. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Burke Historical Society General Meeting.** 3:30-5 p.m. at 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Mary Lipsy, Fairfax County History Commissioner, speaks about Fairfax County men who served and died in the Great War, and about how the war was commemorated here and nationally. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 3

**Annual Golf Outing.** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Old Hickory Golf Club, 11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge. Join Good Shepherd Housing for their annual Golf Outing. The championship layout at Old Hickory was designed by the architect for Gary Player, who also designed Raspberry Falls. \$625/foursome;

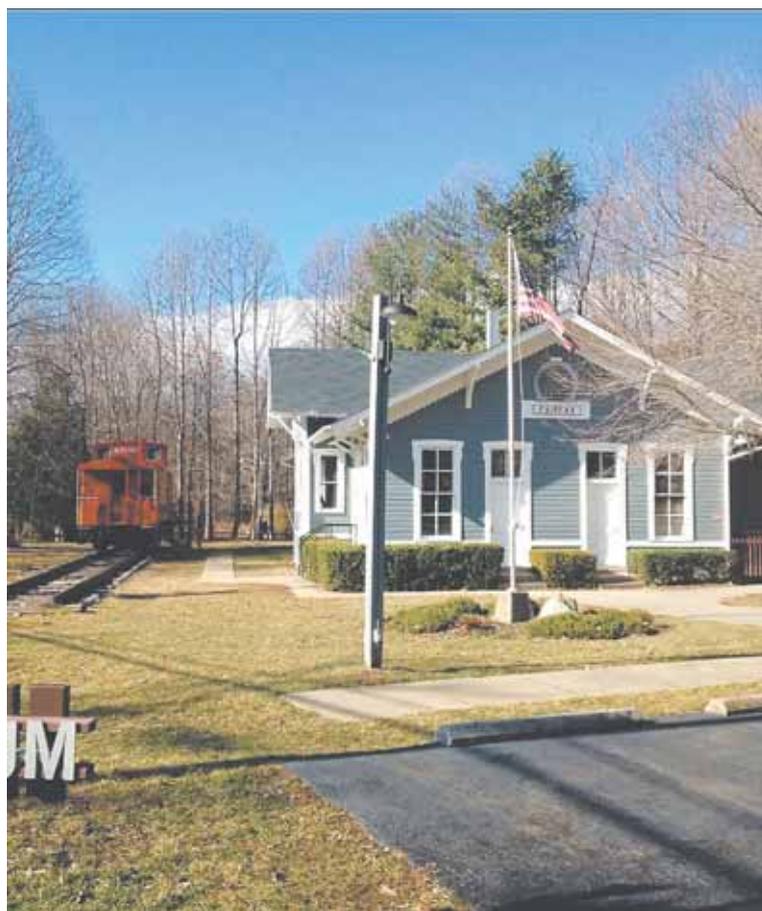


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

## LEGO Train Show and Craft Fair

The Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club will hold a special two-day display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. In addition volunteers will hold science, technology, engineering and mathematic activities about railroads. Recommended for ages 8 and older. Local crafters will also be on the Museum grounds selling crafts. Please bring any unwanted LEGO pieces or sets to help support the LEGO Train Club's educational activities. Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 6-7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$5. Call 703-425-9225 or visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

\$160 individual. Visit [goodhousing.org/golf](http://goodhousing.org/golf) to register.

## WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 3-7

**Mickey's Search Party.** Times vary, at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party, bringing the magic closer to fans than ever before on the ice, in the air and in the seats. Tickets start at \$15, opening night; \$20, all other shows. Order tickets at 800-745-3000 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To discover more about Disney On Ice, go to [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 4

**Hitchcocktober: Rear Window (1954).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center — Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmmcenter.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 5-6

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** 7-11 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton Reformatory. Tickets (\$20) are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 6

**Fall Fun with the Vienna-Falls Chorus.** 3-5 p.m. at American

Legion Post #177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Join for a musical afternoon as the chorus sings their newest repertoire and a few longtime favorite songs. There will also have concessions, raffles, cash bar and silent auction. \$10. Email [show@viennafalls.org](mailto:show@viennafalls.org) or visit [www.viennafalls.org](http://www.viennafalls.org) for tickets.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 7

**Paws for a Cause.** Noon-3 p.m. at Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax. 3K walk through the shady streets of Fairfax. Human and canine treats provided along the way. Paws for a Cause benefits Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., an all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing pet visitation to residents of long term care facilities. \$20 before Sept. 20; \$25 after. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org).

## MONDAY/OCT. 8

**Columbus Day Boat Race.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Reenact the historic sea-faring journey by building a mini-cardboard boat to float down the Pohick Stream. Supplies provided. Then to the creek for a race complete with prizes \$10. Email [casey.riley@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:casey.riley@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-451-9588.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 9

**Burke Historical Society Lecture.** 7-8 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn the basics of Ancestry DNA and how it can be used to aid research. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

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## FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



**City of Fairfax Band at last spring's National Community Band Concert.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF IRIS MEDIA, LLC

### Community Band Concert

WETA Host Richard Kleinfeldt and the City of Fairfax Band kicks off its 49th season with special guest Steven Hendrickson of the NSO on trumpet. Music by Holst, Sousa, John Williams and Julie Giroux. Saturday, Oct. 20, 7:30-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. \$15 adults, \$10 senior, students free. Call 571-336-CFBA (2322) or visit [fairfaxband.org](http://fairfaxband.org).

### CALENDAR

#### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

**Paint & Sip.** 10 a.m. at Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Visit [lortonseniorcenter.org](http://lortonseniorcenter.org) or call 703-550-7195.

**Film Screening: "In the Last Days of the City."** 7:30 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In downtown Cairo in 2009, Khalid (Khalid Abdalla), a 35-year-old filmmaker struggles to make a film that captures the soul of his city while facing loss in his own life. With the help of his friends who send him footage from their lives in Beirut, Baghdad and Berlin, he finds the strength to keep going through the difficulty and beauty of living in Cairo. Free. Visit [fams.gmu.edu](http://fams.gmu.edu).

or cuisines from around the globe. Experience art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber arts. Call 703-584-2900 or visit [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org).

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 18

**Hitchcocktober: Strangers on a Train (1951).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com).

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 19-21

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** Friday-Saturday, 7-11 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton Reformatory. More information, tickets (\$20), and volunteer opportunities are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 20

**Salvation Army 5K.** 8-11 a.m. at Salvation Army, 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. This is a 5k Run & Walk to benefit the Salvation Army's after School program for at risk youth. \$22. Email [Donald.Wilson@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Donald.Wilson@uss.salvationarmy.org) or call 703-385-8700.

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet).

**Meet the Author and Book Signing.** Noon-3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Jack Gilden has a book coming out Oct. 1 about Don Shula, Johnny Unitas - their rivalry and the 1960s. The book is now available for preview orders online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble and in selected bookstores. Visit [www.jackgilden.com](http://www.jackgilden.com).

**Trunk or Treat.** 5-7 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Get a jump start on Halloween by joining Franconia United Methodist Church for a family-friendly Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot. Wear s costume and enjoy fun and games for children from preschool to middle school. Free. Call 703 971-5171 or visit [www.franconiaumc.org/contact/](http://www.franconiaumc.org/contact/).

**Community Band Concert.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. WETA Host Richard Kleinfeldt and the City of Fairfax Band kicks off its 49th season with special guest Steven Hendrickson of the NSO on trumpet. Music by Holst, Sousa, John Williams and Julie Giroux. \$15 adults, \$10 senior, students free. Call 571-336-CFBA (2322) or visit [fairfaxband.org](http://fairfaxband.org).

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 11

**Hitchcocktober: Shadow of a Doubt (1943).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center - Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com).

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 12-13

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** 7-11 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Madhaunter's Madhouse haunted trail of terror returns to the Workhouse for a third year of scares. In 2018, screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton Reformatory. More information, tickets (\$20), and volunteer opportunities are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 13

##### Fairfax Lions Club Oktoberfest Food Sales.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fairfax City Festival Food Court, University Drive and Sager Avenue, Fairfax. Fairfax Lions Club, of Lions Club International - "the world's largest service organization," welcomes all to their fundraiser at the Fairfax Fall Festival. All proceeds go to Lions Club charitable activities. Have fun; help those in need. Rain or shine. Free admission. Visit [www.fairfaxlions.org/](http://www.fairfaxlions.org/).

**Community Band Concert.** 1-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Main Street Community Band presents a fun and sometimes rollicking program of seasonal music suitable for the entire family. Featuring "Music for a Darkened Theater" and Eric Whitacre's "October." Free. Call 571-336-CFBA (2322) or visit [fairfaxband.org](http://fairfaxband.org).

**Second Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Meet nearly 100 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in the 12 campus galleries. Enjoy performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology

# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY GEE JAMES, CAPITOL MEDIA USA

**Mariachi Los Amigos performing at the 2017 Arts Awards.**

## 2018 Arts Awards

The Arts Awards bring together the arts community, business community, civic and elected leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, and the private sector for supporting the arts in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church. Friday, Oct. 26, noon-2 p.m. at Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. \$250. Email [bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org](mailto:bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org) or call 571-395-4619.

### CALENDAR

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 25

**Hitchcocktober: 39 Steps (1935).** 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. Tickets are \$10. Visit [angelikafilmcenter.com](http://angelikafilmcenter.com).

#### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 25-28

**The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts-Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Mark Twain's irrepressible hero helps his friend Jim escape to freedom while sharing hilarious, suspenseful and heartwarming adventures, all told with unforgettable, classically American music. \$15 for students and seniors, \$30 for adults. Call 703-901-5941 or visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-river-the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-river-the-adventures-of-huckleberry-finn).

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 26

**Lorton Workhouse Ceramics Workshop.** 10:30 a.m. at Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Travel to the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center Visit [lortonseniorcenter.org](http://lortonseniorcenter.org) or call 703-550-7195.

**2018 Arts Awards.** Noon-2 p.m. at Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. The Arts Awards bring together the arts community, business community, civic and elected leaders to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, and the private sector for supporting the arts in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax. \$250. Email [bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org](mailto:bmacroberts@artsfairfax.org) or call 571-395-4619.

**Rock the Block: Supervixen.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Family-friendly free concert series, which features live bands, beer garden, and city restaurant vendor booths. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/rocktheblock).

rocktheblock.

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 26-28

**Madhaunter's Madhouse.** Friday-Saturday, 7-11 p.m.; Sunday, 7-10 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Screams will echo across the 55-acre historic Workhouse campus, built on the grounds of the once-abandoned and notorious DC Department of Corrections Lorton Reformatory. More information, tickets (\$20), and volunteer opportunities are available at [workhousearts.org/madhaunter](http://workhousearts.org/madhaunter).

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 27

**Transforming Lives Gala.** 6:30-11 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Since 1974, Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services has been reducing homelessness and enabling self-sufficiency by providing permanent affordable housing, emergency financial services, budget counseling and case management to working households in Fairfax County. \$175-\$250. Visit [goodhousing.org/gala](http://goodhousing.org/gala).



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# OPINION

## How We Can Bring Criminal Fine Reform to Fairfax County

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN C. COOK  
(R-BRADDOCK)



Criminal justice reform is about making sure that the criminal justice system achieves its goals and works equally for everyone. One issue being examined is whether assessing traffic and court fines and costs, regardless of ability to pay, and then punishing those who do not pay, is achieving any desired goal. Court fines and fees can be assessed for criminal or traffic offenses, such as speeding or parking violations. When someone receives a ticket or is ordered to pay a fine for an infraction, they also have to pay court and processing fees. This system is in place to deter people from committing these crimes, and also as a way to reimburse the cost of expenses associated with processing the cases and pay back to society for the cost of any damage caused by their actions.

For some, paying fines is not a problem. For others who are struggling to get by, it may be difficult or impossible to pay. The penalties for failing to pay fines and fees end up having a much greater impact on those in poverty than the rest of the population. If someone cannot pay their fine or traffic ticket, penalties for non-payment increase the amounts they could not pay in the first place. Overdue fines often go to collection agencies and the mountain of debt grows even higher, since a 17 percent collection fee can be added on to

**Almost one million Virginians have had their licenses suspended due to unpaid court fines and other charges.**

the existing balance.

Compounding the issue is that if someone fails to pay their fines, the state can take their driver's license away. The Legal Aid Justice Center found in January that almost one million (974,349) Virginians had their licenses suspended due to unpaid fines and other charges. Two-thirds of that group (638,003) had their licenses suspended solely because of unpaid fines. When the courts suspend driver's licenses for unpaid fines, those individuals are not able to legally drive to work. Many people choose to drive illegally on their suspended licenses so they do not lose their income. If they are caught, then even more legal fees are added to their debt and some have to serve jail time. This vicious cycle makes it impossible for the courts to ever collect their fines and for those who owe to meet their obligations. It also means that people are pushed out of jobs and potentially into applying for government benefits.

Fortunately, in Fairfax County there are several programs to help individuals avoid these escalating penalties. Defendants can enter into a monthly payment plan with a down payment due at the time of their conviction. If a monthly payment is missed, then the defendant will go into default, which could result in additional fines and/or jail time. Another option is to

defer the entire payment until a later date. Defendants may also be eligible for the Fines Option Program, which allows defendants to perform community service in lieu of paying fines and fees. Those who sign up for this option go to the Magistrate's office on a Saturday morning, sign in, and take a bus to the George Mason University campus to perform tasks such as picking up litter, landscaping, or painting. Work hours are credited at the rate of \$15 an hour toward payment of fines.

While we have some remarkable programs to assist those who cannot afford to pay off their fines, many people still fall through the cracks. We need to implement a new system to help determine a person's ability to pay before they go to trial. The judge and clerk's office need the ability to set fines that can actually be paid. We need further opportunities for the alternative of assigning community service with more flexible schedules for those who cannot make the Saturday morning sessions.

Fine reform cannot truly take place without significant changes by the General Assembly. However, the County can help in the process by assisting the courts in bolstering their programs and making them more effective. We defeat the purpose of fines if we cause people to lose their jobs and the ability to support their families. Alternatives are important to a more just system.

## Saving People, Places and Property; The Time is Now

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
(D-MT. VERNON)

Climate change is happening and it has real impacts. I recently participated with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and Prince William County Chairman Corey Stewart in the Climate Crisis Forum sponsored by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. With more than 400 attendees, the forum looked at climate change from the perspective of impacts on our communities, shorelines, health, national security and government action. As I have stated previously, climate change is affecting us all and while the County has put some policies and plans in place, we need to do more to lead the way. This is about saving people, places and property now.

A few examples of climate change impact we are already seeing are:

- ❖ Sea level rise has increased 10 inches over the last 80 years.

- ❖ This year, we experienced 44 days where temperatures reached or exceeded 90 degrees F. That's one more than last year's total and 8 more than the average we typically see each year.

- ❖ More extreme weather events from



**Pictured at the Climate Crisis Forum, from left: Dr. Samantha Ahdoot, MD, FAAP, Chair and Co-founder, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action; Rev. Dr. Jean Wright; Major General Rick Devereaux, USAF (Ret.), Former Director of Operational Planning, Policy, & Strategy, U.S. Air Force Advisory Board, Center for Climate and National Security; Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon).**

snowmagedon to recent and regular torrential rains.

These impacts are important to us in the Mount Vernon District, and Virginia in general, for many reasons. Here are a few:

- ❖ While 29 percent of Virginia land is coastal, 60 percent of population lives on coast.

- ❖ A recent study showed more than 9,000 Virginia homes are at risk of tidal flooding by 2045 due to sea level rise.

- ❖ Low lying areas, like New Alexandria and Belle View, will increasingly be at risk of flooding just from high tides and onshore winds.

- ❖ Extreme heat is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States and it puts strain on our energy grid.

- ❖ Heavy downpours in our area have increased 30 percent over the last 50 years.

- ❖ Experts have determined that a category 3 hurricane through our area would submerge the Belle Haven Marina through Belle Haven Shopping Center with three-plus feet of standing water.

While the County has taken steps to be good environmental stewards, like signing the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, adopting a Countywide Energy Policy, Environmental Vision and Operational Energy Strategy, it is not proportional to the challenge we face. I did not support the recently adopted Operational Energy Strategy because the plan

SEE STORCK, PAGE 15

Fairfax  
**CONNECTION**

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# Fairfax Storyteller Goes National

**Better Said Than Done** founder slated to perform at the National Storytelling Festival.

Fairfax storyteller and founder of a Northern Virginia storytelling company, Better Said Than Done, Jessica Piscitelli Robinson, will be featured at this year's 46<sup>th</sup> National Storytelling Festival as an Exchange Place teller, a showcase of the country's best up and coming talent. A beloved tradition since 1973, the Festival hosts the nation's top storytellers and draws 11,000 visitors from across the country to celebrate the ancient art of storytelling in Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough. The festival runs from Oct. 5 - 7, 2018.

Piscitelli Robinson's storytelling journey began when, in 2007, she stepped on stage at a SpeakeasyDC



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jessica Piscitelli Robinson.**

show to tell the first version of the very story she'll be performing at the National Storytelling Festival. Over the past 11 years, the story about her trying to get PADI certified has evolved, as her style as a performer and writer has changed, but it remains a true, personal story.

"Despite having performed at some really amazing venues for some fantastic storytelling organizations, I have to admit that I literally yelled so loud when I got

the news I'd be performing at the National Storytelling Festival, that I made my 2-year-old cry. After assuring him that mommy was happy, not mad, I enjoyed re-reading the email in which the International Storytelling Center told me I was one of six storytellers from across the country selected to perform at Exchange Place. It feels like being nominated for an Oscar, only all six of us have already won!"

SEE STORYTELLER, PAGE 14

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or call **703.778.9431**



### Route 29 Widening Fairfax County

#### Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Presentation begins at 7 p.m.

Colin L. Powell Elementary School  
13340 Leland Road  
Centreville, VA 20120

**Find out** about plans to widen 1.5 miles of Route 29 (Lee Highway) from four to six lanes between Union Mill Road and Buckleys Gate Drive to relieve congestion and improve operations and safety.

The project will also correct vertical alignment to improve sight distance, add/improve bicycle and pedestrian shared-use paths on both sides of Route 29, and provide connectivity to bicycle/pedestrian trails at the Fairfax County Parkway/West Ox Road interchange.

**Stop by** between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

**Review** project information at the VDOT project website ([www.virginiadot.org/projects](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2907 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **October 22, 2018** to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 29 Widening" in the subject line.

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. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Hong Ha at 703-259-2907.

State Project: 0029-029-350, P101, R201, C501, D612, D613  
UPC: 110329, Federal: NHPP-5A01 (917)

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)



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Pkwy. Rain Date Sun. 9/30.

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An expert is someone who knows  
some of the worst mistakes that can  
be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

## Employment

## SPORTS

**Elena Delle Donne splits two Storm defenders and lays the ball up. Delle Donne scored a team high 23 points.**



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

## Mystics at Home in Fairfax

The Washington Mystics hosted the Seattle Storm in game 3 of their first ever WNBA Finals on Sept. 12, 2018, at EagleBank Arena in Fairfax.

Down 0-2 in the series, the Mystics were in desperate need of a win to avoid being swept. The Storm were too much for the Mystics and won 98-92 to claim their third WNBA title since 2004.



**Natasha Cloud #9 of the Mystics drives to the basket while being defended by Jordin Canada #21 of the Storm in the third quarter.**



**The Mystics' mascot, Pax the Panda, throws a t-shirt to a young fan.**

## Storyteller

FROM PAGE 13

After several years of heading into DC to perform in storytelling shows, Piscitelli Robinson started Better Said Than Done in 2011 to bring the art of true, personal storytelling to Northern Virginia audiences and storytellers. Over the years, Better Said Than Done has expanded to producing two regular storytelling shows a month – one in Reston and one in Fairfax - and leading storytelling workshops for individuals and organizations.

Upcoming local events for Better Said Than Done include:

- ❖ Words, Words, Words: stories about language, interpretation and meaning — Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, 7 p.m., The Auld Shebeen (Downstairs), 3971 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax. Free Admission as part of George Mason University's Fall for the Book Festival

With storytellers Nick Baskerville, Jessica Robinson, Jack Scheer, Allison Stevens, Mary Supley, and Sufian Zhemukhov

- ❖ Spotlight on You: Half Day Storytelling Workshop, Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, 2 – 6 p.m., The Insight Shop, 114 Courthouse Rd. SW, Vienna, \$85, Register at: [insightshopva.com](http://insightshopva.com)

Led by Jessica Robinson

- ❖ The Monster Under the Bed: Storytelling at the Lake, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., Lake Anne Coffee House, 1612 Washington Plaza N, Reston, Free.

- ❖ 5th Annual Night at the Improv – Improvisational Storytelling, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., downstairs at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, \$15 per person

For more information on upcoming shows, performers, or workshops, visit [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com).

# BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## VOTER REGISTRATION AND ID EVENTS

**The Fairfax County Office of Elections** (12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax) is open daily during normal business hours to provide county residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. Applicants will need to complete a photo voter ID application, have a photo taken and sign a digital signature pad. Call 703-222-0776.

The following event will also provide opportunity to register to vote and/or get a photo Virginia Voter card.

❖ Thursday/Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Leewood Healthcare Center, 7120 Braddock Road, Annandale.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

**Alzheimer's Educational Conference.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)'s national Educating America National Tour, featuring AFA's free Concepts in Care educational conference, free memory screenings, and much more, comes to Fairfax. Program is open to families affected by Alzheimer's disease, caregivers, and anyone interested in learning more about Alzheimer's disease. Free. Visit [alzfdn.org/event/afa-educating-america-tour-fair-oaks/](http://alzfdn.org/event/afa-educating-america-tour-fair-oaks/) or call 866-232-8484.

**Gentle Yoga.** 12:30-2 p.m. at Sentara Surgery Specialists Comprehensive Breast Center, 8988 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite 103, Lorton. This yoga protocol is facilitated by Pat Fitzsimmons RN, C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, an instructor specifically trained to work with cancer patients who will adapt traditional yoga practices to meet the physiological and psychological needs of cancer patients. Visit [www.sentara.com](http://www.sentara.com)

**Public Information Meeting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Virginia Department of Transportation is holding a public information meeting on plans to widen and make other improvements to about five miles of the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). There will be a presentation at 7 p.m. VDOT staff will be available to answer questions. View [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/ffx\\_co\\_pkwy\\_widening.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/ffx_co_pkwy_widening.asp) for more.

## Storck

FROM PAGE 12

as presented does not go far enough to ensure the County's role as a regional leader or to advance cost savings, real climate change initiatives or resiliency planning. I strongly believe the County needs to move forward quickly to adopt a Community Climate Action Plan and a Resiliency Plan. As a County, we can do far more, and adopting more aggressive goals will result in significant cost savings and a faster return on our investment for both our environment and our budget.

If you would like to learn how you, your family, neighbors and community can help our environment, join us on Saturday, Nov. 10 for the District's first ever Environment Expo: Saving the Earth One Person at a Time. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon>.

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! <a href="http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers">www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers</a> <b>THE CONNECTION</b> Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community <a href="http://www.connectionnewspapers.com">www.connectionnewspapers.com</a>		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>	

## Woe I'll Never Be



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not on hold with the Oncology department today. Not elbowing Twinkle or Biscuit off my writing tablet as I sit and write this week's column. And not going hungry from the previous Friday's infusion (a week plus has passed so the worst side effect of the treatment has passed).

In general, aside from waiting for my upcoming CT scan on Sept. 26, I am glad that soon I can get on with my life.

You'll note I didn't say fate. That word has too negative a connotation. And my nature, as you regular readers know, is as a positive/glass half full kind of person. So, as I approach this next milestone, I view it not so much as a millstone but more so as just another rock that hopefully leaves me not in a very hard place.

The pre-existing cancer diagnosis is already hard enough. But after living with it for so long and enduring as many rounds of chemotherapy, side effects, lab work, diagnostic scans, 24-hour urine collection and all the associated anxiety surrounding a "terminal" diagnosis as I have, one, at least this one, has learned to live with the miscellaneous demands.

It's not to imply that doing so is easy, but not doing so is so much more difficult. To that end, which ultimately won't be my end, assimilating the good, bad and the incredibly worrisome into some sort of mental spreadsheet seems the only logical pursuit.

Either you learn to take it in stride or you'll die not trying.

And since dying, so far as we know anyhow, is so much less appealing than living, I'm striving to balance my equilibrium and never get too high or too low no matter the news. (Yes. I'm a Libra so balance is very much a part of my process.)

That's not to say that there aren't incredible pressures and challenges that us cancer patients have to manage, it's more that to say that laughing in the face of death is not a sign of weakness but more so a sign of enlightened strength.

Part of that strength is respecting the process with which cancer patients are all too familiar and moreover, and most importantly, understanding and respecting what we don't have control over. There's an element of letting go which enhances one's quality of life and minimizes obstacles as well.

Doing what you can and not fretting about what you can't, in addition to keeping an open mind, combines to smooth out the rough edges and to focus on the path ahead. The 'path ahead' being the goal.

I remember that exact philosophy being expressed by my oncologist at the original Team Lourie meeting back in late February 2009. When it was suggested that my mother's smoking of Chesterfield King cigarettes in my youth or my dalliances in college in the '70s might be relevant/have had an impact on my lung cancer diagnosis, my oncologist would have none of it.

Retrieving fragments of history and/or assigning blame for less-than-ideal behavior was irrelevant to him. His concern was not the past, it was the present/future. We were to be looking/planning ahead and treating forward.

And so here I sit, very much having been treated forward.

At present, I am my oncologist's prize cow, a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor, alive and reasonably well nine years and nearly seven months into an initial "13 month to two year" prognosis. After hearing that grim prognosis, I never would have imagined that in August 2018, I'd still be alive.

But here I am. Not a victim of my own circumstances.

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

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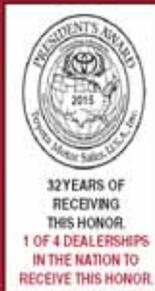
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