

HOMELIFESTYLE

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Teacher Naomi with her new bike. Madison High student Sophia Brown says one of the most impactful moments of her trip to Tanzania was giving a bike to a teacher named Naomi, who travels miles everyday to teach more than 75 kids at the school.

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FCPS Priority One: Get Eligible Students Vaccinated

Expansion of school COVID-19 vaccination clinics underway.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The level of community transmission of COVID-19 in Fairfax County is increasing again. It entered the “substantial” category, the second to the highest level on Tuesday, Aug. 2, following an upward trend reported by the CDC. The same week, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) continued vaccinating eligible students at school-based clinics under a public-private partnership.

During a media event on Wednesday, Aug. 3, while visiting one of the clinics, Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand announced that FCPS wants to be ready to roll to get eligible children vaccinated during the school day with parent permission. There are 83,000 students under the age of 12 entering school buildings for in-person learning on Aug. 23, according to Brabrand. Because of their ages, the students are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Fairfax County Public Schools, in partnership with the County’s Health Department, hosted free school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics for adolescents 12 years of age and older at three school clinic sites, Herndon Elementary on Wednesday, Aug. 4, Justice High School in Falls Church on Thursday, Aug. 5, and Liberty Middle School in Clifton on Friday, Aug. 6.

ON WEDNESDAY, Brabrand visited Herndon Elementary School to see firsthand the public health initiative underway. According to Brabrand, the division finished the last school year, getting almost 5,000 students their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. The division plans to have additional clinics up running this fall under a public-private partnership.

“[Currently], we are at 75 percent in Fairfax County Public Schools of 12 to 17-year-olds to have their first dose. Now, we want to get that number even higher, so we have school vaccination clinics this week at multiple schools, and we want to continue,” Brabrand said.

“The solution to this pandemic, to make sure all schools return in this county five days in person, is the vaccination of all of our eligible students. Right now, it’s all of our 12-years-olds and up. We are preparing and working very closely to have more school vaccination clinics this fall at, at least 40 locations,” Brabrand added.

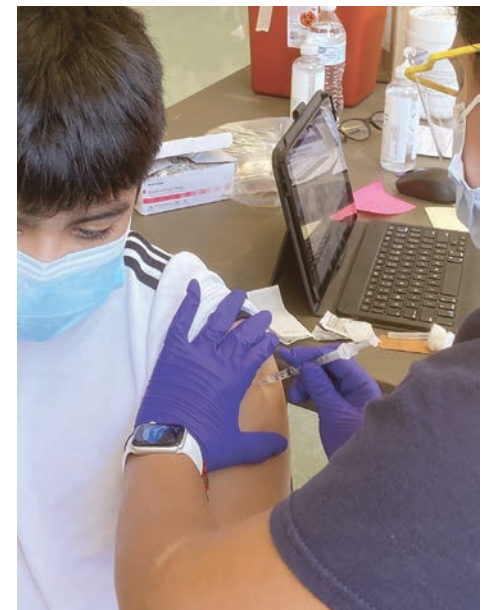
According to Brabrand, as the eligibility age for vaccination goes lower and lower, the division will be able to vaccinate thousands more children “to have a year that is as close to normal as possible.”

“Vaccination is part of the solution,” said Brabrand.

Students accompanied by their parents

(From left) Renee Gorman, Kimberlin Jimenez, 13, Scott Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, Hansel Molina, and Jeimmy Molina take a congratulatory photo after Kimberlin and Jeimmy receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

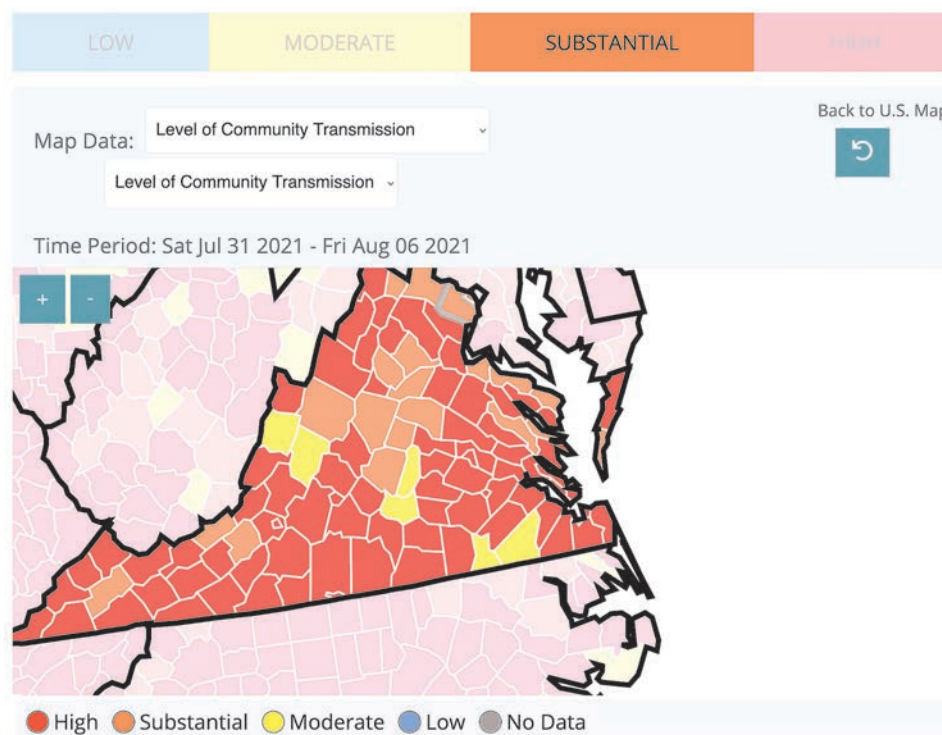
PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, a Fairfax County student receives his COVID-19 vaccine at a school vaccination site.

Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia



The Level of Community Transmission in Fairfax County, Virginia escalates into ‘substantial.’

and guardians continued to enter the school to take advantage of the COVID-19 vaccine opportunity. Maycoll (last name withheld), 12, sat in the large room with others in the process of getting their vaccination. Maycoll said he would be attending Herndon Middle School in a couple of weeks. After receiving his immunization, Maycoll said, “It didn’t hurt, just a little pinch. I relaxed my arm.”

Rising freshman at Herndon High School, Kimberley Jimenez, 13, of Herndon, was about to exit the school clinic after receiving her vaccine. “I feel safe now because I got the vaccine [but], I will leave my mask on because others may not be vaccinated, and this is my first dose.”

According to Brabrand, like many other

schools in Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools is starting the school year 2021-22 with universal masking to counteract the Delta variant and reassure staff, students, parents, and the community that the division is committed to safe learning in school buildings.

BRABRAND said FCPS wanted to be very clear about social distancing. “Ninety-nine point five percent of our students are returning in person. Social distancing is not going to be possible in all of our schools and classrooms, and we’re not going to build a false expectation to our community.” He said where schools and classrooms could have additional capacity and additional distancing; social distancing would be possible.

Instead, schools are focused on layered mitigation strategies in line with the CDC—universal masking, upgrades to ventilation systems, and continued sanitation and hygiene efforts practiced well.

In addition, there would be professional monitoring sourced outside of FCPS. “We’ll continue to have safety teams coming in, an outside company similar to the one that Loudon County used, to continue to make sure that our staff is following all the safety procedures to keep schools safe,” said Brabrand.

He added that contact tracing would continue to be done because “the more contact tracing support we have, the quicker we can turn around having kids who may be paused at home, so they can get back in the classroom.”

Brabrand said to make immunization of their children easy for parents and guardians who give their permission; it will be provided within the confines of the school day, even for the youngest children. “So, we’re super excited about that. We really want to model for the rest of the country, vaccinate. We need to move away from the battles. Everybody needs to have kids back in school. Once they’re back in school, we’ve got to make it seamless and easy to get everyone vaccinated, including our students and including our youngest students in elementary school.”

According to Brabrand, FCPS is working on a protocol where parents can give permission and not physically be present with their children when the vaccine is given in school. However, FCPS knows some parents will want to be there, and they are working out the details.

Jeimmy Molina, 13, on her way to Herndon Middle School, received her vaccination. In an interview, Jeimmy answered what she would tell those with vaccine hesitancy. “To my friends and family, I’d say that I did it, and I encourage you to do it too.”

Spending Spree

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

In the 1985 hit movie “Brewster’s Millions,” Richard Pryor is given the task of spending \$30 million in 30 days. Hijinks ensue. In some ways, that’s also the plot of the General Assembly session this week. But the stakes are bigger, and the jokes aren’t as funny.

Lawmakers are working their way through appropriating \$4.3 billion of stimulus cash from the American Rescue Plan. Most of the money was already earmarked

before lawmakers arrived in town as Gov. Ralph Northam made a series of announcements outlining his priorities. Each of those announcements indicated a tacit agreement between House Democrats and Senate Democrats and the governor’s office.

The biggest item on the list of spending items is a huge infusion of cash into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, pumping \$862 million into the fund in an effort to prevent tax increases on businesses in 2022. Because the trust fund is usually replenished by taxes levied on business, they would have been on the hook for restoring it. But the infusion of cash from Uncle Sam means taxes won’t go up for business owners.

“Shoring up the commonwealth’s unemployment insurance trust fund is a smart investment that will prevent Virginia businesses from paying higher taxes and allow our economy to continue surging,” said Northam in a written statement announcing the proposal. “Together with the General Assembly, we are taking important steps to ensure Virginia remains a place where businesses, workers, and families can all thrive.”

THE PROPOSAL was viewed by some critics as a gift to big business at a time when many people are struggling to make ends meet, yet another sign of how the new Democratic majority in the House and Senate are often business friendly to the detriment of working families. Some people said the dollar amount set aside to help business owners next year could have been better spent by helping people in need now.

“That’s the kind of thing that we think should be balanced against some of the immediate needs,” said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. “There are trade-offs involved and there are differences in terms of timing of when certain benefits would really affect whoever would be impacted by the proposal.”

Lawmakers are also spending \$700 million to expand access to broadband internet; \$312



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Senate Finance and Appropriations Chairwoman Janet Howell oversaw the massive spending bill in the Senate, where senators appropriated more than \$4 billion in federal stimulus money.

“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never easy.”

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32),
chairwoman of the Senate
Finance and Appropriations Committee

million to improve HVAC systems in public schools; \$250 million for Rebuild Virginia grants to help small businesses; \$125 million to modernize sewer systems that dump raw sewage into rivers and streams (including the one in Alexandria); \$20 million for bonuses to law enforcement officers; \$10 million for food banks; and \$10 million for substance abuse treatment services.

“With so many competing interests, the balancing act is never easy,” said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who is chairwoman of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

The appropriations bill also allows lawmakers an opportunity to set some new policies as budget language, creating a new requirement for landlords to apply for rental assistance from the Virginia Rent Relief Program before evicting anyone. Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) tried to create an exemption for small-scale landlords who have a handful of properties. When asked about his budget amendment, Petersen said landlords should not be forced to apply for rental assistance.

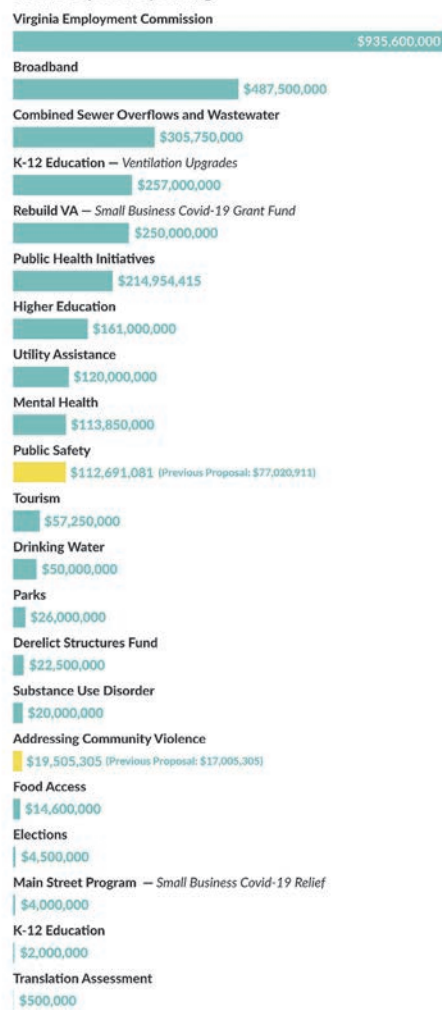
“You seem to think that applying to the federal government is no fuss no muss, and they’ll just open up your application and write you a check that day. It doesn’t work that way,” said Petersen. “The landlord oftentimes wants the property back because you’re dealing with a situation where you have someone who’s not paying rent. That’s not a healthy situation if you’re a landlord.”

Most Democrats don’t share that view.

“This should not be used as an opportunity to get rid of anyone,” said Del. Cia Price (D-95). “Get your money, and then let’s move forward.”

General Assembly returns to Richmond to appropriate federal stimulus cash.

FY22 Proposed Spending



REPUBLICANS tried and failed to make several amendments to the spending plan, offering a number of potential changes as the spending bills moved through the House and Senate. One of the Republican amendments was introduced by Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), who is also on the ballot for attorney general this fall. He introduced a budget amendment that would have given the attorney general authority to prosecute straw purchases of firearms.

“If you want to lower gun violence in Virginia, where well north of 80 percent of crime is done by repeat offenders, you get the repeat offenders off the streets,” said Miyares. “You go after those who are trying to traffic and buy guns illegally and you put them behind bars and off our streets.”

That amendment, along with every other proposal from House Republicans, was defeated by the Democratic majority. Many Democrats said that it was noteworthy that Miyares voted against all the gun-violence prevention measures last year but now wants to use the special session to crack down on straw purchases. Some questioned the need for creating new authority for the attorney general and the timing of the proposal.

“If Delegate Miyares wants to use the budget and this session as an opportunity to film a campaign commercial, it’s certainly his prerogative. He wouldn’t be the first one to do it,” said Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). “As far as I know this has not been an issue that is under-prosecuted or people get away with anything here.”

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HOME LIFESTYLE



PHOTO CREDIT GREGORY S. MANALO
A cozy throw can add an element of warmth to an interior space



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER
The warm colors in this room by Anne Walker evoke visions of autumn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER
Candles in hurricane lanterns such as these by Farm and Feast are a simple way to transition home accessories from summer to fall.

Design Ideas to Welcome Fall

Small changes in home accessories can transform a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALLIE LORD

Designer Sallie Lord says the approach of Autumn is time to reorganize an office space to prepare for a new school year.

one, said Sherry Hope-Kennedy of Studio SHK. “Keep the main area more neutral while having more fun with private areas.”

Seasonal blossoms in colors that herald the start of fall can add an air of chic serenity to any interior space. “Fresh flowers will always be in style, said Walker. “Like real candlelight, fresh flowers are a low-cost way to bring real joy into your home.”

A wooden drink tray not only conjures up woody images of autumn, but it’s versatile, functional and can be used year round, particularly as school begins. “Filled with flower vases, it can be a casual-chic centerpiece on your dining table, or you can use it to carry barware or beverages to your guests,” said Walker. “In your mudroom, it could hold keys, phones and other things you need to drop in a central location.

“The [metal bin] has an outdoorsy, cool vibe with industrial chic décor,” continued Walker. “Use [them] to corral office supplies on your desk, to hold television remote controls in your family room, or to serve snacks when you entertain. Fill them with rolled-up towels near your mudroom or guest room. Fill them with plants to make an herb garden on your patio. The possibilities are endless.”

Whether one hour or one month, spending time on a home refresh is worth the effort, says Chantilly designer Sallie Lord of GHI Team. “This is a great time for a purge to clean out the desk drawers to prepare for a new school year ahead,” she said. “We love a well organized space that you can walk in and feel the design and the function.”

When it comes to interior design, attention to even the smallest of details took on new importance over the past year. Spending more time indoors has allowed us to experience the ways in which minor embellishments can have a major impact on the mood and feel of a room. From throw pillows in a living room to doormats in a mud room, local designers unveil accessories that can help one transition from summer to autumn while maintaining serenity and style. “Don’t look at this as a major undertaking or you’ll be overwhelmed,” said Alexandria interior designer Allison Bohlke. “It doesn’t have to be time consuming. As the weather begins to cool down, take an hour to look around your house for places where you remove things that scream summer and swap them out for cozy alternatives.”

“I created a blue and white nautical theme in my family room for summer,” continued Bohlke. “In a month or so, I will put away my linen throw pillows and cotton throws and bring out my cashmere throws and wool throw pillows in warm camel and rich cream for a cozy look.”

One of the easiest ways to transition home decor from summer to fall is to add candlelight, advises Potomac interior designer Anne Walker of Anne Walker Interiors Design. “There’s something about the warm glow of real candlelight that just can’t be replaced. It’s an instant mood lifter,” she said. “Hurricane lanterns come in several sizes and in beautiful smoked glass or clear glass. We use six in assorted sizes on our patio all year round, and they never get old.”

Kitchens and bathrooms can serve as a backdrop for cool weather inspiration. “If you’ve been using white hand towels and kitchen towels, try getting versions in bold colors or monogrammed hand towels using thread in warm, jewel tones,” said Bohlke.

In fact, the power of color should not be underestimated. “Use color so that the spaces appeal to every-

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(From left) Fairfax County/Fairfax City Sheriff Stacey Ann Kincaid, former Virginia Governor (2014-2018) and Democratic nominee for Governor Terry McAuliffe, PFC Tiburcio, and PFC Payne take a few moments together at National Night Out 2021 held in the Timberly neighborhood of McLean. Organizer Leslie Mason is seen behind.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

McLean Neighborhood Hosts National Night Out

Block party at Timberly Neighborhood fosters police-community partnerships and rediscovers neighborhood camaraderie.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Residents and friends of the Timberly neighborhood in McLean took part in a block party with visits by Captain Dalton Becker, commander of McLean District Station Fairfax County Police Department and his officers, and Fairfax County/Fairfax City Sheriff Stacey Ann Kincaid and her deputies for National Night Out (NNO) 2021. The Timberly Neighborhood was one of three registered National Night Out campaigns in McLean and one of 140 held across Fairfax County Tuesday, Aug. 3.

According to Becker, he and others from the McLean District Station enjoyed visiting the Timberly Neighborhood, the Armistead Park Neighborhood, and the Halstead at the Metro during National Night Out 2021. Becker said that they have the event marked in their calendars every year. “We enjoy the opportunities to connect with our community members throughout the McLean Police District and this year was no different.”

Timberly Neighborhood organizers Leslie Mason and Jeff Crosby welcomed Captain Becker and the station’s officers and Sheriff Kincaid and her deputies to the celebration. Sheriff Kincaid said they had a wonderful evening celebrating National Night Out with community members and the public safety team.

“This event gave us the opportunity for great conversations with adults and children that we may not have met before. It was also a chance for us to share what public safety is doing and learn how we can best serve the neighborhood,” said Sheriff Kincaid.

Officers and deputies visited between calls but remained prepared to respond in a heartbeat if needed. Fairfax County firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics stopped by with their fire engine and rescue vehicle, a special treat for youth who enjoyed a seat up front at the wheel.

The interaction proved important to the Hodson family. “We just moved in two weeks ago. We wanted to come out and support the police, firefighters, and first responders for all they’ve done during the pan-



(From left) PFC Payne watches as Kristen Hodson shows her daughter an item on Private First Class Shifflett’s uniform during National Night Out at the Timberly neighborhood in McLean.

demic,” said Kristen Hodson.

First responders, neighbors, and local elected officials rediscovered the joy of in-person conversations for many, the first since the COVID pandemic isolated them. The elected officials mingled with their neighbors and chatted with police, deputies, and first responders, appreciative of their efforts to keep the neighborhood a safe, caring place to live.

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D) stopped by too, as did former Virginia Governor (2014-2018) Terry McAuliffe, the Democratic nominee for the state’s gubernatorial election on Nov. 2.

“The Board of Supervisors proclaimed Aug. 3 as National Night Out in the county. It’s a great opportunity for residents to participate in an important crime prevention program and to show our respect and appreciation for the police officers who serve us. It is also a great community-building event and a lot of fun for those who participate, especially the kids,” said Foust.

With McGruff the Crime Dog facing forward, Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, hands Kevin Davis Chief of Police Fairfax County Police Department, the Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County proclaiming Tuesday, Aug. 3, National Night Out.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



Supervisors Proclaim Aug. 3 National Night Out

Proclamation celebrates neighborhood spirit and cooperation among residents and police.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

National Night Out is a time to celebrate, whether the clock that day says noon or 8 p.m. It is a time to have community fun, to say thank you to law enforcement officers, and get more involved in the community. That is how, according to Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (D- At large), Fairfax County remains the safest jurisdiction of its size.

Shortly after noon on Tuesday, Aug. 3, McKay welcomed all to the first National Night Out 2021 event in the county at Hunters Woods Plaza in Reston. “We’re all excited to be out here and to be able to celebrate community and our partnership with law enforcement,” said McKay. In his hands, McKay held a walnut finish certificate plaque with a proclamation. McKay said that the Fairfax County Police Department sponsored National Night Out 2021 to promote the importance of community-police partnerships, neighborhood safety, public awareness of crime prevention programs and that the longest sustained Neighborhood Watch Program in the nation was located in Fairfax County.

“Be it resolved that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does hereby proclaim Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, as National Night Out,” said McKay. Signed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors but adopted by the entire board.

Before presenting the plaque to Kevin Davis, Chief of Police

Fairfax County Police Department, McKay said how inspiring it was after what everyone had been through, to see the county’s young people at camp “laughing, enjoying each other, having a good time, the way we’re supposed to be.”

McKay reminded people how important it was to get vaccinated. He said, “If you do it for no one else, do it for our front-line workers, our first responders, and our small children... They are not eligible to be vaccinated yet.”

McKay added he was so proud of the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Sheriff’s Office, and the first responder community. “You’ve heard the statistics, you know, we’re the safest community of our size, anywhere in the United States of America and that is in large part because of the men and women in our department, but also because of our community...National Night Out celebrates something we do really well in Fairfax County, but something that we always want to build on, which is community relationships with law enforcement and our residents,” said McKay.

Chief Davis thanked Chairman McKay for his “constant support” of the police department. “One staggering statistic that I just can’t get out of my head is the fact that in our 400 plus square miles here, there are over 140 National Night Out events, just today... And that says it all. It says the relationship between the community and its police departments, while not perfect, we’re always looking to improve it and make it stronger.”



The group outside the schoolhouse after decorating the door and window frames.



Sophia with her mom Kelly Wolfe and her mentor Dixie Duncan.



Teacher Naomi with her new bike.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

One Book and Bike at a Time

Madison High student donation drive making a difference for the Tanzanian community.

Inside a school in northeast Tanzania, dozens of children sat on wooden benches, with their feet on a dirt floor and four mud walls surrounding them. There wasn't a drop of color anywhere. Everything was brown. When Madison High School rising junior Sophia Brown saw this on her recent trip, she was determined to bring some color to this classroom. She helped as each student dipped their hand in paint, then carefully placed it on the door, leaving a lasting handprint in bright blue, red, orange, or green. Inside the one-room schoolhouse, a new mural of sea creatures added another splash of color. But the most exciting addition to the school sat in the corner: a brand new library with dozens of books.

It's a project years in the making. Sophia grew up around volunteer work and community service, but she's always been particularly drawn to helping kids in Africa. In second grade, she began working with the non-profit Wheels to Africa, which provides used bikes to communities in need. At just 14 years old, she collected more than 1,000 books to help create a library in the African country of Malawi. Now, Sophia is working toward the highest honor in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award, through her project "Books and Bikes For Africa."

"I was thinking about what are two of the most dire needs in society? Transportation and education," Sophia said. "Books are one of the biggest necessities of education. And without access to cars, another option is bikes. It's more affordable and can help you get places way faster."



Teacher Naomi with her new bike.

SOPHIA spent the last year planning her trip to Tanzania, which was made even more difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Every Saturday morning, she had a planning call with her project mentor Dixie Duncan, who is the founder of Wheels to Africa. Together, along with Sophia's mom Kelly Wolfe, they worked for months to gather donations. Sophia used social media to spread the word about her project. Pretty soon, the books were pouring in. They also held a bike drive at Madison in May and collected around 50 bikes.

In June, the trio traveled to Tanzania to visit a Maasai village located not far from the tourist area of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This remote region is known for its wildlife and

tribal traditions, but the Maasai people experience devastating poverty, and struggle daily with access to education, food, and clean water.

"They walk everywhere," Sophia said. "The kids walk miles upon miles every single day to get to school, and the teachers as well. A bike could cut that time in half. And make it easier to get to school. To get food. To get every single thing you need in life."

Due to shipping difficulties, the bikes Sophia collected in May did not make it to Africa in time for their trip. So they improvised; they bought used bikes in Africa with donation money, then transported the bikes to the Maasai village.

"Their jaws drop at the sight of a bike," she said. "It changes lives entirely."

Sophia says one of the most impactful moments was giving a bike to a teacher named Naomi, who travels miles everyday to teach more than 75 kids at the school. The gift brought tears to Naomi's eyes.

"She was so grateful," Duncan said. "It's people like her that inspire you to do whatever it takes."

Sophia says one of her favorite experiences of the trip was watching the kids react to the colorful new books now stocked in their classroom library. The books are in English,

which serves as a valuable learning tool for these children. Learning English is an integral part of the education in the region, because many aim to work in the tourism industry surrounding Mt. Kilimanjaro.

ON THE TRIP, Sophia also spoke to middle school age girls about female health issues, and taught them how to use reusable menstrual pads. She says one of the biggest take-aways from her trip is to take nothing for granted.

"Being in this community where we're so fortunate, we don't really realize how much people are in need," Sophia said. "I want to continue to spread awareness, and make this bigger and bigger, so more people know about it."

Sophia says she plans to hold another bike drive and wants to go to Africa again next summer. She says she couldn't have done the project without her supporters at FCPS and Madison. She is especially grateful to School Board Member Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District, who has donated to the cause and supported Sophia along the way.

To find out more about Wheels to Africa, visit their website. To find out more about 'Books and Bikes for Africa', visit their Instagram page.

This road in Kingstowne has been milled and awaits asphalt.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



The crews here are scraping the old pavement up, and sending it back to the plant where it gets remixed as recycled asphalt.

Paving and Warm Weather are in Tandem This Year

There is a map and system to where the paving goes. VDOT said. For example,

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

August is hot, and the drivers trying to get back to a normal routine have probably hit a pothole or two out on the roads, but VDOT is out there with the paving crews, putting down pavement on 1,145 lane miles throughout the paving season, which goes until November. There is \$133.8 million in the VDOT Northern Virginia budget to make that happen too.

In Northern Virginia, there is a wide assortment of roads to address so the VDOT uses a paving condition website with a multi-colored map that determines the level of need for each area. Blue stands for roads that are currently in excellent condition, and this

dominates the roads in Fairfax County closest to the Capital Beltway. The next most common color is red roads, which is labeled as “very poor,” and this seems to dominate the roads away from the beltway, but as the season goes on, those areas will become blue.

For example, the Fairfax County Parkway and the Springfield-Franconia Parkway are mostly light green, defined as “good,” while the neighborhoods in southern Springfield are red. Further north, a section between Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike is all blue, where the pavers must have hit earlier this summer, while there is lots of red in the neighborhoods north of Route 50.

VDOT negotiates with paving companies in the winter, and paving contracts start in the spring and go until late fall. The time of day for paving is dictated by traffic volumes,

interstate paving is frequently overnight due to lower volumes. For neighborhood streets, paving operations are generally during the day between and outside of rush hours, VDOT said.

The paving operation basically follows a pattern. Tear the old pavement up, load into a dump truck, grade the surface, and put the new pavement down.

The asphalt removed from roadway surfaces can be recycled. Typically, this comprises about 30 percent of the new hot mix but in some cases this can be 100 percent in a relatively new process that is called cold central plant mix recycling.

The asphalt “millings” are brought back to the asphalt plants where they are stored, processed and incorporated back into new asphalt mixes. Although each plant has different ways of processing their materials

and different proprietary asphalt mix designs, the procedure is basically the same for all the asphalt producers in Virginia.

Bad road surfaces can also be reported to VDOT or the district supervisor and the road in question will be analyzed for repaving. Online, the site is known as the “VDOT customer service center,” and everything from road repairs, signs down or something removed from the road like a dead deer are things that can be reported here. Even a compliment to VDOT can be made through this site.

There is a reminder that “VDOT does not maintain roads in cities, towns, or in Henrico and Arlington counties, except for interstates and major primary roads. VDOT does not maintain all sidewalks, or pedestrian or bike paths. Some may be maintained by localities. Please submit a separate report for each request,” it says.

County’s Level of Transmission: Substantial

Protect yourself and those around you; updated recommendations for school and more.

Following a recent increase of cases, Fairfax County has been elevated to a state of “substantial COVID-19 community transmission” for the first time since early May.

“After a careful look at the data, our Health Department determined that per CDC guidance we have unfortunately reached a ‘substantial’ level of COVID-19 transmission,” said Chairman Jeff McKay in a message to Fairfax County residents. “We are thus recommending that everyone, including individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19, wear a mask in public indoor settings.”

The number of COVID cases has continued to increase with the spread of the Delta variant, McKay said. Most cases involve people who are not vaccinated, and there are few hospitalizations or deaths of people who are fully vaccinated.

“With this all said, in addition to masking, it is incredibly important that you get vaccinated if you have not,” McKay said. “If you want schools to reopen and give our kids (many are not yet eligible to be vaccinated) a fighting chance at protection, you will need to get vaccinated for them. Please, I urge that you schedule your vaccine appointment now.” <https://www.vaccines.gov/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their K-12 school

mask recommendations in response to emerging data about the Delta variant. The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to all schools.

This week, the CDC has updated guidance about precautions to take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. The CDC has updated information for fully vaccinated people given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant currently circulating. The CDC has added a recommendation for fully vaccinated people, as well as unvaccinated people, to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission, which includes Fairfax County, as well as the City of Alexandria and Arlington.

Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, the CDC says, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

Fully vaccinated people who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Other recommendations: choose outdoor gatherings over indoor gatherings, stay home and get tested when symptomatic or exposed; wear a mask over your nose and mouth in public indoor settings, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others, and wash your hands.

Because Fairfax County is currently in a state of substantial transmission, everyone, regardless of vaccination status, should wear a mask in public indoor settings. The CDC also recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to all schools.

On Aug. 3, the five Northern Virginia Health Directors issued a joint letter from the Health Directors of Fairfax County, as well as the City of Alexandria, and Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties to Northern Virginia Mayors, Chairs and Chief Administrative Officers with the recommendation that individuals wear masks while indoors in government and other public settings, regardless of vaccination status. The recommendation follows the jurisdictions’ recent upward trend in average number of daily cases and being categorized as communities of substantial transmission. Prince William County is now in the “HIGH” transmission category.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Reston Woman Killed. McLean Man Injured in a Car Crash

Virginia State Police are investigating a two-vehicle crash in Fairfax County. The crash occurred Aug. 7, 2021 at 6:59 a.m. on Interstate 95 in the Express Lanes at the 169 mile marker.

A 2016 BMW 228i was traveling south in the I-95 Express Lanes when it ran off the left side of the interstate and made an illegal U-turn in the shoulder. Based on witness accounts, the BMW then stopped on the southbound shoulder facing north. The northbound BMW then pulled into the southbound Express Lanes and struck head-on a southbound 2020 BMW 540i. The impact of the crash caused the 2016 BMW to spin around and strike the Jersey wall. Meanwhile, the 2020 BMW overturned and came to rest on the right shoulder.

The driver of the 2016 BMW, Stephanie D. Garcia, 29, of Reston, Va., was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the car. She was transported to Fairfax Inova Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries the next day, Aug. 8, 2021.

The driver of the 2020 BMW, Adrian K. Lund, 72, of McLean, Va., was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment of serious injuries. Lund was wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



The Boro outdoor location for the 2021 1st Stage "Logan Festival of Solo Performance."

Celebrating Solo Artistry

1st Stage presents outdoor "Logan Festival of Solo Performance" at Tysons The Boro.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Since 2017, 1st Stage's annual Logan Festival of Solo Performance has been a singular presence in Northern Virginia.

The Logan Festival's mission is clear. "I really wanted to share with our audience how beautiful the work being done around the country is," said 1st Stage Artistic Director Alex Levy. This year's Logan Festival, curated by Levy, will be no exception. What's more, the outdoor 2021 Festival with its Boro location in Tysons is a collaboration between 1st Stage and The Boro at Tysons.

The Logan Festival began with the support from the Riva & David Logan Festival.

From Aug. 21 to Aug. 29, 1st Stage will present "Making Opera Soup," written by and starring award-winning singer Lori Brown Mirabal. The show is directed by Vincent Scott, with Steven Gross on piano. This production will be an en-



Alex Levy, Artistic Director, 1st Stage

gaging, interactive family programming aimed at all ages. Mirabal aims to bring an entertaining spotlight to the excitement, magic and fun of opera.

Mirabal will also have two performances of "Charmed Life" on Aug. 27 and 28 written and performed by Mirabal with direction by Vincent Scott and Steve Gross on piano. This is an autobiographical solo performance that weaves together Mirabal's own story, and pays homage to famous opera artists who have gone before, and specifically to the Black women opera singers of the past.

"Bo-Nita" takes the outdoor Boro stage from Sept. 16 to Sept. 26. "Bo-Nita" is written by Elizabeth Heffron, directed by Summer Wallace, and stars Terri Weagant. Weagant plays dozens of characters with humor, pathos, and a dash of Midwestern magical realism. "Bo-Nita" follows a mother and daughter's journey through a working-class America. They have dwindling resources and work together to stay together. All while keeping their beat alive.

From Oct. 7 to Oct. 17, 1st

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 11

Where and When

1st Stage presents the 2021 "Logan Festival of Solo Performance." The Festival will be an outdoor event; a collaboration between 1st Stage and the new mixed-use development The Boro, 8350 Broad Street, Tysons, located just blocks from 1st Stage venue at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. The Festival runs Aug. 21 to Oct. 17, 2021. The outdoor festival at The Boro will feature lawn seating of up to 100 people per performance. Detailed information and tickets at www.1ststage.org or 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856. Note: 1st Stage will be following CDC, State and Fairfax County health and safety requirements.

Performances for each show of "The Logan Festival of Solo Performances":

- ❖ "Making Opera Soup": Aug 21-22, 28-29. Sat., Aug. 21, Sun., Aug 22 and Sun, Aug 29 at 11 a.m. with Sat., Aug 28 at 3 p.m.
- ❖ "Charmed Life": Sat., Aug. 27 & Sun., Aug 28 at 8 p.m.
- ❖ "Bo-Nita": Sept. 16-19, 22-26 at 8 p.m.
- ❖ "The Book of Mamaw": Oct. 7-10, 14-17. Thurs & Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m.

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VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from July 30 – Aug. 5, 2021.

INCIDENTS

Fraud -- Navy Federal Credit Union
820 Follin Lane, SE
Between July 4 at 12:01 a.m. and July 5 at 12:01 a.m.

A citizen reported fraudulent activity on her bank account.

Fraud -- Locust Street, SE
July 16, 12 a.m.

A resident reported that someone made an unauthorized purchase on one of his accounts.

Petit Larceny -- Westwood Country Club

800 Maple Avenue, East
July 18 between 5:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

A citizen reported that he parked his vehicle in the country club parking lot with the windows open. When he returned to his vehicle, he found someone had stolen the U.S. currency that he had left on the seat.

Arrest -- Sexual Assault -- Vienna Green Spa

111 Church Street, NW

July 18 between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

A citizen reported that she was assaulted by a massage therapist during a massage. On July 29, officers executed a search warrant at the Vienna Green Spa. Concurrent with the search warrant, Sgt. Sheeran arrested a 51-year-old man from Swift Current Court in Burke, and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. The man was charged with Sexual Assault and Performing a Massage without a Town Permit. The man was held without bond.

Petit Larceny -- 1100 Block Ware Street, SW

Between July 26 at 11 p.m. and July 27 at 6 a.m.

A resident reported that someone stole prescription sunglasses from his unlocked vehicle.

Fraud -- 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE
July 30, 3:03 p.m.

A resident reported that she began corresponding online with a man she met through social media. The man wanted to ship a package to the resident from overseas but advised she would need to assist him by making a payment for the shipment. After making the initial payment, the resident was advised that additional money would be required for the package to clear customs.

Arrest -- Driving While Intoxicated -- 300 Block Maple Avenue, West
July 30, 8:35 p.m.

A citizen reported an erratic driver who was southbound on Beulah Road. An officer responding to the call observed the vehicle on Maple Avenue. The officer observed the driver commit multiple traffic violations and initiated a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver, the officer detected signs of impairment. The driver failed to complete a series of field sobriety tests and was placed under arrest. Sgt. Slebomick transported the 30-year-old man from Colgate Way in Silver Spring, Md. to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. The man was given an opportunity to provide a sample of his breath for analysis, but he refused. The man was charged with Driving While Intoxicated, Refusal To Submit to a Breath Test, and Driving Without a License.

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CALENDAR

AUG. 12-SEPT. 5

"An Act of God." At NextStop Theatre Company in Herndon, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The season opens with "An Act of God," a funny comedy in which God, along with his two "wingmen," answer some of the most pressing questions that have plagued mankind since Creation. By David Javerbaum and directed by Tuyet Pham. Season subscriptions are available by calling the NextStop Box Office at 703-481-5930x0 or by visiting www.nextstoptheatre.org.



NextStop Theatre presents "An Act of God" from Aug. 12-Sept. 5, 2021 in Herndon.

family music is all about fun, movement and laughter! Singer-songwriter Jon Lewis had a decade of playing shows in coffee houses, recording CDs and television appearances. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) before leaving home for inclement weather updates.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Hillbilly Gypsies. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. The Hillbilly Gypsies perform their own brand of old-time bluegrass and original mountain music at the Braddock Nights Concerts Series. The group has been pickin' 'n' grinnin' for 20 years, and their high-energy live performances have become a crowd favorite at major festivals, fairs and concert venues across the mid-Atlantic region and abroad. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) for inclement weather updates.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Schedule

Aug 13 -- It's All Good;
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;
Sept 10 -- keeton + 8 Track Jones;
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Bricks by the Lake Event. 3-5 p.m. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum is hosting the first annual Bricks by the Lake event. The community is invited to Lake Anne Plaza to create Lego creations based on the themes of live, work, play and memories. Attendees enjoying the day can view the Lego builds being created on the plaza as well as a Master Build creation inside Reston Community Center's Jo Ann Rose Gallery. Awards will be given for each age bracket. For more information, visit: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks-by-the-lake>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

Mr. Jon & Friends. 10 a.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. A Parents' Choice Award-winning music for kids and their families. This energetic

AUG. 14-29

At Water's Edge. 12-5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Sandra Dovberg's show of paintings and Cnidarian wall sculptures is a unique focus on where land meets water. Open on weekends through August 29. The show is open on weekends through August 14-15, 21-22, and 28-29. Meet the artist. She'll be in the gallery from 2 - 4 p.m. on August 14, 21, and 29. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 15

Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, behind the Old Brogue, Great Falls. Featuring Hit or Miss. Sponsored by Bic DeCaro & Associates.

AUG. 18-22

Tyson's Library Booksale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tysons Library Book and Media Sale. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Proceeds benefit the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library and related activities. Visit the website: <https://booksalefinder.com/VA.html#X2291>

WOLF TRAP PERFORMANCES

At Wolf Trap Farm Park, McLean.
August 11 – Pink Martini featuring China Forbes
August 19 – Train with special guest Vertical Horizon
August 20 – Harry Connick Jr. and his Band
August 22 – Yacht Rock Revue

Logan Festival of Solo Performance

FROM PAGE 9

Stage will present the heartwarming "The Book of Mamaw" written and performed by Eugene Wolf. Susanne Boule directs. The one-actor-show is full of story-telling and music as it chronicles Wolf's life growing up with his devout Church of Christ grandmother who recognized his

love of performing when Wolf was at a very early age. Wolf has turned many of his unorthodox Appalachian childhood stories into a celebration of family and how music can be the tie that binds.

Get ready to enjoy the expanded, re-imagined, delightful outdoor 1st Stage "Logan Festival of Solo Performance" at The Boro in Tysons.

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Sole Survivor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's been nearly three weeks since "the burning," and I'm here to say - while sitting down with my left foot elevated, that I am approximately 75% the man I used to be pre-July 17 around 2 pm central standard time. I can now walk, mostly on my right foot, but always with the help and security of my new best friend: the walker. I am no longer housebound or bedridden. Though I still cannot drive for fear of ripping off the brand new skin which has appeared on the balls of my feet (especially the progress on my right/driving foot), healing from the inside out; I am free however to be a passenger, and load myself onto the backseat of our SUV and extend my legs across the entire seat to minimize any discomfort. The pain is very manageable, but on occasion I have taken a few of the percocets that had been prescribed for pain. The relief was hardly immediate and the pill size was moderate so I don't see myself getting addicted (percocet is OxyContin). In fact, the size pill I was prescribed barely dulled the pain; most of which has subsided anyway. (And when I was in severe pain in Texas, the physician's assistant prescribed tylenol with codeine. It did nothing. It wasn't even worth the co-pay. Perhaps a physician's assistant, without a doctor present, couldn't prescribe a narcotic, especially one that has addictive qualities. Presumably, it was for my own protection. At that point however, I didn't need protection. I needed pain relief.)

After seeing a physician's assistant in Galveston, an Emergency Room doctor in Gaithersburg, two Podiatrists in Kensington and my Internal Medicine doctor in Silver Spring, I have been set free-ish. None of these doctors felt the need to see me again. The healing of my feet has progressed far enough that the threat of infection has passed so I am now on my own, sort of. I (my wife, Dina, actually) am to continue dressing my wounds for one to two weeks (depending on which foot) and use our own judgment about when to discontinue the treatment. It appears as if I have survived the ordeal, mostly.

And though there were times at the beginning when the pain was excruciating, and times in the middle when the pain was bearable; at the end, in a week or two, I will be forever grateful that my condition did not deteriorate due to infection, blistering or nerve damage. As it happened, "the burning" was simply the unintended consequence of the damage 11-plus years of chemotherapy has done to my body, inside and out. Because of the neuropathy in my feet (thankfully, there isn't any neuropathy in my hands or other extremities), I can never, because physically I can't, walk barefoot. And because of that pre-existing condition, the bottoms of my feet are as soft as a baby's behind. With no calluses formed on my feet to protect me, I'm kind of a standing duck out there. I found out the soft way how hard it is for me to walk across hot pavement.

And the shoeless choice I made was a choice I, like millions of others who've gone to the beach, made quite casually. I was simply doing something - walking barefoot, that came naturally and historically, as in I've done it a hundred times, especially having walked across hot sand. Not anymore. As a long-time cancer patient, generally speaking, I'm aware of many of the dos and don'ts and what trouble to avoid, but never had I considered that my lung/thyroid cancer treatment might cause a problem potentially, on the soles of my feet if I walked barefoot at the beach. I know I'm supposed to avoid the sun (I'll be the one sitting under a beach umbrella with a hat on my head, sunglasses on my face and covered head to toe, with towels and a tearshirt), but nobody ever advised me that I shouldn't go to the beach. Before "the burning," I would have thought I was an experienced enough cancer patient that I knew what situations might be harmful to my health. Apparently not. It seems as if I haven't quite learned all my lessons, yet.

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



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Offered for...\$625,000

2909 Fairmont Street, Falls Church
 FABULOUS 3BR/2 FULL BA with beautifully remodeled kitchen (2018) with quartz counters, marble backsplash, granite sink, slate appliances with gas stove, pantry and coffee station! Fully finished LL was fully remodeled in 2018 and includes vinyl flooring, new full bath with shower and built-in storage; owner's suite walk-in closet plus bonus room that can be used as nursery/office/sitting room/storage. Fully-fenced backyard; Close to Mosaic District, Dunn Loring Metro, easy access to commuter routes & DC!

SOLD!



**6293 Columbus Hall Ct
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,775,000**

Under Contract!



**6904 Lupine Lane
 McLean, 22101
 \$2,249,000**

New Home!



**1623 Woodman Drive
 McLean, 22101
 \$2,849,000**

SOLD!



**1446 Woodacre Drive
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,310,000**

Under Contract!



**1506 Hardwood Lane
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,549,999**

SOLD!



**1437 Brookhaven Drive
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,099,000**

We're seeing multiple contracts with escalations! Call to chat with JD today!