

CONNECTION

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Chioma Onyekwere, a 2012 Robinson Secondary School graduate, will throw discus for Team Nigeria. She is among a few former Fairfax County Public Schools athletes who will compete in the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Going For Gold

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Evictions Coming

More than 2,000 tenants are already involved with the courts on evictions with the end of CDC moratorium looming July 31.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Landlords have prepared to start evicting tenants when the federal moratorium ends July 31, 2021. More than 2,000 tenants across Fairfax County are already involved in the court system.

In fact, 608 writs of eviction have been issued in the county. A writ of eviction is a court notice sent to the Sheriff's Office to remove a tenant's belongings from a property, according to county documents.

Writs of evictions have been issued throughout the county, including 164 in Alexandria, 73 in Falls Church, 59 in McLean, 54 in Fairfax, 50 in Herndon, 40 in Springfield, 34 in Vienna, 32 in Reston, 31 in Centreville and 31 in Annandale.

As of June 14, 2021, 1,432 unlawful detainers have also been issued. Unlawful detainers are issued when a landlord seeks court assistance in removing a tenant from

a property. These include 366 issued in Alexandria, 137 in Fairfax, 113 in Annandale, 103 in Herndon, 103 in Springfield, 89 in Reston, 79 in Centreville, 73 in McLean, and 73 in Vienna.

MORE THAN 10,000 households have needed emergency assistance for rent, utilities and food during the pandemic in Fairfax County.

"We're hearing from residents in the community that have never had to reach out before," said Keisha Dotson, division director, Neighborhood and Community Services.

The county is bracing to hear from more since the existing Centers for Disease Control moratorium on evictions is scheduled to end July 31, 2021.

Many families who have been unable to pay their rent because of the pandemic economic crisis could be facing eviction and homelessness when the eviction moratorium expires.

"We can anticipate that we're going to



"We're hearing from residents in the community that have never had to reach out before."

— Keisha Dotson,
Neighborhood
and Community
Services



"Rental assistance is one of the best ways we can prevent evictions."

— Tom Barnett,
Housing and Community
Development

have a huge call volume," said Chairman Jeff McKay. "I want to make certain we have the resources on the ground to respond to them quickly."

"Rental assistance is one of the best ways we can prevent evictions," said Tom Barnett, of Housing and Community Development.

The county has distributed more than \$31.5 million so far. "There has been an unprecedented demand for assistance," Dotson said on June 29 at the Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services committee meeting, chaired by Dalia Palchik (Providence).

The county will spend \$75 million more in federal assistance to help prevent evictions and homelessness.

The county is also reaching out to landlords.

Supervisor District	Court Involved
Braddock	110
Dranesville	116
Hunter Mill	219
Lee	285
Mason	394
Mount Vernon	295
Providence	360
Springfield	88
Sully	150

* As of June 29, 2021

Writs of Eviction, Top ZIP Codes

22306	54
20171	36
22312	34
22303	32

Unlawful Detainers, Top ZIP Codes

22003	113
22306	112
22042	108
22303	96
22030	70

"We're not just reaching out to our typical clients, tenants requesting this rental assistance, but also the landlords themselves, with our nonprofit partners based in the community, Cornerstones and FACETs," Barnett said. "They have actually been engaging the landlords so that they understand the programs available to help pay rental arrears and so they can help get their tenants through this process."

At the time of the June 29 committee meeting, 975 landlords had applied.

Communities hardest hit by COVID are also those hardest hit or anticipated to be hit by eviction proceedings, in particular communities of color, Barnett said. "Clearly some neighborhoods are getting impacted more than others."

Seeking Equity in Access to Required School Supplies

Leveling the learning field from binders to graphing calculators.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Summer vacation hits the halfway point for students enrolled at Fairfax County Public Schools on Monday, July 18. With the division reaching out to parents, encouraging them to send their children back to in-person learning this fall compared to the fall of 2020 and the economic fallout of the pandemic, the need is greater than ever for equitable access to required school supplies.

Approximately 31 percent of students in FCPS qualified for free and reduced-price meals as of Oct. 31, 2019, reported FCPS. These are families who earn less than 130 percent of the poverty level and those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent.

Each FCPS elementary school has school supply lists posted to their school's website. Middle and High schools often supply these lists on their websites or provide them to students on their return to school, according to FCPS. Costs to purchase school supply items as viewed on the individual FCPS websites can run upwards of over \$100 per student with individual teachers, especially at the higher grades requesting additional supplies, such as a TI-83 series graphing cal-



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
The first day of school for 2021-22 for Fairfax County Public Schools is Aug. 23.

culator at \$125, and the need to replenish items throughout the year.

Asked how many children would require donated supplies and backpacks for the school year 2021-22 opening on Aug. 23, Jennifer Sellers, media outreach specialist at FCPS said, "Around 60,000 FCPS students live at or near the poverty level."

OPPORTUNITIES are available to students in need of supplies. The Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools offers Collect for Kids, described as a strategic team-- comprising businesses, government agencies, and community organizations working together to organize and plan a fundraising effort that helps provide kits of supplies

for students in need. The goal is to ensure all students have the tools necessary to be successful in the classroom. Schools can customize their kits to meet the needs of teachers and students best.

The Collect for Kids monetary campaign allows the Foundation to streamline the distribution of backpacks and supplies. "A donation of just \$50 provides five students in need with the basic supplies necessary for academic success," states the Foundation's website.

Kids R First is a regional non-profit program "dedicated to the education and helping kids (grades K-12) from families of limited financial means with school supplies to receive the same opportunities as their peers," states the charitable organization's website. In 2020, Kids R First provided custom orders for every grade level at every participating school, according to Susan Ungerer, founder/CEO. Volunteers supplied required core items to 25,100 students in need in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

This summer, Ungerer said, Kids R First is working with 38 schools (K-12) in the Fairfax County communities of Alexandria, Annandale, Centreville, Chantilly, Falls Church, Fort Belvoir, Herndon, Reston, and Springfield. "Each individual school order is put on a pallet, shrink-wrapped. Then the Fairfax County Schools warehouse group picks

them up and delivers them to the schools. All the supplies are given to students at the school with the hope they receive them before school begins," said Ungerer.

Some school districts nationwide have taken an initiative to increase educational equity among all their students, leveling the learning field. Schools provide the supplies students need for learning, the same as they do with books and other materials.

PROJECT Free Education at Bellingham Public Schools in the state of Washington provides supplies and opportunities to students at no cost. The budget priority attempted to close gaps. Since the program started in 2011, the division reported it eliminated the need for families to buy school supplies at elementary, middle, and high school; eliminated middle and high school course fees and supplied high school scientific and graphing calculators, and world language Advanced Placement (AP) workbooks.

Fairfax County Public Schools anticipates starting on the first day of school, Aug. 23, 2021, with bus routes and schedules back to normal with full activity, athletic program, and "academic excellence."

If students need assistance with school supplies, they can directly reach out to their local school.

Virginia's Largest Industry

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

Virginia's largest private industry is agriculture with an economic impact of \$70 billion annually and 334,000 jobs. Yet, according to Feeding America, one in eleven persons, or 766,620 people in Virginia, face hunger. One in nine children, or 214,270 children in the state, face hunger. The organization estimates that it would take \$433,605,000 to meet the challenge. At the same time the agriculture industry faces natural challenges of weather extremes, declining demand in some areas including dairy products, foreign competition, and expensive financing.

This week I am in Nashville, Tennessee attending the Southern Legislative Conference annual meeting. The agenda for the meeting includes the range of issues facing state governments with an emphasis on the southern states. Improving and expanding infrastructure including broadband will be discussed along with the impact of COVID-19 and changes in federal laws and administration. The meetings are

nonpartisan, but the differences in philosophy of governance are obvious as issues are discussed. Virginia is definitely an outlier among the southern states as to the role and responsibilities of state government.

The agenda also indicates the complexities of challenges facing agriculture in Virginia and throughout the South. I am

chairman of the House of Delegates Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources Committee by virtue of my having served on that committee for all the years I have been in continuous membership in the House. Being from a suburban district has not disadvantaged me for my district and region are dramatically affected by what is happening in the agricultural sector. My constituents are the customers of the farmers that grow the crops and livestock that feed the population. I am an enthusiastic supporter of local farmers markets where producers and consumers come into contact at least weekly and where the freshest of farm products are available.

The people who live in my district are impacted by the environmental practices of the entire state. The health of the Chesapeake Bay is a barometer of how well the state is doing with its environmental stewardship. Most of the Shenandoah Valley is in the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay. The practices of the homeowners in fertilizing their lawns as well as the farmers fertilizing their crops have an impact on the health of the Bay and Virginia's seafood industry.

The states are referred to as "laboratories for democracy," and conferences such as the Southern Legislative Conference provide legislators an opportunity to compare notes to see what is working and not working in their states. Boundaries of states are defined in their history. There are no factors other than that history that determine where one state ends and another begins. Challenges such as a pandemic, severe weather conditions, availability of natural resources, and the condition of our air and water do not recognize state boundaries. We are all in this together, and it is to our advantage and maybe our survival to work together. No other sector better reflects these similarities, differences, and challenges than agriculture.

Eviction Prevention Is Not Housing Investment

BY MICHELLE KROCKER

America has a housing crisis - an affordability crisis, as well as a housing supply crisis. Recently, the National Association of Realtors released a report showing that over the last 20 years new housing starts fell 5.5 million units short of long-term historical levels. "The scale of the problem is so large," said David Bank, senior vice president of Rosen Consulting Group and one of the report's authors. "We need affordable, we need market-rate, we need single-family, we need multifamily."

Our region is also experiencing a housing crisis. To address our unmet housing needs, elected officials from the District, Maryland and Virginia unanimously adopted the Council of Governments' regional goal of producing 375,000 net new housing units between 2015 and 2030. Housing should be located in activity centers near transit, with one-third of the units serving low-income households and one-third for middle-income households. The regional goal translates into 25,000 net new housing units per year, so clearly we need to build more housing.

The eviction crisis created by the pandemic is unlike anything we have experienced in our lifetimes. Through multiple assistance programs, the federal government has responded with substantial tranches of funding to provide financial resources to prevent evictions by paying back rent, advancing rent for those impacted by COVID, and helping landlords remain solvent. However, the administrative process of getting that much money out the door has been daunting for state and local governments,

resulting in bottlenecks to deliver relief assistance. With the end to the CDC moratorium on July 31 — with little hope for further extension — strategies for mutually beneficial agreements between landlords and tenants, with the help of trusted community partners and continued rental assistance will be needed to stave off an eviction catastrophe.

Eviction Prevention Does Not Equal Housing Investment. It is imperative that this relief assistance not be construed as solving our pre-pandemic housing crisis. Eviction prevention does not solve the historic under-investment in housing production and preservation. We must have investments to end homelessness, provide permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities, create housing that's affordable for low and moderate income households, young families wanting to buy their first home, and seniors on fixed incomes who want to remain in their communities.

Over the coming months, the Virginia General Assembly and localities throughout the Commonwealth will make consequential decisions on how to spend the largess from the American Rescue Plan funds. With accounts of Virginia's better-than-expected financial recovery from the pandemic, housing advocates should be bold in their recommendations for how Virginia allocates the \$4.3 billion in federal funds. Having secured historic gains for the state Housing Trust Fund, permanent supportive housing, and the new Virginia Opportunity Tax Credit, it's time to build a housing trust fund that closes the gap of only four affordable units for every 10 households eligible for housing that's affordable.

It is also the time for Northern Virginia advocates to press local governments for the funding needed to meet their share of the region's housing goals as defined by the COG pledge. This is housing's moment to imagine a region and a Commonwealth that is fair, equitable, inclusive and provides housing for all. Let's not squander this unique opportunity.

Michelle Krocker is the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance <https://nvaha.org/>

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County Commits to Carbon Neutral Energy Use By 2040

Fairfax County committed July 13 to become carbon neutral by 2040 in its energy use for government operations, including buildings, facilities and transportation.

As pledged, the county will remove as much carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide from the atmosphere as emitted from its operations. Carbon dioxide accounts for about 80 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while methane and nitrous oxide collectively make up another 17 percent, according to the EPA.

To achieve this transformative goal, the Board of Supervisors adopted an updated Operational Energy Strategy on Tuesday. In concert, they issued a formal declaration, dubbed "Carbon Neutral Counties," that also encourages other local governments to take action to halt climate change.

TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL, the county pledged to meet specific targets to reduce energy use, generate or buy green energy and shift its fleet to non-carbon emitting buses and vehicles. These targets include:

Decrease total energy use from all existing county facilities by 25 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040, as compared to the FY 2018 baseline.

Produce 25 percent of electricity use from renewable energy generation by 2030, and 50 percent by 2040, using FY 2018 as the



Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay

"This commitment to carbon neutrality is a critical step to slow climate change, and it extends our long-standing commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions."

— Jeff McKay, Board of Supervisors Chairman

baseline.

Achieve net-zero energy standards for all new buildings and major renovation projects greater than 10,000 occupied square feet, beginning planning and design in 2021 and beyond.

Transition Fairfax Connector's diesel buses, along with other county vehicles, to electric or other non-carbon emitting alternatives by 2035. By 2035, 99 percent of Connector bus fleet miles traveled will be made with non-carbon emitting vehicles.

End the purchase of diesel Fairfax Connector buses after FY2024 unless approved by the Board of Supervisors.

"This commitment to carbon neutrality is a critical step to slow climate change, and it extends our long-standing commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions,"

said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay. "As we confront this existential challenge, we all must act

with a true sense of urgency, and this is just one of the steps that the county is taking to meet this global crisis head on."

The carbon neutrality declaration commits signatories to the following three actions:

Being energy carbon neutral by 2040 while significantly reducing operational greenhouse gas emissions in the building and energy, transportation and solid waste sectors.

Urge federal and state lawmakers to provide incentives, requirements or other such measures to meet the carbon neutral goal.

Ensure equitable implementation of the goal so that no communities are dispro-

portionately impacted by the transition to a carbon neutral economy, and all have access to the incentives that may arise.

The declaration was jointly introduced at Tuesday's meeting by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Chairman Jeff McKay.

"Climate change is a global concern, but it must be addressed at the local level if we are going to make real progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," said Supervisor Dan Storck. "The Carbon Neutral Counties declaration formalizes our commitment to responsible, sustainable county operations, and encourages other counties to do the same. The power of this declaration lies in its potential to serve as a roadmap for others, to create real forward momentum."

Currently, there is no organized alliance for U.S. counties dedicated to carbon neutrality, although some have independently made their own public pledges. The new declaration creates an opportunity for counties to formally join together in this goal.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S MOVE to carbon neutrality resulted from the work by its Joint Environmental Task Force which was created by the Board of Supervisors and School Board. The group's final report laid out the

SEE CARBON NEUTRAL, PAGE 9

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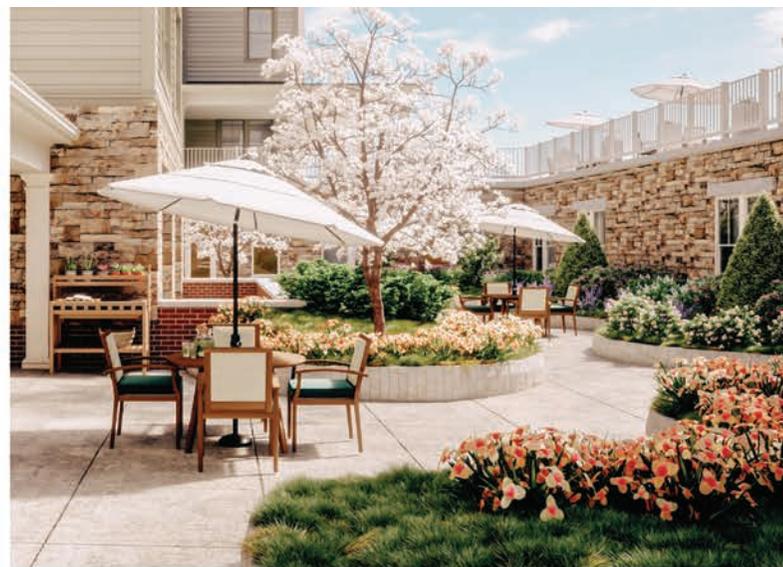
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Raising the Bar

Ideas for bar cart design and cocktail party accessories.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While last summer was noted with virtual happy hours and cocktail parties, in-person gatherings are becoming increasingly prevalent this year. Local design gurus say that it's time for hosts to update bar carts and cocktail party supplies.

"The key to an elevated home-bar is not only the liquid that it is served but the glassware that houses it," said designer Maxwell Eckert, who resides in Potomac. "Try minimalistic, statement pieces. They can really set carts apart from others. Use things like unique or geometric shaped bottles."

Available in a seemingly endless array of sizes, shapes and styles, pitchers are a smart and useful investment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA ROSE-BAKER

As in-person entertaining reemerges this summer, accessories like silver serving trays and mint julep cups can make a chic style statement.

silver mint julep cups to serve in."

Display chic glassware that complements those vessels, says Hoffman. "Even though I love a pretty bar cart, I also believe everything on it should be functional so I always incorporate well-designed glassware that double as decorative objects," she said. "I group my glasses together on a pretty tray to eliminate any feeling of clutter and so that I have plenty of room to actually mix up a drink."

"Cocktail napkins, which are limitless in options, can make a big statement with little effort," added Rose-Baker.

No matter how chic, most bar carts offer limited storage space, says Hoffman. "Baskets and trays can turn an otherwise cluttered bar cart into a chic, organized one," she said. "Corral similar items like bar tools or glassware together in a low-profile basket. For summer, a chunky, woven texture feels really fresh."

Consider adding plants and greenery.

"A simple way to take a bar cart to the next level is adding greenery or flowers," said Hoffman. "I'm currently loving a few statement-making tropical leaves on my bar cart."

"Even though I love a pretty bar cart, I also believe everything on it should be functional."

— Caren Hoffman

"I am a big fan of mixing up a batch of cocktails before guests arrive," said Caren Hoffman, a party and events planner based in Alexandria. "It keeps things easy and lets everyone help themselves to a drink so the host can kick back and have fun."

Experiment with a variety of textures when curating a bar cart. "Try porcelain ice buckets or a silver ice bucket and tray set," said designer Tina Rose-Baker of Chantilly. "I also love to use



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Children's Science Center Lab reopened on weekends for families and during weekdays for both virtual and in-person summer camps.

Children's Science Center Lab Reopens for Summer

Summer is officially here and families all across the region are looking for inventive and fun ways to spend time together and provide their children with enriching learning experiences. The Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation has the solution as it reopened the Children's Science Center Lab on weekends for families and during weekdays for both virtual and in-person summer camps, as well as its mobile outreach programs.

Campers will embrace fun themes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to build the skills that will serve as their tool set for the future. STEM educators will ignite children's curiosity about STEM in their everyday lives and enable them to make new friends from around the region. Virtual camps will consist of three hours of structured Zoom sessions with fun games, hands-on activities, science demonstrations, animal encounters and behind-the-scenes activities with expert STEM educators. Virtual experiences include:

- ❖ Chemistry 101 - Week of June 29 and July 26
- ❖ Online Design - Week of June 21 and July 19
- ❖ Robo Fun - Week of July 5 and Aug. 2
- ❖ Amazing World of Chain Reactions - Week of July 12 and Aug. 9

In person camps will be six hour sessions with themes designed for rising first - fifth graders creating catapults, making slime, meeting animals, and designing a new museum. New this year as part of pandemic safety protocols, campers will be able to spread out and have the exclusive use of the entire Lab!

In-person camp experiences include:

- ❖ Slimey Science - Week of June 21, July 19 and Aug. 16
- ❖ Dream It Build It - Week of June 28 and July 26
- ❖ Dig It! - Week of July 5 and Aug. 2
- ❖ Medieval Mayhem - Week of July 12 and Aug. 9

In addition to weekday camps, the Lab is now open to the public every weekend with timed entry admission sessions. "We are thrilled to open our doors to the community after this challenging year," said Nene Spivy, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation. "Our team is excited and ready to have families and children back in the Lab, providing much needed interaction, healthy social-emotional experiences, and reinvigorating each child's excitement for learning STEM."

For more information, camp registration and to purchase weekend timed-entry tickets, visit childsci.org.

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FACETS Launches Back-to-School Donations Drive

As the children served by FACETS' programs return to school, our most vulnerable and marginalized neighbors – those experiencing homelessness, immigrants and refugees, the unemployed and low-wage workers – are facing economic challenges and uncertainty.

"Together, we can help ease the financial back-to-school burden faced by our families. Our goal is to provide 400 K-12 children with new backpacks filled with supplies they need to create stronger futures," FACETS says in a press release, inviting the community to help collect backpacks and school supplies by Friday, Aug. 9. "Every dollar makes a difference! A \$100 donation will help us serve 10 children."

How can you help?

1. Make a Financial Donation: Make a tax-deductible donation to FACETS, and we'll do the shopping for you! You can make a financial donation online (please indicate Back to School drive in the Special Instructions field) or send a check to our main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax, VA

22030) and write "school supplies" in the memo section.

2. Deliver Supplies to FACETS: Download the list of needed school supplies and purchase or collect as many of these items as you can. Supplies can be dropped off at our main office: 10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax, VA 22030.

3. Purchase through Amazon: Check out FACETS School Wish List on Amazon by clicking [HERE](#). And, when you buy from Amazon Smile and select FACETS Cares as your charity of choice, a percentage of your purchase price goes back to support the children, families and individuals served by FACETS' programs.

Most Needed Items:

- Target and Walmart Gift Cards
- Backpacks
- Earbuds
- Calculators

If you have any questions, or if you would like to organize a school supply collection, please contact Tessa at trobINETTE@facetscares.org or 703-352-3268.

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Submit civic/community announcements at Connection-Newspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

GREENDROP LORTON OPENS

The GreenDrop located at Lorton Market Street, next to Glory Days Grill in Lorton has officially opened. Donate gently used clothing and household items to benefit partner charities, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Federation of the Blind, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the American Red Cross.

SPRINGFIELD PEARLS DONATE OVER 100 BOOKS

Just in time for black history month, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Springfield Pearls Interest Group donated 135 books to Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield. Last month, the Springfield Pearls Interest Group organized a contactless book drive to increase the number of library books that portray black and brown characters. The student body at Crestwood Elementary School has an ethnically diverse population where

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Alexandria
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ALMANAC

Special Edition: PET Connection

Publishes:

July 28, 2021

Ads submitted by:

July 22, 2021

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Going for Gold

Former FCPS athletes fulfil Olympic dream.

Every four years, the world's best athletes pack their bags, board a plane, and embark on the journey of a lifetime to the Olympic Games. This year, some of the remarkable young men and women heading to Tokyo are Fairfax County Public School graduates. Below, the two of them talk about their memories of FCPS and their hopes for the Games beginning on Friday, July 23. Be sure to cheer them on!

Chioma Onyekwere

Chioma Onyekwere, a 2012 Robinson Secondary School graduate, will throw discus for Team Nigeria.

Onyekwere spent the last year juggling a career as an automotive engineer at Ford Motor Company, planning her wedding, and preparing for the Olympics. On top of all that, Onyekwere also dealt with the heartache of losing family members to COVID-19. Last fall, she moved back to Fairfax County from Detroit to be closer to family. Through it all, she continued practicing her discus throwing, spending much of her time on FCPS fields and sending videos to her coach for feedback.

"I'm just so grateful it's all worked out," Onyekwere said. "All the hard work and all the sacrifices I've made throughout this time have really worked out."

Onyekwere attended the University of Maryland, where she set the second highest score in women's discus in school history, and earned several Big Ten honors. She's also a two-time African Champion and currently holds the national record for discus throw in Nigeria. Onyekwere is a dual-citizen of the U.S. and Nigeria, and spent much of her childhood in Africa.

"I feel like Nigeria made me the person I am today, so it's so nice to give back in some kind of way and represent them."

Onyekwere says balancing a full-time job, family, and her professional sports career can be overwhelming, but good time management is key. She says her education in engineering has actually helped her excel in her sport.

"My brain does work a little bit differently," Onyekwere said. "I will understand if I throw the discus at this angle it's gonna fly further because of the velocity and distance, and gravitational pull. It helps me see things in a bigger picture."

Onyekwere says her next goal is to get on the podium in Tokyo and to break the discus throw record for all of Africa.

Trevor Stewart

Trevor Stewart, a 2016 South County High School graduate, will run track for Team USA in the 4x400-meter relay.

Stewart spent the last few years at North Carolina A&T State University, where he recently competed for a NCAA national championship just two weeks before the Olympic Trials. During his younger years, Stewart spent much of his time practicing karate but switched over to track his freshman year of high school.

"It didn't come easy," Stewart said. "I had to change how I ate. Change how I carry myself. Literally change how I walk. I used to walk outwards, now I have to put my foot inwards to get my form right when I run."

Between finishing up his college career and getting ready for Tokyo in a matter of weeks, Stewart says he's been using prayer and meditation to keep his mind



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FCPS

Chioma Onyekwere, a 2012 Robinson Secondary School graduate, will throw discus for Team Nigeria.



Trevor Stewart, a 2016 South County High School graduate, will run track for Team USA in the 4x400-meter relay.

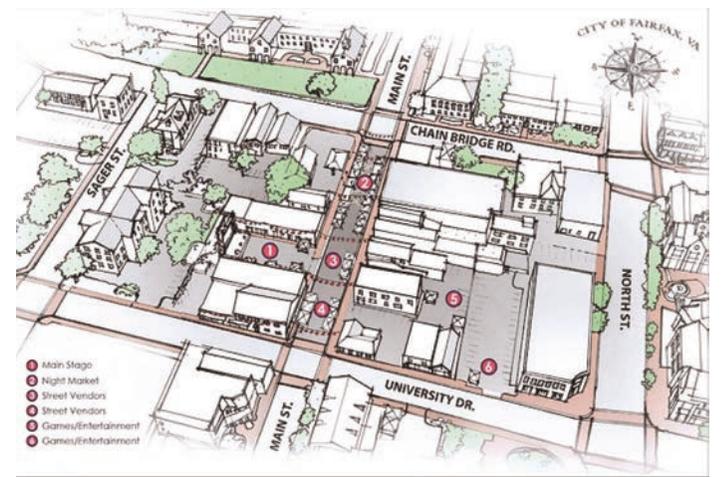
focused. Even with the quick turnaround, he's maintained his daily training and stayed focused on the basics.

"I'm on another team now, it's another jersey, but I'm running the same exact race. But it feels great, cause I can say I'm an Olympian! I worked hard for this. There's always room for improvement, but I've made it right now. I've made it right here."

Stewart's major was Liberal Studies and he hopes to be an author one day. He's encouraging young athletes in Fairfax County to never give up on their dreams.

"Work hard, stay focused. When you're dedicated, everything is gonna come to you," Stewart said. "As long as you're willing to go the extra mile for what you want in life, it's always gonna be there for you."

— FCPS OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Asian Festival map.

Fairfax City to Host Asian Festival on Main

Festival to be held on Sunday, July 25.

The Old Town Fairfax Business Association (OTFBA) will host its first Asian Festival on Main on Sunday, July 25, 2021 from 12 noon until 9 p.m. The family-friendly, full day event will take place on Main Street in Old Town Fairfax, between University Drive and Chain Bridge Road.

In the heart of Old Town Fairfax, one block of Main Street will play host to culinary delights, Curbside Kitchen food trucks, teas, special brews and sours, performing artists, games, and a live muralist, Henley Bounkhong. Added by the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts will be an Notable Americans of Asian Descent installation, curated by Literary Artist Sharon Chang.

The Asian Festival on Main concept was brought to the attention of the OTFBA in April of this year by The Standard Barbershop co-owner, Wendy Wong. The rest, as they say, is history.

Wendy Wong reached out to her property manager and OTFBA board members with an idea to highlight a few Asian American businesses. Jinson Chan, owner of High Side and OTFBA director, understood the vision and by the end of the meeting, it was settled that the OTFBA and business members would be planning a festival.

The first Asian Festival Event Committee was formed and tasked "to share the many Asian contributions and common in-

terests enjoyed here in our diverse-rich community," said Wendy Wong, also Event Chair.

The Asian Festival on Main will require a street closure to vehicular access on the day of the event, July 25, 2021. City services assisted the event committee on best practices and plans. A special permit by Fairfax City Mayor and Council was granted on June 22, 2021 for the Main Street road closure. Joshua Alexander, Managing Partner of Earp's Ordinary and Chairman of the OTFBA, stated, "The OTFBA could not host an event of this magnitude without the collaboration from our businesses and the expertise of the City's Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire and Rescue, and Public Works. We are pleased to have the City of Fairfax as a partner and we are funding the costs with corporate sponsorships." "The event is free to enter, vendors have a modest booth fee, and net proceeds will go to our AAPI charities," said Alexander.

KME.digital donated digital and web services from the start. Architectural renderings and logistics assistance are provided by Studio Ideya, small build and supplies are donated by Twins Ace Hardware, volunteer management comes from Massage Green, and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce contributes to the planning and fundraising efforts.

Sponsors of the Asian Festival on Main include Mainstreet Bank, General Dynamics, Occam's Razor Technologies, Sandy Spring Bank, and many more.

For more information, visit Asian Festival on Main and see how you can get involved, attend the event, or both.

Carbon Neutral by 2040

FROM PAGE 5

transformational goal to become carbon neutral by 2040, along with supporting recommendations on energy, transportation, waste management and recycling and work-force development.

The School Board is anticipated to consider these carbon neutrality goals at its July 15 meeting.

"The actions adopted today are additional steps forward in our joint effort with the School Board to reach the goals supported by the community," said Mason District

Supervisor Penny Gross who sat on the task force's executive board.

While the task force included two representatives each from the Board of Supervisors and School Board, the majority of the group's 13 members were county residents. It was created to engage the community on how the county and schools can work collaboratively to take on climate change and environmental sustainability.

For more information, visit the Fairfax County Office of Energy and Environmental Coordination's webpages.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

77% of students are multi-cultural. Like other schools across the county and country, the Crestwood is operating in a virtual environment due to COVID-19, however, students can check-out library books remotely and parents can pick-up on library drive thru days. To learn more about the Springfield Pearl Interest Group and other initiatives they're working on visit their Facebook page at Facebook.com/springfieldpearls

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance

League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

STEM Professionals Needed.

Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaalrea@aol.com.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

Docents Needed. Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Obituary



Grant Daniel Logue, 23, of Fairfax Station, VA, passed away on Friday, July 2, 2021, in Harrisonburg, VA. He died of heart failure, that had been diagnosed in September of 2020.

Grant was born in Greeley, CO, and was the son of John Joseph and Yvonne Gmuier Logue. In addition to his parents, he is survived by a sister, Diana Logue, grandparents Werner and Margarete Gmuier, and Richard and Julie Logue, and 10 aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Cheryl Logue, and an uncle, Lawrence J. McCue, Jr.

A memorial mass will be conducted at 11 a.m., Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at St. Raymond of Peñafort Roman Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield, VA, 22153, with Reverend John C. De Celles officiating. There will be a reception following the service at the church. Condolences may be shared at kygers.com.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to erect a new 29.7 wooden utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 35' near 22550 Davis Dr, Sterling, VA (20210685). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Novel Spirits, LLC trading as Colada Shop and Bloomingdales, LLC, 2920 District Ave, Ste. 190, Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22031-4429. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott Vasko, Vice President Novel Spirits, LLC. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Employment

Admin Pohick Church, Lorton - 4 days, 28hrs/week Good communication/clerical skills. Format/print MS Word, Excel/Powerpt, import graphics. Word Press, Constant Contact a plus & ideally some graphic design, publishing & Web site updates. Weekly deadlines, ordering supplies, maintain church calendar/building users/keys. Process membership Baptisms Confirmations Weddings. 5% pension & up to 4% match/2 weeks vacation. Submit resume/references to The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi at info@pohick.org by Aug 13

Employment

Youth Minister Pohick Church, Lorton - 20hrs/week. Experience working with youth, ideally in the Episcopal Church. Recruit/train youth advisors to assist & oversee 3 age groups, 5th & 6th, Jr & Sr High, with year round programs and summer mission trip. Plan Lenten Series and summer retreat activities for youth and family. Involve youth in church activities & fundraising activities. 5% pension & 2 weeks vacation. Submit resume/references to: The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi at info@pohick.org by Aug 13

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Sugar Box LLC trading as Sugar Box Bakery & Cafe, 122 Branch Rd SE, Vienna, VA 22180-4714. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sun Her, Member and Lydia Om, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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CALENDAR

JULY 8 TO AUG. 29

Summer Table. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Ceramic Artists Pam Eisenmann and Joan Ulrich offer two takes on convivial dining. Celebrating summer gatherings with lively handmade tableware: serving pieces, vases, sippers and more. Meet the artists on August 14th, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 14

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, Franconia.
July 14 - Natyabhoomi School of Dance (Indian Dance and Music)
July 21 - The Nighthawks (Blues)
July 28 -- Pablo Antonio y La Firma (Merengue/Cumbia/Salsa)
Aug. 4 - Junkyard Band (Go-Go, Funk)
Aug. 11 - The U.S. Navy - Cruisers (Pop/Rock)
Aug. 18 - Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein (Alpine Dance/Music)
Aug. 25 - Sharon Clark Quartet (Jazz)

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Rosslyn LIVE from Gateway Park. 6:30 p.m. Located at Gateway Park - 1300 Lee Hwy., Arlington. Beginning on July 15, you're invited to grab a drink and experience three themed nights of interactive dance performances, sing-a-long moments, and Instagrammable installations throughout Gateway Park. Website: <https://www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-live>
❖ Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:30 p.m. Broadway;
Thursday, July 22, 2021 6:30 p.m. '90s Music;
Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:30 p.m. Drag.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Summer Saturdays is back! Join them virtually or in-person for hands-on history activities. Cost is \$0 to \$10. This program occurs at the same time every Saturday until August 28th. Visit the website: www.gunstonhall.org/event

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Mount Vernon Nights. 8 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton.
Schedule
July 17 - QuinTango (Tango Music)
July 24 - Los Texmaniacs (Conjunto band)
July 31 - Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
August 7 - The Pietasters (Ska)
August 14 - Crys Matthews (Jazz, Blues, Funk)
August 21 - Dom Flemons (Acoustic Blues)
August 28 - The U.S. Army Field Band, Six String Soldiers (Americana, Folk, Bluegrass, Irish)

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Marsha and the Positrons. 10 a.m. At Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. The children's band sings fun songs about science and how the world works with positive social messages! Sing and dance along to original songs and familiar favorites that inspire curiosity about science and bring smiles to

all ages. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Cultural Heritage Nights are coming to Ossian Hall Park for free performances from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturdays in July and August. These performances are part of the Spotlight by Starlight Summer Entertainment Series at Ossian Hall Park that promotes awareness and appreciation of Fairfax County's cultural diversity. Come out for Irish Cultural Heritage Night and the Irish Breakfast Band on July 17. Irish Breakfast performs music and dance in the Irish tradition, featuring fiddles and flutes, piano and hammered dulcimer, cello, guitar, vocals, mandolins, banjo, bouzouki, bass, bones and bodhran (Irish drum).

SUNDAY/JULY 18

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top Model Trains (T-TRAK) will be running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: Museum members and children under 4, free; ages 5-12, \$3, ages 13 and older, \$5, \$6 for special occasions; Seniors and military (active and retired), \$4. Visit the new website, www.fairfax-station.org; www.Facebook.com/FFXS-RR; 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 21

Skip Castro Band. 7:30-9 p.m. Part of the Springfield Nights Concert Series. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station.

SUNDAY/JULY 25

Asian Festival. 12-9 p.m. The Old Town Fairfax Business Association will host its first Asian Festival on Main. The family-friendly, full day event will take place on Main Street in Old Town Fairfax, between University Drive and Chain Bridge Road. In the heart of Old Town Fairfax, one block of Main Street will play host to culinary delights, Curbside Kitchen food trucks, teas, special brews and sours, performing artists, games, and a live muralist, Henley Bounkhong. Added by the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts will be an Notable Americans of Asian Descent installation, curated by Literary Artist Sharon Chang.

GOLF CAMPS

Join the nationwide resurgence of the lifelong game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camps will take place at Twin Lakes on July 19-23 and Aug. 9-13, 2021. All camps run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

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Time to Kill



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Again, not a cancer column. Given the title, it would be a pretty gruesome reference to my life in the cancer world if it were.)

No. Not even close to a cancer column. But I am writing about a similar mind-numbing experience. However, this experience has nothing to do with disease/dying. Instead, it has to do with the effort, patience and excruciating lack of success in attempting to contact, meaning speaking to an actual person, at the Internal Revenue Service and/or at the Social Security Administration. The phone numbers you're "googled" to call are the opposite of hot lines. They are frigid. Almost too cold to tolerate, but since your financial life expectancy may be at risk, somehow you have to hold on for dear life. Or else pay, or rather be unable to pay, the consequences.

So I'm on hold for 14 minutes and counting, sort of. More like listening to some unrecognizable instrumental between looped messages that say (A) You're still on hold and (B) They haven't forgotten you and your call will be answered in the order in which it was received. (Actually, you're hoping they remember you.) Unfortunately, you have no choice but to hold on. The answers you seek are only found at these places/numbers and unless you go to the source, you'll be barking up the wrong tree and/or not squeaking the right wheel. I'm fairly certain that if you don't call them, they're unlikely to call - back, or forward, especially if the reason for my two calls is to secure money coming to me instead of negotiating how I'm planning to pay them. So sit tight and be brave - and be near a bathroom to make sure nature's call doesn't interrupt your interminable wait on hold and/or be sure there are enough bars on your phone so a draining battery doesn't end your pursuit.

However, presuming the time it will take to speak to someone to be hours, not minutes, it can be an opportunity to while away your wait by multi-tasking and have the music offered up for your listening pleasure to serve as a kind of white noise as you go about some other personal business. In short, you can get things done rather than become increasingly frustrated that you're stuck by the phone accomplishing nothing. But you have to prepare and anticipate. This wait is not going to be a pleasurable experience. It's a means to an end, hopefully a rewarding one, but hardly one that's guaranteed.

If you can only talk yourself into realizing how good you'll feel once this phone task is completed. Rolaids has nothing on the relief you'll feel when you're finished with this day's work (almost literally). Moreover, knowing you don't have to call them back tomorrow is nearly motivation enough. Crossing this task off your to-do list free's up not only time but mental space, as well. It's almost as if you've given your life back, at least for a few hours, anyway.

As I sit and continue to write this column, it is 38 minutes since I began this exercise in time utilization. And it's just now happened, a representative from the Social Security Administration has just interrupted the music loop and offered their assistance. Let me get my bearings and organize my thoughts so I'm clear in what I'm saying. I don't want to have to make this call again. I already have once before. I have called previously and after telling my tale, was put on hold while the operator researched my claim only to be disconnected when the operator returned to address my question. But this time, there was no disconnect. I received my answer in a reasonably timely manner and off I now go into the rest of my day. Next up: the IRS. Do I dare test my limits and call them on the same day as I called Social Security or do I reward myself and take a well-deserved break? Either way, it's one down and one to go. I think I'll call tomorrow. I don't feel like testing my patience yet again, and besides, I'm finished with this real-time column.

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

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FROM PAGE 9

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

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

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